Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 18th CONGRESS, SECOND REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives

Vol. 5 **Tuesday, February 23, 2021** *No. 15d*

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:00 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Eric M. Martinez presiding.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). The session is resumed.

Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed with the Additional Reference of Business and request that the Secretary General be directed to read the titles of bills and resolutions on First Reading as well as communications and committee reports.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). There is a motion. Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none.

Secretary General, please proceed with the reading.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary General read the following House Bills and Resolution on First Reading, and Communications, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 8771, entitled:

"AN ACT MANDATING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO IDENTIFY AND DEVOTE BARE TIMBER LANDS TO BE UTILIZED FOR TREE FARMING"

By Representative Aumentado

TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION

House Bill No. 8772, entitled:

"AN ACT PROHIBITING HARASSMENT AND INVASION OF PRIVACY FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES"

By Representative Barba

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 8775, entitled:

"AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY NORTH FAIRVIEW, IN THE CITY OF QUEZON, METROPOLITAN MANILA"

By Representative Vargas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 8776, entitled:

"AN ACT MANDATING EACH CITY OR MUNICIPALITY TO CREATE A RIVER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE PRESERVATION, PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALL RIVERS, RIVERSYSTEMS AND NATURAL WATERWAYS WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Vargas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 8777, entitled:

"AN ACT REGULATING THE LICENSURE, EXAMINATION, AND PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS

THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 8778, entitled:
"AN ACT TO PROFESSIONALIZE THE PRACTICE OF PRISON MANAGEMENT AND SET FOR THAT PURPOSE THE QUALIFICATION FOR SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE NATIONAL PRISON SYSTEM AND OF WARDENS OF PROVINCIAL, CITY OR MUNICIPAL JAILS"
By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 8779, entitled:
"AN ACT CREATING REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES"
By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 8780, entitled:
"AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY GREATER LAGRO, IN THE CITY OF QUEZON, METROPOLITAN MANILA"
By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 8782, entitled:
"AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER FROM EIGHT HUNDRED (800) TO ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED (1500) BEDS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Go (Mark)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 8784, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LILOY, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, A SEPARATE SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Amatong
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 8785, entitled:
"AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PRACTICE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING IN THE PHILIPPINES AND INSTITUTING FOR THE PURPOSE HIGHER STANDARDS OF REGULATION IN THE LICENSING AND REGISTRATION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING PRACTITIONERS"
By Representatives De Jesus, Dagooc, Ebcas and Guya
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 8786, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE NATIONAL POLICY AND FRAMEWORK FOR ENERGY ADVOCACY THROUGH THE CREATION OF THE ENERGY COUNSEL OFFICE"
By Representatives De Jesus, Guya, Dagooc and Ebcas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 8787, entitled:
"AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO ZHENGHUA ZHANG"
By Representative Pineda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 8788, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE LONE DISTRICT OF DAVAO DEL

SUR, WHICH SHALL BE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DIGOS, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL SUR AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE"
By Representative Cagas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 8789, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DRUG REHABILITATION CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DIGOS, IN THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL SUR, TO BE KNOWN AS THE DAVAO DEL SUR DRUG REHABILITATION CENTER AND ALLOCATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Cagas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Bill No. 8790, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CAMPUS OF THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (PUP) IN ALFONSO, CAVITE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE PUP-ALFONSO CAMPUS, MANDATING THE PUP TO OFFER GRADUATE, UNDERGRADUATE AND SHORT-TERM VOCATIONAL COURSES THEREAT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Tolentino
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 8791, entitled:
"AN ACT FURTHER PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY OF ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS, DEFINING FOR THE PURPOSE THE CRIME OF INTERNET AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS PHISHING, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR"
By Representatives Villar and Benitez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 8792, entitled:
"AN ACT CREATING A DATABASE OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING PROBABLE CARCINOGENS"
By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 8793, entitled:
"AN ACT STRENGTHENING EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM, REVISING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10410, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'EARLY YEARS ACT OF 2013', AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 8794, entitled:
"AN ACT MANDATING INCLUSION OF PANDEMICS, EPIDEMICS AND OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH CRISES AS PART OF THE CURRICULUM OF ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 8795, entitled:
"AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A PRE-HOSPITAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE SYSTEM, PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT, SUPERVISION AND REGULATION OF THE PRE-HOSPITAL EMERGENCY, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 8796, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS FOR PRE-KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN"
By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 8797, entitled:
"AN ACT TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES

AND INCENTIVES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARKS (STPs) IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Tambunting

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 8798, entitled:

"AN ACT INTEGRATING VOTER'S EDUCATION IN THE JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULA IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS"

By Representative Tambunting

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 8799, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR GERIATRIC HEALTH UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representatives Velasco, Romualdez (Ferdinand), Duterte, Marcoleta, Yap (Eric), Ordanes and Romero

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

RESOLUTION

House Resolution No. 1592, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE TO POSTPONE THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION DEADLINE BY SIX MONTHS AND WAIVE THE PENALTIES FOR LATE REGISTRATION WITHIN THAT PERIOD"

By Representative Sarmiento

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated 12 January 2021 of Agnes VST Devanadera, Chairperson and CEO, Energy Regulatory Commission, forwarding to the House of Representatives a copy of the Commission's Accomplishment Report for the 4th Quarter – October to December 2020.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Email dated January 15, 2021 of Floramae Constantino, Provincial Treasurer's Office Staff, Province of Misamis Oriental, submitting to the House of Representatives a copy of their Quarterly Financial Report of Operations for the 4th quarter of 2020, on the Local Government Support Fund – Kalsada Program for Road Repair, Rehabilitation and Improvement.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Email dated January 15, 2021 of Atty. John Titus J. Vistal, EnP, Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator, Province of Bohol, submitting to the House of Representatives a copy of their Quarterly Financial and Physical Report of Operations for the quarter ending December 31, 2020, on the Local Government Support Fund – Conditional Matching Grant to Provinces for Road Repair, Rehabilitation and Improvement (CMGP).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated January 25, 2021 of Sitti Djalia Turabin-Hataman, City Mayor, City of Isabela, Province of Basilan, submitting to the House of Representatives a copy of their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation as of December 31, 2020 of the Bayanihan Grant to Cities and Municipalities which has been posted in their website and in three (3) conspicuous public places in their locality.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 29 January 2021 of Cecilia C. Borromeo, President and CEO, Land Bank of the Philippines, submitting to the

House of Representatives their Report on the Utilization of Funds for the Unconditional Cash Transfer Program (4th qtr-CY 2020).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 29 January 2021 of Aurora C. Ignacio, President and Chief Executive Officer, Social Security System, providing the House of Representatives a copy of their 2020 Report of Operations.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

Letter dated 2 February 2021 of Josie Jean R. Rabanoz, CE, MPA, EnP, Provincial Administrator, Province of Davao del Norte, informing the House of Representatives that their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation for the month of December 2020 of the Bayanihan Grant to Provinces has been posted in their website (www.davaodelnorte.gov.ph) and in three (3) conspicuous public places in their Province.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated February 4, 2021 of Joselito O. Ayala, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Quezon, Province of Palawan, submitting to the House of Representatives copies of their Reports on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation for the months of April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December 2020 of the Bayanihan Grant to Cities and Municipalities which have been posted in their website and in three (3) conspicuous public places in their locality.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). Majority Leader.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, with leave of the House, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I now move that the Gentleman from Party-List BAYAN MUNA, Hon. Ferdinand Gaite, be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the motion is approved. Party-List Congressman Gaite is recognized via Zoom. Congressman Gaite.

REP. GAITE. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can I be heard? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). Please proceed.

REP. GAITE. Can I be heard? Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). Yes, you may proceed.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. GAITE

REP. GAITE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, isang magandang hapon sa ating mga kababayan na nakikinig po ngayon sa Kongreso. Ang Kinatawang ito ay nais magbigay ng privilege speech hinggil sa napipintong pagpapatupad ng Mandanas Ruling. Ang titulo ng aking pahayag ay "Tutulan ang Malawakang Tanggalan ng mga Kawani ng Gobyerno Dulot ng Ipatutupad na Full Devolution".

