

JOURNAL NO. 1
Monday, July 26, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

This being the day fixed in accordance with the Constitution for the beginning of the First Regular Session of the Fifteenth Congress, the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, the Honorable Marilyn B. Barua-Yap, called the session to order at ten o'clock in the morning.

NATIONAL ANTHEM AND PRAYER

Subsequently, the House Chorale led the singing of the National Anthem and thereafter, Representative Maria Zenaida B. Angping delivered the following invocation:

Let us bow our heads and pray.

Lord God, most merciful and mighty Father, we thank You for this day, we thank You for this occasion, the commencement of this Fifteenth Congress and the opportunity to serve our country and our people in Your name.

We seek Your blessing and Your grace. Grant each of us the wisdom to determine what is good for our people by way of legislation. Grant us the strength to forego our personal interests so we may better serve the greater good. Grant us the wisdom to discern what is right and just. And Lord, grant us the humility to understand and accept our limitations.

We recognize and appreciate that You have given us this opportunity to move forward. We understand O, Lord, that this cannot be possible without Your compassionate intervention. We are grateful that all things come from You.

Bless us all, the Representatives of the people, that we may find joy in our work even in the most difficult situations. Bless our new leadership in this Fifteenth Congress that they may assist You in leading and guiding us towards the right path. Bless the Secretariat and all those who shall assist us in our work that they may always be patient, understanding and persevering. Bless our people, Lord, that they may always remember to thank You for the blessings that You bestowed on them. Bless our country that it may achieve prosperity

and progress. Shine Your light upon us O Lord, that we may be worthy of Your love and mercy. We offer You our time and talent. May our service in this Fifteenth Congress always be accomplished in Your name, with your grace, we shall perform our duties and serve our country and our people in the way that you have ordained.

Everything is yours, O Lord, we are your stewards.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

Thereafter, upon direction of the Presiding Officer, Deputy Secretary General Artemio A. Adasa Jr. called the Roll of Members elected from the legislative districts, apportioned among the provinces and cities, and Party-List organizations, in alphabetical order:

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR)

CALOOCAN CITY

First District

OSCAR G. MALAPITAN

Second District

MARY MITZY L. CAJAYON

LAS PIÑAS CITY

Lone District

MARK A. VILLAR

MAKATI CITY

First District

MONIQUE YAZMIN M.Q. LAG-
DAMEO

Second District

MAR-LEN ABIGAIL S. BINAY

MALABON CITY

Lone District

JOSEPHINE V.R. LACSON-NOEL

MANDALUYONG CITY

Lone District

NEPTALI M. GONZALES II

THE CITY OF MANILA

First District

BENJAMIN D. ASILO

Second District

CARLO V. LOPEZ

Third District

MARIA ZENAIDA B. ANGPING

Fourth District

MA. THERESA B. BONOAN-DAVID

Fifth District

AMADO S. BAGATSING

Sixth District

ROSENDA ANN. M. OCAMPO

MARIKINA CITY

First District

MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO

Second District

ROMERO FEDERICO S. QUIMBO

MUNTINLUPA CITY

Lone District

RODOLFO G. BIAZON

NAVOTAS CITY

Lone District

TOBIAS REYNALD M. TIANGCO

PARAÑAQUE CITY

First District

EDWIN D. OLIVAREZ

Second District

ROILO S. GOLEZ

PASAY CITY

Lone District

IMELDA G. CALIXTO-RUBIANO

PASIG CITY

Lone District

ROMAN T. ROMULO

QUEZON CITY

First District

VINCENT "BINGBONG" P. CRISO-
LOGO

Second District

WINSTON T. CASTELO

Third District

JORGE JOHN R. BANAL JR.

Fourth District

FELICIANO R. BELMONTE JR.

SAN JUAN CITY

Lone District

JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

TAGUIG CITY-PATEROS

First District

ARNEL M. CERAIFICA

Second District	REGION I
SIGFRIDO R. TINGA	ILOCOS NORTE (with the City of Laoag)
VALENZUELA CITY	First District
First District	RODOLFO C. FARIÑAS
REXLON T. GATCHALIAN	Second District
Second District	IMELDA R. MARCOS
MAGTANGGOL T. GUNIGUNDO	ILOCOS SUR (with the Cities of Vigan and Candon)
FROM THE CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION:	First District
ABRA	RONALDO V. SINGSON
Lone District	Second District
MARIA JOCELYN V. BERNOS	ERIC G. SINGSON JR.
APAYAO	LA UNION
Lone District	First District
ELEANOR C. BEGTANG-BULUT	VICTOR FRANCISCO C. ORTEGA
BENGUET	Second District
Lone District	EURANIO C. ERIGUEL
RONALD M. COSALAN	PANGASINAN
BAGUIO	First District
Lone District	JESUS "BOYING" F. CELESTE
BERNARDO M. VERGARA	Second District
IFUGAO	LEOPOLDO N. BATAOIL
Lone District	Third District
TEODORO B. BAGUILAT JR.	MA. RACHEL J. ARENAS
KALINGA	Fourth District
Lone District	MA. GEORGINA P. DE VENECIA
MANUEL S. AGYAO	Fifth District
MOUNTAIN PROVINCE	CARMEN S. COJUANGCO
Lone District	
MAXIMO B. DALOG	

Sixth District

MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS

REGION II

BATANES

Lone District

HENEDINA R. ABAD

CAGAYAN

First District

JUAN JR. C. PONCE-ENRILE

Second District

Third District

RANDOLPH S. TING

ISABELA

First District

RODOLFO B. ALBANO

Second District

ANA CRISTINA S. GO

Third District

NAPOLEON S. DY

Fourth District

GIORGIDI B. AGGABAO

NUEVA VIZCAYA

Lone District

CARLOS M. PADILLA

QUIRINO

Lone District

DAKILA CARLO E. CUA

REGION III

AURORA

Lone District

JUAN EDGARDO M. ANGARA

BATAAN

First District

HERMINIA B. ROMAN

Second District

ALBERT RAYMOND S. GARCIA

BULACAN

First District

Second District

PEDRO M. PANCHO

Third District

JOSELITO ANDREW R. MENDOZA

Fourth District

LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA

SAN JOSE DEL MONTE CITY

Lone District

ARTURO B. ROBES

NUEVA ECIJA

First District

JOSEFINA M. JOSON

Second District

JOSEPH GILBERT F. VIOLAGO

Third District

CZARINA D. UMALI,

Fourth District

RODOLFO W. ANTONINO

PAMPANGA

First District

CARMELO F. LAZATIN

Second District

GLORIA M. MACAPAGAL-ARROYO*

Third District

AURELIO JR. D. GONZALES

Fourth District

ANNA YORK P. BONDOC

TARLAC

First District

ENRIQUE M. COJUANGCO,

Second District

SUSAN A. YAP

Third District

JECI A. LAPUS

ZAMBALES

First District

MARIA MILAGROS H. MAGSAYSAY

Second District

ANTONIO M. DIAZ

FROM REGION IV-A (CALABARZON),

BATANGAS

First District

TOMAS V. APACIBLE

Second District

HERMILANDO I. MANDANAS

Third District

NELSON P. COLLANTES

Fourth District

MARK LLANDRO L. MENDOZA

CAVITE

First District

JOSEPH EMILIO A. ABAYA

Second District

LANI M. REVILLA

Third District

ERINEO S. MALIKSI

Fourth District

ELPIDIO JR. F. BARZAGA

Fifth District

ROY M. LOYOLA

Sixth District

ANTONIO A. FERRER

Seventh District

JESUS CRISPIN C. REMULLA

LAGUNA

First District

DAN FERNANDEZ

Second District

JUSTIN MARC S. CHIPECO

Third District

MARIA EVITA R. ARAGO

Fourth District

EDGAR S. SAN LUIS

QUEZON (with the City of Lucena)

First District

WILFRIDO MARK M. ENVERGA

Second District

IRVIN M. ALCALA

Third District

DANILO E. SUAREZ

Fourth District

LORENZO R. TAÑADA III

RIZAL

First District

JOEY ROY R. DUAVIT

Second District

ISIDRO S. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

ANTIPOLO CITY

First District

ROBERTO V. PUNO

Second District

ROMEO M. ACOP

REGION IV – B

MARINDUQUE

Lone District

LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

Lone District

MA. AMELITA C. VILLAROSA

ORIENTAL MINDORO (with the City of Calapan)

First District

RODOLFO G. VALENCIA

Second District

REYNALDO V. UMALI

PALAWAN (with the City of Puerto Princesa)

First District

ANTONIO C. ALVAREZ

Second District

VICTORINO DENNIS M. SOCRATES

ROMBLON

Lone District

ELEANDRO JESUS F. MADRONA

ALBAY (with the Cities of Legaspi, Ligao and Tabaco)

First District

EDCEL C. LAGMAN

Second District

AL FRANCIS C. BICHARA

Third District

FERNANDO V. GONZALEZ

CAMARINES NORTE

First District

RENATO J. UNICO, JR.

Second District

ELMER E. PANOTES

CAMARINES SUR (with the Cities of Naga and Iriga)

First District

ROLANDO G. ANDAYA, JR.

Second District

DIOSDADO IGNACIO ARROYO

Third District

LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE

Fourth District

ARNULFO P. FUENTEBELLA

Fifth District

SALVIO V. FORTUNO

CATANDUANES

Lone District

CESAR V. SARMIENTO

MASBATE (with the City of Masbate)

First District

NARCISO R. BRAVO JR.

Second District

ANTONIO T. KHO

Third District

SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE

SORSOGON (with the City of Sorsogon)

First District

SALVADOR H. ESCUDERO III

Second District

DEOGRACIAS B. RAMOS, JR.

REGION VI

AKLAN

Lone District

FLORENCIO T. MIRAFLORES

ANTIQUE

Lone District

PAOLO EVERARDO S. JAVIER

CAPIZ (with the City of Roxas)

First District

ANTONIO A. DEL ROSARIO

Second District

JANE T. CASTRO

GUIMARAS

Lone District

JOAQUIN CARLOS RAHMAN
A.NAVA, MD

ILOILO (with the City of Passi)

First District

JANETTE L. GARIN

Second District

AUGUSTO L. SYJUCO, JR.

Third District

ARTHUR R. DEFENSOR JR.

Fourth District

FERJENEL "FERJ" G. BIRON, MD

Fifth District

NIEL "JUNJUN" C. TUPAS JR.

ILOILO CITY

Lone District

JERRY P. TREÑAS

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL (with the Cities of San Carlos, Cadiz, Bago, La Carlota, Silay, Kabankalan, Sagay, Victoria, Escalante, Sipalay and Himamaylan)

First District

JULIO A. LEDESMA IV**

Second District

ALFREDO "THIRDY" D. MARAÑON
III

Third District

ALFREDO ABELARDO B. BENITEZ

Fourth District

JEFFREY “JEFF” P. FERRER

Fifth District

IGNACIO “IGGY” T. ARROYO, JR.

Sixth District

MERCEDES K. ALVAREZ

BACOLOD CITY

Lone District

ANTHONY ROLANDO T. GOLEZ, JR.