Mr. Speaker, mga Mambabatas, mga kababayan, sa taong 2022, tuluyan nang ipatutupad ang implementasyon ng Supreme Court, ang Mandanas Ruling. Nililinaw ng Mandanas Ruling na dapat isinasama ng pambansang pamahalaan ang iba pang

nakokolektang buwis kagaya ng customs duties sa Internal Revenue Allotment o IRA, ng mga nasa local government units o LGUs. Nangangahulugan na ang pondo ng mga LGUs ay lalaki ng 27.61 percent mula sa dati nitong nakukuhang IRA, ayon mismo sa Department of Budget and Management or the DBM. Ngunit, sabay ng pagpapatupad ng Mandanas Ruling, nakaamba din ang pagkawala ng trabaho nang maraming bilang ng mga kawani ng gobyerno mula sa iba't ibang pambansang ahensiya dahil sa full devolution na pinaplano ng Ehekutiba. Ito daw, diumano ay kailangan dahil sa pagliit ng magiging bahagi ng national government mula sa mga buwis na nakokolekta nito. Kung gayon, kailangan daw ilipat sa mga lokal na pamahalaan o i-devolve ang mga programa at serbisyo na dati ay direktang nagmumula sa mga pambansang ahensiya.

Sa gagawing ito, malinaw na may malaking negatibong epekto ito sa kasiguruhan sa trabaho ng mga kawani tulad ng unang ipinatupad ang Local Government Code o LGC o Republic Act No. 7160 noong 1991, kung saan hindi lahat ng mga kawaning "devolved" o seconded ay nakalipat at nanatili sa mga lokal na pamahalaan. Dahilan rin ang restriction sa Section 325 ng LGC hinggil sa Personnel Services o ang nababanggit po dito, 'di dapat lalabis sa 45 percent ng kabuuang budget ng first to third class city, municipality or province ay maaaring ilaan sa suweldo at benepisyo habang 55 percent naman ang maximum para sa fourth to sixth class cities, municipalities, and provinces.

Mr. Speaker, inilalako ngayon ng DBM ang tatlong opsyon para sa mga maaapektuhang kawani. Una, paglipat patungo sa ibang departamento o ahensiya.

Ikalawa, ang paglipat sa ibang ahensiya sa labas ng mga naturang departamento.

Ikatlo, ang magretiro o kaya naman ay umalis sa trabaho at pumasok sa mga mababakante o bakanteng posisyon sa LGU. Iyon nga lamang, ang mga apektadong kawani na maa-absorb daw sa mga LGU ay ituturing "new entry" sa mga ahensiya ng LGU na kanilang lilipatan at maaaring bumaba ang kanilang suweldo batay sa mga probisyon ng Salary Standardization Law V, ayon kay Director John Aries Macaspac ng DBM, sa hearing na ginawa noong February 22, 2021, sa ilalim ng House Committee on Visayas Development. By the way, nakasaad sa mga probisyon ng SSL na ang suweldo sa mga LGU, lalo na sa mga mababang income classification, ay mas mababa din. Sa Section 10, letter (a) ng naturang batas, halimbawa, sa isang sixth class municipality, maaaring umabot lamang ng 65 percent ang matatanggap na sahod ng kawani kumpara sa mga kawani sa pambansang ahensiya.

Mr. Speaker, nakababahala na ang pagpapatupad ng full devolution ay walang malalim na pag-aaral ng DBM at iba pang ahensiya hinggil sa mga posibleng epekto nito, kapwa sa national government at mga LGU, higit sa lahat, ang epekto nito sa serbisyo para sa mamamayan. Mga katanungan: Handa na ba ang LGU para sa mas malaking responsibilidad na ipapasa ng national government? Sapat ba ang ilalaki ng pondo ng LGU sa pinapanukalang paglipat ng mga serbisyo at programa sa ilalim ng full devolution? Sa panahon na nararanasan natin ang COVID-19 pandemic at mga kalamidad tulad ng pagputok ng Bulkang Taal at malalakas na mga bagyong humagupit sa ating bansa, nakita natin kung gaano kahalaga ang sentralisadong pagharap at pagtugon ng gobyerno sa mga krisis na ito. Kailangan ito dahil sa hindi pantay na pag-unlad ng mga lungsod, munisipyo, at probinsya sa ating bansa. Marami sa mga LGUs ang mayaman at iyong higit na mga mahihirap ang nangangailangan ng tulong mula sa national government para lamang makatugon sa pandemya at kalamidad na tumama sa kanilang mga saklaw na lugar. Kahit sa panukalang pagbili ng vaccination laban sa COVID-19 ngayon, dehado ang mahihirap na lokal na pamayanan. Ang pagliit ng kabahagi ng national government mula sa mga buwis na nakolekta nito ay hindi matibay na dahilan para sa malawakang tanggalan ng mga kawani ng pamahalaan. Kung nanaisin ng gobyerno, maraming maaaring ilipat na pondo mula sa mga pondo ng pamahalaan tulad ng intelligence and confidential funds, ang NTF-ELCAC, ang E-CLIP, PAMANA, ultimo ang PhilHealth na batbat ng katiwalian,

AFP-PNP, at iba pang programa na nagiging balon din ng korapsyon ay maaaring ilaan sa mga ahensiya na apektakdo ng full devolution upang maiwasan ang malawakang tanggalan sa mga kawani ng pamahalaan.

Naniniwala po ang Kinatawan na ito na marapat lamang na maibigay sa ating mga LGUs ang dapat na kabahagi nila sa makokolektang buwis na naaayon sa batas upang makamit ang mga serbisyo at pakikinabangan ng mamamayan, lalo na sa mga kanayunan. Kasabay nito, hindi dapat tanggalan ng kabuhayan ang libo-libong kawani ng pamahalaan at hindi maisasakripisyo ang serbisyo ng gobyerno para sa mamamayan. Mr. Speaker, ang Representasyong ito ay nananawagan na magkaroon ng malalim na pag-aaral at pagsusuri ang DBM at iba pang ahensiya sa mga posibleng epekto ng full devolution sa pamahalaan. Kasama ng mga kawani sa pamahalaan, kami sa BAYAN MUNA at Makabayan ay tumututol sa ambang malawakang tanggalan ng mga kawani dulot ng full devolution.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Maraming salamat po sa kapwa ko Mambabatas at sa mga nakikinig na mga mamamayan sa panahong ito.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the speech of the Hon. Ferdinand Gaite of Party-List BAYAN MUNA be referred to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the said motion is hereby approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate of Party-List BAYAN MUNA for his privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, Cong. Carlos Isagani Zarate of Party-List BAYAN MUNA is recognized via Zoom.

Congressman Zarate.

REP. ZARATE. Mr. Speaker, I think there is some miscommunication. I did not make a representation to deliver a privilege speech today.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). Majority Leader.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session for a few minutes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). The session is suspended.

It was 3:19 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:29 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). The session is resumed.

Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move to withdraw my previous motion and to suspend the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, for manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). Please proceed.

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS TO THE CONF. CTTEE. ON H.B. NO. 7440 AND S.B. NO. 1931

REP. BARBA. As members of the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 7440 or "AN ACT IMPROVING THE CONFIRMATION PROCESS FOR IMPERFECT LAND TITLES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE

COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 141, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'PUBLIC LAND ACT', AND PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1529, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'PROPERTY REGISTRATION DECREE' " AND SENATE BILL NO. 1931 OR "AN ACT IMPROVING CONFIRMATION OF IMPERFECT TITLES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1529, COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 141, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9176, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

For the Majority, we have:

Rep. Vicente "Ching" S.E. Veloso III;

Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez;

Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda; and

Rep. Edgar M. Chatto.

And for the Minority, we have:

Rep. Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte.

And another manifestation, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). Wait, wait. Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the names are hereby approved and elected as members of the Bicam.

Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Again, Mr. Speaker, for manifestation.

Rep. Ducielle Marie S. Cardema as Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the said name is hereby approved.

Majority Leader.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session for a few minutes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). The session is suspended.

It was 3:32 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:32 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). The session is resumed.

Majority Floor Leader.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NOS. 8653, 5488 AND 8654 ON THIRD READING

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bills Nos. 8653, 5488 and 8654 and direct the Secretary General to read the titles of the said measures, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the motion is approved.

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measures, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on February 18, 2021, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8653, entitled: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUIPOS, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR."

House Bill No. 5488, entitled: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD (LTFRB) IN THE CITY OF DASMARIÑAS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR."

House Bill No. 8654, entitled: "AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) EXTENSION OFFICE IN SAN JOSE CITY, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR."