REGION VII

BOHOL (with the City of Tagbilaran)

First District

RENE L. RELAMPAGOS

Second District

ERICO B. AUMENTADO

Third District

ARTHUR C. YAP

CEBU

First District

EDUARDO R. GULLAS

Second District

PABLO P. GARCIA

Third District

PABLO JOHN F. GARCIA

Fourth District

BENHUR L. SALIMBANGON

Fifth District

RAMON H. DURANO VI

Sixth District

GABRIEL L.R. QUISUMBING

CEBU CITY

First District

RACHEL MARGUERITE B. DEL MAR

Second District

TOMAS D. OSMENA

LAPU-LAPU CITY

Lone District

ARTURO O. RADAZA

NEGROS ORIENTAL

First District

JOCELYN S. LIMKAICHONG

Second District

GEORGE P. ARNAIZ

Third District

PRYDE HENRY A. TEVES

SIQUIJOR

Lone District

ORLANDO B. FUA

REGION VIII

BILIRAN

Lone District

ROGELIO J. ESPINA

EASTERN SAMAR

Lone District

BEN P. EVARDONE

LEYTE

First District

FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUAL-
DEZ

Second District

SERGIO A.F. APOSTOL

Third District

ANDRES D. SALVACION JR.

Fourth District

LUCY T. GOMEZ

Fifth District

JOSE CARLOS L. CARI

NORTHERN SAMAR

First District

RAUL A. DAZA

Second District

EMIL L. ONG

WESTERN SAMAR

First District

MEL SENEN S. SARMIENTO

Second District

MILAGROSA T. TAN

SOUTHERN LEYTE

Lone District

ROGER G. MERCADO

REGION IX**ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE**

First District

SETH F.P. JALOSJOS

Second District

ROSENDO S. LABADLABAD

Third District

CESAR G. JALOSJOS

ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR

First District

VICTOR J. YU

Second District

AURORA E. CERILLES

ZAMBOANGA CITY

First District

MARIA ISABELLE G. CLIMACO

Second District

ERICO BASILIO A. FABIAN

ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY

First District

JONATHAN C. YAMBAO

Second District

ROMEO M. JALOSJOS JR.

REGION X**BUKIDNON**

First District

JESUS EMMANUEL PARAS

Second District

FLORENCIO T. FLORES JR.

Third District

JOSE MA. F. ZUBIRI III

CAMIGUIN

Lone District

PEDRO P. ROMUALDO

LANAO DEL NORTE

First District

IMELDA Q. DIMAPORO

Second District

FATIMA ALIAH Q. DIMAPORO

ILIGAN CITY

Lone District

VICENTE F. BELMONTE JR.

MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL

First District

JORGE T. ALMONTE

Second District

LORETO LEO S. OCAMPO

MISAMIS ORIENTAL

First District

PETER M. UNAVIA

Second District

YEVGENY VICENTE B. EMANO

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY

First District

JOSE BENJAMIN A. BENALDO

Second District

RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

REGION XI**COMPOSTELA VALLEY**

First District

MARIA CARMEN ZAMORA-APSAY

Second District

ROMMEL C. AMATONG

DAVAO ORIENTAL

First District

NELSON L. DAYANGHIRANG

Second District

THELMA Z. ALMARIO

DAVAO DEL NORTE

First District

ANTONIO RAFAEL G. DEL ROSARIO*

Second District

ANTONIO JR. F. LAGDAMEO

DAVAO DEL SUR

First District

MARC DOUGLAS IV C. CAGAS

Second District

FRANKLIN P. BAUTISTA

DAVAO CITY

First District

KARLO ALEXEI B. NOGRALES

Second District

MYLENE J. GARCIA-ALBANO

Third District

ISIDRO T. UNGAB

REGION XII

Second District

EVELYN P. MELLANA

NORTH COTABATO

First District

JESUS SACDALAN

Second District

NANCY A. CATAMCO

SARANGANI

Lone District

EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO

SOUTH COTABATO

First District

PEDRO JR. B. ACHARON

Second District

DAISY A. FUENTES

SULTAN KUDARAT

First District

RADEN C. SAKALURAN

Second District

ARNULFO F. GO

CARAGA REGION**AGUSAN DEL NORTE**

First District

JOSE II S. AQUINO

Second District

ANGELICA M. AMANTE

AGUSAN DEL SUR

First District

MARIA VALENTINA G. PLAZA

SURIGAO DEL NORTE

First District

FRANCISCO T. MATUGAS

Second District

GUILLERMO A. ROMARATE JR.

SURIGAO DEL SUR

First District

PHILIP A. PICHAY

Second District

FLORENCIO C. GARAY

DINAGAT ISLANDS

Lone District

RUTHER D. ECLEO JR.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MUSLIM MIN-DANAO**BASILAN**

Lone District

HADJIMAN S. HATAMAN-SALLIMAN

LANAO DEL SUR

Second District

PANGALIAN M. BALINDONG

MAGUINDANAO

First District

BAI SANDRA A. SEMA

Second District

SIMEON A. DATUMANONG

SULU

First District

TUPAY T. LOONG

Second District

NUR-ANA I. SAHIDULLA

TAWI-TAWI

Lone District

NUR. G. JAAFAR

PARTY-LISTS**DEMOCRATIC INDEPENDENT
WORKERS ASSOCIATION
(DIWA)**

EMMELINE Y. AGLIPAY

AGBIAG

ANTONIO PATRICIO

**COALITION OF SENIOR CITIZENS
IN THE PHILIPPINES, INC.**

GODOFREDO V. ARQUIZA

AKBAYANARLENE J. BAG-AO
WALDEN S. BELLO**AGRICULTURAL SECTOR ALLIANCE
OF THE PHILIPPINES**

NICANOR M. BRIONES,

**KAPATIRAN NG MGA NAKULONG NA
WALANG SALA (KAKUSA)**

RANULFO P. CANONIGO

BAYAN MUNATEODORO CASIÑO
NERI J. COLMENARES**GABRIELA**

EMERENCIANA DE JESUS

ABONO

ROBERT RAYMUND ESTRELLA

KALINGA

ABIGAIL FAYE FERRIOL

BUTIL

AGAPITO M. GUANLAO

KASANGGA SA KAUNLARAN, INC.