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measures is reflected in Journal No. 15, dated February 23, 2021.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). With 185 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention; House Bills Nos. 8653, 5488 and 8654 are approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NOS. 8657, 8658 AND 8659 ON THIRD READING

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bills Nos. 8657, 8658 and 8659, all establishing special training centers in their respective localities, and direct the Secretary General to read the titles of the measures, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the motion is approved.

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the titles of the measures, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on February 18, 2021, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8657, entitled: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BASILISA, PROVINCE OF DINAGAT ISLANDS, TO BE KNOWN AS THE BASILISA, DINAGAT ISLANDS TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR."

House Bill No. 8658, entitled: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MERCEDES, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE MERCEDES, CAMARINES NORTE TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR."

House Bill No. 8659, entitled: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LABANGAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, TO BE KNOWN AS THE LABANGAN, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR."

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measures is reflected in Journal No. 15,dated February 23, 2021.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). With 188 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention , House Bills Nos. 8657, 8658 and 8659 are approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8656 ON THIRD READING

REP. SANGCOPAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill No. 8656 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the motion is approved.

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on February 18, 2021, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8656, entitled: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROVINCIAL OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION IN MOUNTAIN PROVINCE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR."

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 15, date February 23, 2021.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). With 192 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8656 is approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that all the bills passed on Third Reading today be transmitted immediately to the Senate.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). The Secretary General is directed to do so.

Majority Leader.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we terminate the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). There is a motion. Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session for a few minutes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Martinez). The session is suspended.

It was 4:00 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:36 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Bienvenido M. Abante Jr. presiding.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). The session is resumed.

Majority Leader.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. SANGCOPAN. I move to suspend the session for a few minutes, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). The session is suspended.

It was 4:37 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:37 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). The session is resumed.

REFERRAL OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS ON INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION

REP. AGABAS. In accordance with our Rules Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation, I move that we refer the following House Resolutions to the appropriate Committees:

1. House Resolution No. 1490, to the Committees on Higher and Technical Education and National Defense Security;
2. House Resolution No. 1568, to the Committee on Transportation;
3. House Resolution No. 1569, to the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization;
4. House Resolution No. 1570, to the Committee on Labor and Employment;
5. House Resolution No. 1571, to the Committee on Youth and Sports Development;
6. House Resolution No. 1573, to the Committee on Health;
7. House Resolution No. 1575, to the Committee on Higher and Technical Education;
8. House Resolution No. 1576, to the Committee on Health;
9. House Resolution No. 1581, to the

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

Committees on Women and Gender Equality and Welfare on Children;

10. House Resolution No. 1583, to the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms;

11. House Resolution No. 1586, to the Committee on Transportation;

12. House Resolution No. 1587, to the Committees on Agriculture and Food, and Trade and industry; and

13. House Resolution No. 1588, to the Special Committee on Creative Industry and Performing Arts.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the same is approved.

REFERRAL OF SPEECHES ON INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to our Rules Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation, I move that we refer the following speeches to the appropriate Committees:

1. Speech of the honorable Representative Vergara dated February 15, 2021, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;

2. Speech of the honorable Representative Tan (A.D.L.) dated February 15, 2021, to the Committee on Health;

3. Speech of the honorable Representative Suansing (E.) dated February 15, 2021, to the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization;

4. Speech of the honorable Representative Vargas dated February 15, 2021, to the Special Committee on Creative Industry and Performing Arts;

5. Speech of the honorable Representative Brosas dated February 15, 2021, to the Committee on Women and Gender Equality;

6. Speech of the honorable Representative Castro (F.L.) dated February 16, 2021, to the Committee on Health;

7. Speech of the honorable Representative Elago dated February 16, 2021, to the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms;

8. Speech of the honorable Representative Cullamat dated February 16, 2021, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;

9. Speech of the honorable Representative Bordado dated February 16, 2021, to the Committee on Justice;

10. Speech of the honorable Representative Romero dated February 17, 2021, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;

11. Speech of the honorable Representative Fernandez dated February 15, 2021, to the Committee on Energy; and

12. Speech of the honorable Representative Elago dated January 19, 2021, to the Committees on Higher and Technical Education and National Defense and Security.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none; the same is approved.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. SANGCOPAN. Mr. Speaker, I move for a few minutes suspension.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). The session is suspended.

It was 4:40 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:41 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). The session is resumed.

Majority Leader.

CHANGE OF REFERRAL OF CERTAIN MEASURES

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the change of referral of the following measures:

a. House Bills Nos. 3601 and 4913, providing direct financial assistance to Filipino farmers, from the Committee on Agriculture and Food to the Committee on Poverty Alleviation; and

b. House Bill No. 8152, establishing a national policy framework for the promotion of animal biotechnology, from the Committee on Agriculture and Food to the Committee on Science and Technology.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the same is approved.

Majority Leader.

OMNIBUS CONSIDERATION
OF LOCAL BILLS
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. SANGCOPAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to our rules, I move for the omnibus consideration on Second Reading of the following measures :

House Bill No. 8668 under Committee Report No. 746;

House Bill No. 8726 under Committee Report No. 749;

House Bill No. 8728 under Committee Report No. 750;

House Bill No. 8729 under Committee Report No. 751;

House Bill No. 8753 under Committee Report No. 756;

House Bill No. 8755 under Committee Report No. 757 ;

House Bill No. 8758 under Committee Report No. 760; and

House Bill No. 8759 under Committee Report No. 761.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the same is approved.

REP. SANGCOPAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider the respective Explanatory Notes as the sponsorship speeches on the said measures.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the same is approved.

REP. SANGCOPAN. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate on the said House bills or local bills, I move that we terminate the period of interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the same is approved.

REP. SANGCOPAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments and approve the Committee amendments, if any, as contained in the respective Committee Reports of the aforementioned bills.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the same is approved.

REP. SANGCOPAN. Mr. Speaker, there being no individual amendments, I move that we terminate the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the same is approved.

OMNIBUS APPROVAL OF LOCAL BILLS
ON SECOND READING

REP. SANGCOPAN. Mr. Speaker, I, therefore, move that we approve on Second Reading the bills that I have mentioned earlier.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). There is a motion to approve on Second Reading the Bills earlier mentioned.

As many as are in favor, please say *Aye.*

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). As many as are against, , please say *Nay. (Silence)* The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved. Said House bills are approved on Second Reading.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. SANGCOPAN. Mr. Speaker, I move for a few minutes suspension.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). The session is suspended.

It was 4:44 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:47 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). The session is resumed.

Majority Leader.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7174
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, under the Calendar of Business for the Day, I move that we consider House Bill No. 7174, under Committee Report No. 759.

May I request that the Secretary General be instructed to read the title of the Bill.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). The Secretary General is directed to read the title of the Bill.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7174, entitled: "AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ACTIVE USE AND DISPLAY OF COMMERCIAL BILLBOARDS DURING TYPHOONS."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Alfred Vargas from the Fifth District of Quezon City to sponsor…

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). The Gentleman …

REP. BARBA. … the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). … from Quezon City is hereby recognized, Congressman Vargas.

REP. VARGAS. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I move that the Explanatory Note be the sponsorship speech on House Bill No. 7174.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). Majority Leader.

All right. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the same is approved.

Majority Leader.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move for a few minutes suspension.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). The session is suspended.

It was 4:49 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:50 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). The session is resumed.

Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate the Sponsor, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the same is approved.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, same is approved.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Alfred Vargas for the Committee amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). Honorable Vargas is hereby recognized.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

REP. VARGAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt the following Committee amendments accordingly: On Section 2, line seven (7), delete the phrase "the safety of" as to avoid redundancy in the use of the word "safety".

Again, Mr. Speaker, I just want to make it clear, I will repeat it, okay, on Section 2, line 7, delete the phrase "the safety of" as to avoid redundancy in the use of the word "safety".

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). What does the Majority Leader say?

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the Committee amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the same is approved.

The amendment is hereby approved.

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, for the …

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). Honorable Vargas.

REP. VARGAS. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

For the second amendment, on Section 5 on the Implementing Rules and Regulations, add THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG), after the acronym "MMDA", insert a COMMA (,) and delete the word "and", thus the whole section will now read as follows, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). Majority Leader.