TEODORICO, JR. D. HARESCO

BAGONG HENERASYON

BERNADETTE R. HERRERA-DY

GABRIELA

LUZVIMINDA ILAGAN

**COALITION OF SENIOR CITIZENS IN
THE PHIL. INC.**

DAVID KHO

**ARTS, BUSINESS AND SCIENCE PROFES-
SIONALS**

CATALINA LEONEN-PIZZARO

**YOU AGAINST CORRUPTION AND
POVERTY**

CAROL JAYNE LOPEZ

ANG GALING PINOYJUAN MIGUEL MACAPAGAL-
ARROYO**ALLIANCE OF VOLUNTEER EDUCATORS**

EULOGIO "AMANG" R. MAGSAYSAY

ALAGAD

RODANTE D.MARCOLETA

ANAKPAWIS

RAFAEL MARIANO

TRADE UNION CONGRESS PARTY

RAYMOND D. MENDOZA

AN WARAY

NEIL BENEDICT MONTEJO

AN WARAY

FLORENCIO G. NOEL

UNA ANG PAMILYA

REENA CONCEPCION G. OBILLO

ABONO

FRANCISCO EMMANUEL ORTEGA III

COOP-NATCCO NETWORKCRESENTE C. PAEZ
JOSE R. PING-AY**KABATAAN**

RAYMOND V. PALATINO

AGHAM

ANGELO B. PALMONES

ABANTE MINDANAO

MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ Jr.

PUWERSA NG BAYANING ATLETA

MARK AERON H. SAMBAR

ACT TEACHERS

DANTE ANTONIO L. TINIO

The Presiding Officer stated that the total membership of the House is 262, but is now only 261 because of the untimely demise of Rep. Florencio L. Vargas.

-
- * Absent with Notice
 - ** Absent without Notice

Thereafter, with 260 Members responding to the Call, the Presiding Officer declared the presence of a quorum.

DESIGNATION OF REP. GONZALES (N.) AS ACTING FLOOR LEADER

In the interest of orderly proceedings, the Presiding Officer designated Rep. Neptali M. Gonzales II as Acting Floor Leader.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

The Body proceeded to the nomination for the position of the Speaker of the House, on motion of Rep. Gonzales (N.).

On further motion of Rep. Gonzales (N.), the Presiding Officer recognized Rep. Joseph Emilio A. Abaya for his nomination speech.

NOMINATION SPEECH OF REP. ABAYA

Rep. Joseph Emilio A. Abaya stressed that Rep. Feliciano R. Belmonte Jr. is known as a turnaround expert who is capable of transforming organizations into successful enterprises, and expressed hope that he will help put the country on the right track. Having served first as the Minority Leader and eventually as the Speaker of the House, he said that Rep. Belmonte understands the responsibilities of both the members of the Majority and the Minority under a vibrant democracy. As a member of the Liberal Party, he said that it is an opportunity for him to nominate a fellow Liberal to the Speakership of the House pursuant to the spirit of pushing forth the President's promise to the people of "Kung walang kurap, walang mahirap."

SECONDING NOMINATION OF REP. HERRERA-DY

Recognized by the Presiding Officer, Rep. Bernadette R. Herrera-Dy seconded the nomination of Rep. Belmonte as Speaker of the House, whom she referred to as a "miracle man" not only of Quezon City but all the agencies he handled.

The Presiding Officer thereafter recognized Rep. Arnulfo P. Fuentesbella for his seconding nomination.

**SECONDING NOMINATION
OF REP. FUENTEBELLA**

For the record, Rep. Fuentebella clarified that he represents the Fourth District of Camarines Sur and not the Third District as mentioned by the Presiding Officer. He thereafter seconded the nomination of Rep. Belmonte as Speaker of the House.

**SECONDING NOMINATION
OF REP. ANDAYA**

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Rolando G. Andaya Jr. from the First District of Camarines Sur, seconded the nomination of Rep. Belmonte Jr. as Speaker of the House of Representatives. He cited that as former Minority Leader, he would value the view of those on the other side of the aisle; as a former Mayor, he would value the voice of the grassroots and would champion the causes of those in the frontlines of public service; as a former reporter, he might just be able to finally capture a trait that has eluded the House so far and that is having a good press not through spin but through substance of its work; as a former congressional assistant to the great Claro M. Recto, he would know how to harness the talents of co-workers and to reward them for their meritorious service; as a lawyer, he would assert the constitutionally ordained primacy of Congress over the rest of the branches of government.

**SECONDING NOMINATION OF
REP. REMULLA**

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Jesus Crispin C. Remulla from the Seventh District of Cavite seconded the nomination of Rep. Belmonte Jr. as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

**SECONDING NOMINATION OF
REP. CRISOLOGO**

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Vincent P. Crisologo from the First District of Quezon City, seconded the nomination of Rep.