REP. VARGAS. On Section 5 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations, it shall now read as follows: The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in consultation with the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG), other metropolitan councils and other relevant agencies shall promulgate and issue the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within sixty (60) days from the effectivity thereof.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). What does the Majority Leader say?

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the Committee amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the same is approved. The amendment is hereby carried.

Honorable Vargas.

REP. VARGAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

For the third and final amendment, on Section 8 on Effectivity Clause, delete the phrase "two (2) newspapers", and in lieu thereof, insert the phrase A NEWSPAPER.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). What does the Majority say about the amendment?

Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the Committee amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the same is approved.

The amendment is hereby carried.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, there being no other Committee amendments, I move that we proceed to individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the same is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, there being no individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). Any

objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the same is approved.

Majority Leader.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7174
ON SECOND READING

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 7174, as amended.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). There is a motion for the approval on Second Reading of House Bill No. 7174, as amended.

As many as are in favor, please say *Aye.*

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). As many as are against, please say *Nay. (Silence)* The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 7174, as amended, is approved.

Majority Leader.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move for a few minutes suspension.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abante). The session is suspended.

It was 4:56 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:05 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Henry S. Oaminal presiding

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The session is resumed.

Majority Leader.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7814
Continuation

PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, under the Calendar of Unfinished Business, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 7814 and request that the Secretary General be directed to read the title of the Bill.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The Secretary General is directed to read the title of the Bill.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7814, entitled: "AN ACT STRENGTHENING DRUG PREVENTION AND CONTROL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9165, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'COMPREHENSIVE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002'."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status of the Bill is that it is in the period of amendments. I move that we recognize the honorable Chairman of the Committee on Dangerous Drugs, Rep. Robert Ace Barbers.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Hon. Ace Barbers, Chairman of the Committee on Dangerous Drugs, is hereby recognized.

Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee amendments, I move that we close the period of Committee amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). There is a motion. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). There is a motion declaring the period of individual amendments.

Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Tyrone Agabas for his individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Honorable Agabas is hereby recognized.

INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, the following individual amendments are hereby proposed:

Section 2 of House Bill No. 7814, amending Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9165, as amended, page 3, lines 115 up to 118:

- Delete the word "DOCUMENT" on line 117;

- Delete the phrase "OR ANY WRITTEN MATTER" on line 118;

- Insert the words OR ANY SIMILAR DOCUMENT after "BILL OF LADING", in line 118; and

- Insert the phrase OR IN CONNECTION WITH IMPORTATION OR EXPORTATION TO OR FROM THE PHILIPPINES on line 120, which shall now be read as follows:

ANY PERSON WHO IS FOUND TO HAVE IN HIS/HER POSSESSION OR UNDER HIS/HER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONTROL ANY PURCHASE ORDER, MEMORANDUM RECEIPT, DELIVERY RECEIPT, BILL OF LADING, OR ANY SIMILAR DOCUMENT CONTAINING INFORMATION RELATED TO OR IN CONNECTION WITH IMPORTATION OR EXPORTATION TO OR FROM THE PHILIPPINES DANGEROUS DRUGS XXX.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). What is the distinguished Sponsor's response to the proposed individual amendments of Honorable Agabas?

REP. BARBERS. I accept, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Honorable Barbers is recognized.

REP. BARBERS. I accept the proposed amendments of Congressman Agabas, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move to approve the individual amendments as proposed and accepted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.
Majority Leader.

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, additional amendments :

Section 3 of House Bill No. 7814, amending Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9165, as amended, page 5, line 205:

Delete the phrase "OR INSIDE THE PLACE" on line 205;

Insert the words THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE AREA after the word "WITHIN" in line 205;

Delete the word "ADMINISTRATION" on line 214;

Delete the words "AND/OR TRANSPORTATION" on line 215; and

Insert the word OR on line 215, which shall now be read as follows: UNLESS PROVEN OTHERWISE, ANY PERSON FOUND OR IS PRESENT WITHIN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE AREA OF SALE, TRADING, MARKETING, DISPENSATION, DELIVERY OR DISTRIBUTION, IS PRESUMED TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE SALE, TRADE OR DISTRIBUTION OF DANGEROUS DRUGS, CONTROLLED PRECURSORS OR ESSENTIAL CHEMICALS.