Belmonte Jr. as Speaker of the House of Representatives. He recalled how he had the privilege to work with the former Mayor of Quezon City when he was still a city councilor of the First District of Quezon City and then disclosed how the former Mayor made the transformation of Quezon City into a great city. He expressed belief that what Rep. Belmonte did for Quezon City, he can duplicate to the nation in terms of legislation and oversight programs when elected Speaker. He cited that Rep. Belmonte has the qualities of a great leader of tested courage, principles and conviction, and an outstanding Filipino of great integrity, wisdom and vision, to name a few.

At this juncture, on motion of Rep. Gonzales (N.), the Chair recognized Rep. Rodolfo B. Albano to nominate his candidate for Speaker.

**NOMINATION SPEECH OF
REP. ALBANO**

Rep. Albano from the First District of Isabela, nominated Rep. Edcel C. Lagman as Speaker of the House of Representatives and cited his reasons, as follows: 1) a veteran parliamentarian who served for nearly two decades and has held several key positions in the House and in the committees; 2) as a legislator who epitomizes the dual role of a Member of Congress as lawmaker and a leader of public opinion formation, he has authored and passed several laws such as RA 6657 or the original Comprehensive Land Reform Law, RA No. 8532 which further strengthened the CARP, the Personnel Emergency Relief Allowance or PERA and several statutes which granted wage increases to private employees, RA No. 9346 abolishing death penalty and RA No. 9745 penalizing torture as a special crime were among his landmark legislation; 3) a leader who knows how and when to listen, hear and heed the people; 4) a statesman and consensus builder who always endeavors to strike a balance between stability and change, and between accommodation and confrontation; 5) a defender of the oppressed and marginalized; and 6) a highly respected senior Member of the House, well-admired by the House employees and well-loved by the Bicolanos.

SECONDING NOMINATION OF REP. SUAREZ

Rep. Danilo E. Suarez from the Third District of Quezon nominated Rep. Edcel C. Lagman as Speaker of the House of Representatives for being one of its most senior Members and whose six terms in office, he said, had gained him knowledge and expertise in lawmaking. He claimed that Rep. Lagman's tenure in office had shown his commitment, competence and consistency, as a legislative crusader, enacting development-oriented and pro-poor legislations.

Rep. Suarez further underscored that in his two decades of public service in both the Executive and Legislative Departments, Rep. Lagman's integrity had remained untainted and unassailable. He then asked the Members to support Rep. Lagman in his quest to transform the House into a truly independent and pro-active institution.

SECONDING NOMINATION OF REP. SYJUCO

Rep. August L. Syjuco Jr. from the Second District of Iloilo, initially extolled Rep. Lagman's outstanding accomplishments as student, lawyer, and legislator and cited that the latter is one of the best legal minds in Congress. He claimed that as a legislator, Rep. Lagman is fiercely independent and tenacious in his advocacies, but equally pragmatic and respectful of differing opinions, always prepared to settle for the second best when he cannot convince his colleagues of his opinions. He then seconded the nomination of Rep. Lagman as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD FOR NOMINATIONS

On motion of Rep. Gonzales (N.), there being no objection, the Presiding Officer closed the period of nominations.

MANIFESTATION OF THE PRESIDING OFFICER

Secretary General Barua-Yap informed the Body that the correct total number of Members present is 257 rather than 260.

NOMINAL VOTING ON THE NOMINEES FOR SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Gonzales (N.), there being no objection, the Members proceeded

to the election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Secretary General Barua-Yap then directed Deputy Secretary General Adasa, Jr., to call the Roll for nominal voting for the Speaker of the House and requested each Member to state the name of the candidate he or she will vote for.

RESULT OF THE VOTING

The result of the voting was as follows:

For Rep. Feliciano R. Belmonte Jr.:

Abad
Abaya
Acharon
Acop
Aggabao
Aglipay
Agyao
Alcala
Almario
Almonte
Alvarez (A.)
Alvarez (M.)
Amante-Matba
Amatong
Andaya
Angara
Angping
Antonino
Antonio
Apacible
Apostol
Arago
Arenas
Arnaiz
Arquiza
Asilo
Bagatsing
Bag-ao
Baguilat
Balindong
Banal
Barzaga
Bautista
Bulut
Bello
Belmonte (V.)
Benaldo
Benitez
Bernos
Biazon
Bichara
Binay
Biron

Bondoc	Garin
Bonoan-David	Gatchalian
Bravo	Go (A.)
Briones	Go (A.C.)
Cajayon	Golez (A.)
Calixto-Rubiano	Golez (R.)
Canonigo	Gomez
Cari	Gonzales (N.)
Casiño	Gonzalez
Castelo	Guanlao
Castro	Gullas
Catamco	Gunigundo
Cerafica	Haresco
Cerilles	Hataman-Salliman
Chipeco	Herrera-Dy
Climaco	Ilagan
Cojuangco (C.)	Jaafar
Cojuangco (E.)	Jalosjos (C.)
Collantes	Jalosjos (R.)
Colmenares	Jalosjos (S.)
Cosalan	Javier
Crisologo	Joson
Cua	Kho (A.)
Dalog	Kho (D.)
Dayanghirang	Labadlabad
Daza	Lacson-Noel
De Jesus	Lagdameo (A.)
De Venecia	Lagdameo (M.)
Defensor	Lagman
Del Mar	Lanete
Del Rosario	Lapus
Diaz	Leonen-Pizzaro
Duavit	Limkaichong
Durano	Loong
Dy	Lopez (Carlo V.)
Ejercito	Lopez (Carol Jayne)
Emano	Loyola
Enverga	Madrona
Eriguel	Magsaysay
Escudero	Malapitan
Espina	Maliksi
Estrella	Mandanas
Evardone	Marañon
Fabian	Marcoleta
Fariñas	Marcos
Fernandez	Mariano
Ferrer (A.)	Matugas
Ferrer (J.)	Mellana
Ferriol	Mendoza (J.)
Flores	Mendoza (M.)
Fortuno	Mendoza (R.)
Fuentebella	Mercado
Fuentes	Miraflores
Garay	Montejo
Garcia (A.)	Nava
Garcia-Albano	Noel
Garcia (Pablo John F.)	Nogralles
Garcia (Pablo P.)	Ocampo

Ocampos
 Olivarez
 Ong
 Ortega (F.)
 Osmeña
 Pacquiao
 Paez
 Palatino
 Palmones
 Pancho
 Paras
 Ping-ay
 Plaza
 Ponce-Enrile
 Primicias-Agabas
 Puno
 Quimbo
 Quisumbing
 Ramos
 Relampagos
 Remulla
 Robes
 Rodriguez (I.)
 Rodriguez (M.)
 Rodriguez (R.)
 Roman
 Romarate
 Romualdo
 Romulo
 Sacdalan
 Sahidulla
 Sakaluran
 Salimbangon
 Salvacion
 Sambar
 San Luis
 Sarmiento (C.)
 Sarmiento (M.)
 Sema
 Singson (E.)
 Socrates
 Tan
 Tañada
 Teodoro
 Teves
 Tiangco
 Ting
 Tinga
 Tinio
 Treñas
 Tupas
 Umali (C.)
 Umali (R.)
 Unabia
 Ungab
 Unico
 Valencia
 Velasco

Vergara
 Villafuerte
 Villar
 Villarica
 Violago
 Yambao
 Yap (S.)
 Yu
 Zamora-Apsay
 Zubiri

For Edcel C. Lagman:

Albano
 Aquino
 Arroyo (D.)
 Arroyo (I.)
 Aumentado
 Bataoil
 Belmonte (F.)
 Cagas
 Celeste
 Datumanong
 Dimaporo (F.)
 Dimaporo (I.)
 Ecleo
 Fua
 Gonzales (A.)
 Macapagal Arroyo (J.M.)
 Magsaysay
 Obillio
 Ortega (V.)
 Padilla
 Panotes
 Pichay
 Radaza
 Revilla
 Romualdez
 Suarez
 Syjuco
 Villarosa
 Yap (A.)

With 227 Members voting for Rep. Belmonte and 29 voting for Rep. Lagman, the Presiding Officer declared Rep. Belmonte of the Fourth District of Quezon City as the duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 15th Congress.

MOTION OF REP. GONZALES (N.)

Upon recognition by the Presiding Officer, Rep. Gonzales (N.) moved that the Body constitute a committee composed of the following Members to notify Rep. Belmonte of his election as Speaker of the House of Representatives and to escort the Speaker-elect to the rostrum for his oath-taking:

Reps. Maria Zenaida B. Angping, Maria Evita R. Arago, Mar-Len Abigail S. Binay, Anna York P. Bondoc, Carmen S. Cojuangco, Ma. Georgina P. De Venecia, Rachel Marguerite B. Del Mar, Fatima Aliah Q. Dimaporo, Lucy T. Gomez, Josefina M. Joson, Carol Jayne B. Lopez, Rosenda Ann M. Ocampo, Luzviminda C. Ilagan, and Czarina D. Umali.

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDING OFFICER

There being no objection to the motion, the Presiding Officer requested the Members so named to inform the Speaker-elect of his election and to escort him to the rostrum. She also invited the members of the family of the Speaker-elect to ascend the rostrum and witness the oath-taking.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

At this juncture, the Presiding Officer suspended the session at 11:58 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 11:59 a.m., the session was resumed.

The Presiding Officer thereafter requested Rep. Abigail Faye G. Ferriol from the Kalinga Party-List to ascend the rostrum to administer the oath of office to the Speaker-elect. She likewise requested all the Members to rise, as well as the family of the Speaker-elect to join him at the rostrum.

OATH-TAKING OF SPEAKER BELMONTE

Subsequently, Speaker-elect Belmonte took his oath of office as Speaker of the House, with Rep. Ferriol administering the oath.

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH OF SPEAKER BELMONTE

Fellow Members of the House, esteemed guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Eighteen years ago today, I took my oath for the first time as a Member of the House of Representatives. On my third term in the year 2001, I was honored with the privilege of serving this House briefly as its 18th Speaker. Through the next nine years, from 2001 to June 2010, the people of Quezon City would entrust to me for three consecutive terms the reins of their city government. Many of those who worked hard with me in transforming Quezon City are here now in the audience, still giving me their moral support and I

thank them. Last May, the constituents of the Fourth District of Quezon City gave me the privilege to represent them anew in this august Body.

My colleagues, today you have given me back a rare honor. Through your trust and confidence, I stand here once again as the Speaker of the House of the people. Thank you for your massive support. Be assured that I will work hard to earn this confidence. I am confident that you will help me succeed since you have as much stake as I have in this success. It is truly heartwarming and very humbling that across the political spectrum, transcending political boundaries, new and old friends, even former political adversaries, chose to entrust to me the leadership of this Chamber for the next three years, more so, since this Fifteenth Congress opens at a time of no ordinary political transition. Last May, the people of the Philippines did not just cast their votes for their chosen candidates. The overwhelming majority used their electoral power to usher in a change in governance that is much more responsive to the public good.

The Filipino people have set very high expectations for all branches of government. Our President, Benigno S. Aquino III, is clearly setting the standards for exemplary public service. Congress should not set for itself a benchmark of service to the Filipino people that is anything less.

While party affiliations may put us at odds during the political campaign, while our constituents may be different, we know that all are tied together by the common need of the Filipino people for a life that is free yet secured, economically vibrant, environmentally healthy, peaceful and socially accepting. Our business is to continue to make sure that our laws sustainably assure the fulfillment of these aspirations.

Even before President Aquino took his oath of office last June 30, a pervasive mood of hopeful change greeted his election. Today, that hope has evolved into widespread public confidence that is visibly seen and felt in the Filipinos who have renewed their faith in government, in local and foreign businessmen who have become more optimistic in their outlook and aggressive in their investment plans, and in the emerging resurgence of the Philippines in the eyes of the global community.

We must see to it that the House of Representatives contributes to this remarkable crest of change and works further to maximize the advantages we are beginning to gain.

Our mandate is to make sure that our legislative agenda not only fully supports our country's resurgence but further ignites it.

Remember, decades ago, the Philippines was among the fastest growing economies of Asia, neck and neck with these leading economies. Puwede ba nating ambisyunin muli ito? We have so many important challenges and tasks ahead of us, liberating millions of our people from the shackles of poverty, ensuring our global competitiveness, peace in Mindanao and so forth.

Let us keep in mind that government efficiency, economic well-being, and the attainment of public good are directly correlated to each other in the perception of the public.

My colleagues, the honor you have conferred on me as your Speaker comes with it my commitment to strengthen the House of Representatives, resolute as a coequal branch of our government, coequal in power and independent certainly, but also accountable. We are accountable to each and every Filipino that we serve. We are accountable according to the laws of the land. We are accountable according to the universal values of honesty and integrity.

When I was Mayor of Quezon City, my first order of business was putting our house in order. I believe that this internally driven review and improvement of the way things are run is a good formula to follow in this House of ours.

It will create a good foundation for a Philippine Congress that is an advocate of reforms and practitioners of good governance, and credible because it began to champion the change within itself, even as it looked beyond.

Let us be one in promoting a strong work ethic among ourselves, including the House Secretariat. Let us show our commitment through consistent attendance to our duties in the committees, in plenary, as well as to our constituencies.

In all my years in public service, I have always observed prudence and judiciousness in the use and allocation of funds. During these times when the entire national government must function within tight financial restraints, it would be a good practice to opt for ways to optimize resources, to get maximum public value for every peso budgeted and spent.

We should continuously aim to promote higher levels of efficiency.

Let us be judicious and prudent in crafting the national budget. We should relate agency performance and results obtained in promoting the welfare of the people to their share of public funds. Let us use our power of the purse to prod government agencies to meet their performance targets. Let us clearly delineate the duties and responsibilities of government officials to prevent abuses, to minimize opportunities for graft and corruption.

The use of our priority development assistance funds (PDAF) should engender no suspension but general agreement that they are used wisely to give each district a socio-economic lift through greater transparency and focus on our projects. Before the end of August, we shall define the legislative agenda for the Fifteenth Congress. We shall be setting the policy blueprint for national growth and social reform for the next three years. We hope to harmonize our priorities with those of the Senate and the Executive - the program of PNoy, so that the passage of priority measures can be timely, efficient and responsive.

Ours will be a progressive and forward looking House able to overcome self-interest to raise the Filipinos and the Philippines to a proud stature in the global ranking of nations.

The 15th Congress shall be a strong, independent and accountable arm of government because all of us are capable and productive partners in making this happen. Through our election and oath of office, we have made a joint commitment to give our people a much better life. Let us bravely embrace this challenge – what we do or failed to do will matter. Our country's future is at stake. I am convinced that we, the Members of the Fifteenth Congress, shall be the ardent movers of the Philippine social and economic transformation. All of you and I shall work collaboratively to make this happen with God's help.

May I now extend my hand to all of you. To those who supported me, to those who believe in me, my sincere and heartfelt gratitude. To my worthy opponent and dear friend, the Gentleman from Albay, Hon. Edcel C. Lagman, and those who supported him, I extend my hand of cooperation. Let us work together, for this House is our house. Let us make it a true house of and for the benefit of all the people of the Philippines.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat, mabuhay ang ating bansa, mabuhay kayo! Thank you.

ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF THE HOUSE

On motion of Rep. Gonzales (N.), there being no objection, the Body adopted the Rules of the 14th Congress as the provisional rules of the House to govern its proceedings until the adoption of the Rules of the House of the 15th Congress.

On motion of Rep. Gonzales (N.), the Body proceeded to the oath-taking of the Members.

OATH-TAKING OF MEMBERS

Thereafter, Speaker Belmonte administered the oath of office to all the Members of the 15th Congress.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKERS

On motion of Rep. Gonzales (N.), there being no objection, the Body elected Reps. Raul A. Daza; Lorenzo R. Tañada III; Pablo P. Garcia; Arnulfo P. Fuentesbella; Jesus Crispin C. Remulla and Maria Isabelle G. Climaco as Deputy Speakers of the House of Representatives.

OATH-TAKING OF DEPUTY SPEAKERS DAZA, TAÑADA, GARCIA (P.), FUENTE-BELLA, REMULLA AND CLIMACO

At this juncture, Reps. Daza, Tañada, Garcia (P.), Fuentesbella, Remulla and Climaco ascended the rostrum and took their oaths of office as Deputy Speakers before Speaker Belmonte.

ELECTION OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

On motion of Rep. Gonzales (N.), there being no objection, the Body elected Atty. Marilyn B. Barua-Yap as the Secretary General of the House of Representatives.

OATH-TAKING OF SECRETARY GENERAL BARUA-YAP

Speaker Belmonte administered the oath of office to Atty. Marilyn B. Barua-Yap as Secretary General.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 70

On motion of Rep. Gonzales (N.), there being no objection, the Body considered House Resolution No. 70.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title of the Resolution, to wit:

“RESOLUTION INFORMING THE SENATE THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS BEEN ORGANIZED AND HAS ENTERED UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS.”

As copies of the Resolution had been distributed to the Members, on motion of Rep. Gonzales (N.), there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the text of the measure without prejudice to its insertion into the Record of the House.

ADOPTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 70

On motion of Rep. Gonzales (N.), there being no objection, the Body adopted House Resolution No. 70.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 71

On motion of Rep. Gonzales (N.), there being no objection, the Body considered House Resolution No. 71.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title of the Resolution, to wit:

“RESOLUTION INFORMING HIS EXCELLENCY, BENIGNO SIMEON C. AQUINO III, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS BEEN ORGANIZED AND HAS ENTERED UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS.”

As copies of the Resolution had been distributed to the Members, on motion of Rep. Gonzales (N.), there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the text of the measure without prejudice to its insertion into the Record of the House.

**ADOPTION OF HOUSE
RESOLUTION NO. 71**

On motion of Rep. Gonzales (N.), there being no objection, the Body adopted House Resolution No. 71.

**CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2**

On motion of Rep. Gonzales (N.), there being no objection, the Body considered House Concurrent Resolution No. 2.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title of the Concurrent Resolution, to wit:

“CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO HOLD A JOINT SESSION TO HEAR THE MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.”

As copies of the Concurrent Resolution had been distributed to the Members, on motion of Rep. Gonzales (N.), there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the text of the measure without prejudice to its insertion into the Record of the House.

**ADOPTION OF HOUSE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2**

On motion of Rep. Gonzales (N.), there being no objection, the Body adopted House Concurrent Resolution No. 2.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

At 12:43 p.m., the Speaker suspended the session.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 12:44 p.m., the session was resumed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

On motion of Rep. Gonzales (N.), there being no objection, the Secretary General read the following Messages from the Senate, to wit:

Senate Resolution No 1, entitled:

“RESOLUTION INFORMING HIS EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, THAT THE SENATE HAS BEEN ORGANIZED WITH THE ELECTION OF ITS OFFICERS AND THAT THIS BODY HAS ENTERED UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS FOR THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES.”

and Senate Resolution No. 2, entitled:

“RESOLUTION INFORMING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE SENATE HAS BEEN ORGANIZED IN THE ELECTION OF ITS OFFICERS AND THAT THIS BODY HAS ENTERED UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS FOR THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES.”

TO THE ARCHIVES

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1, entitled:

“CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CREATING A JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES THAT CONGRESS, NOW CONVENED FOR ITS FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES, IS READY TO HEAR HIS STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS IN A JOINT SESSION OF BOTH HOUSES.”

TO THE CALENDAR OF BUSINESS FOR
THE DAY

**CONSIDERATION OF SENATE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1**

On motion of Rep. Gonzales (N.), there being no objection, the Body considered Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title of the Senate Concurrent Resolution, to wit:

“CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CREATING A JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE

SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES THAT CONGRESS, NOW CONVENED FOR ITS FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES, IS READY TO HEAR HIS STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS IN A JOINT SESSION OF BOTH HOUSES.”

ADOPTION OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

On motion of Rep. Gonzales (N.), there being no objection, the Body adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1.

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON NOTIFICATION

In view of the adoption of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1, on motion of Rep. Gonzales (N.), there being no objection, the Chair appointed the following Members to notify the President that Congress is now convened and ready to hear his message: Reps. Joseph Emilio A. Abaya, Antonio C. Alvarez, Juan Edgardo M. Angara, Anna York P. Bondoc, Fatima Aliah Q. Dimaporo, Ramon “Red” H. Durano VI, Janette L. Garin, Maria Jocelyn V. Bernos, Florencio T. Miraflores and Bai Sandra A. Sema.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

To give the Members of the Joint Committee time to perform their assigned task, and until they are ready to report back their accomplishment to the House, on motion Rep. Gonzales (N.), the Chair suspended the session.

It was 12:46 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 12:47 p.m., the session was resumed.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. SUAREZ

Recognized by the Chair, Rep. Suarez, on behalf of the Members of the Minority, conveyed their unanimous support for Rep. Lagman as their Minority Leader.

ELECTION OF CERTAIN MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

On motion of Rep. Gonzales (N.), there being no objection, the Body approved the election of certain Members to the Committee on Rules:

For the Majority:

Rep. Neptali M. Gonzales II
Rep. Janette L. Garin
Rep. Roman T. Romulo
Rep. Rodolfo C. Fariñas
Rep. Mar-Len Abigail S. Binay
Rep. Magtanggol T. Gunigundo I

For the Minority:

Rep. Edcel C. Lagman
Rep. Danilo E. Suarez
Rep. Augusto L. Syjuco Jr.
Rep. Carlos M. Padilla
Rep. Ma. Amelita C. Villarosa

REMARKS OF REP. GONZALES (N.)

Rep. Gonzales (N.) then informed the Body that the House was in receipt of a report from the Joint Committee on Notification that the President has been informed of the Joint Session of Congress at four o'clock in the afternoon to hear his State of the Nation Address. He reminded the Members to be in the Session Hall one hour before the joint session at 4:00 p.m.

The Chair noted the remarks of Rep. Gonzales (N.)

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Gonzales (N.), there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until four o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, July 27, 2010.

It was 12:49 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MARILYN B. BARUA-YAP**
Secretary General