ANY PERSON FOUND IN POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS DRUGS IN THE FOLLOWING QUANTITY OR WEIGHT, REGARDLESS OF PURITY, IS PRESUMED TO HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN SELLING, TRADING, DISPENSATION, DELIVERY, OR DISTRIBUTION OF DANGEROUS DRUGS.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Hon. Ace Barbers, the distinguished Sponsor, what do you say about his proposed amendments?

REP. BARBERS. I gladly accept, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve individual amendments as proposed and accepted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). There is a motion to approve the individual amendments proposed by the Honorable Agabas.

Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Yes, Honorable Agabas.

REP. AGABAS. Additional amendments :

Section 3 of House Bill No.7814, amending Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9165, as amended, page 5, line 228:

Delete "500" on line 228, before the word "grams";

Insert 200 on line 228, before the word "grams";

Delete "200" on line 218, before the word "grams"; and

Insert 50 on line 218, before the word "grams".

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). What is the position of the distinguished Sponsor, the Hon. Ace Barbers, on the proposed amendments?

REP. BARBERS. Again, Mr. Speaker, I gladly accept the proposed amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move to approve the individual amendments as proposed and accepted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). There is a motion, duly seconded, for the approval of the individual amendments as proposed by Honorable Agabas. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Yes, Honorable Agabas.

REP. AGABAS. Additional amendments.

Section 8, paragraph (A) of House Bill No. 7814, amending Section 8 of Republic Act No. 9165, as amended, page 13, lines 628 to 635:

Delete the phrase "OR SIMILAR SUBSTANCES" on lines 628 and 631;

Delete the word "ANY" on line 629;

Delete the phrase "OR APPEARS TO HAVE THE EXCLUSIVE" on lines 633 to 634;

Delete the words "OR MANAGEMENT" on line 634;

Insert the words AN ENCLOSED PRIVATE before the word "PROPERTY" on line 629; and

Insert the word ACTUAL before the word "CONTROL" on line 634.

Which shall now be read as follows:

(A) DANGEROUS DRUGS FOUND TO BE CONCEALED IN AN ENCLOSED PRIVATE PROPERTY SHALL BE PRESUMED, UNTIL THE CONTRARY IS PROVEN, THAT THE SAID DRUGS ARE IN THE POSSESSION OF AND/OR CONCEALED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PERSON WHO HAS ACTUAL CONTROL THEREOF , Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The distinguished Sponsor, what is your position on the proposed amendments?

REP. BARBERS. I accept, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move to approve the individual amendments as proposed and accepted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). There is a motion, duly seconded, that the proposed amendments introduced by Honorable Agabas be approved.

Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

The Honorable Agabas is still…

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, …

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). … recognized.

REP. AGABAS. … other amendments :

Section 8, paragraph (B) of House Bill No. 7814, amending Section 8 of Republic Act No. 9165 as amended, page 13, lines 628 to 635:

Delete the word "PREMISE" on line 639;

Insert the words BUILDING, REAL PROPERTY before the word "VEHICLE xxx" on line 639; and

Delete the words "SUCH AS LUGGAGES" on lines 640 up to 641;

Which shall now be read as follows:

Paragraph (B) DANGEROUS DRUGS FOUND CONCEALED IN ANY COMPARTMENT THAT IS SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED FOR THE PURPOSE ON ANY BUILDING, REAL PROPERTY, VEHICLE, VESSEL OR ANY KIND OF TRANSPORTATION OR PERSONAL PROPERTY SHALL, UNTIL THE CONTRARY IS PROVEN, BE PRESUMED TO HAVE BEEN POSSESSED AND/OR CONCEALED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE OCCUPANT, ADMINISTRATOR, OWNER OR PERSON IN-CHARGE OF THE PROPERTY, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The distinguished Sponsor, what is your position on the proposed amendments?

REP. BARBERS. I accept, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move to approve the individual amendments as proposed and accepted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). There is a motion, duly seconded, that the proposed amendments introduced by Honorable Agabas be approved.

Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Honorable Agabas.

REP. AGABAS. Another amendment, Mr. Speaker.

- Section 11 of House Bill No. 7814, amending Section 13 of Republic Act No. 9165 as amended, page 15, on line 711, to withdraw the proposed amendment and retain the original text of Republic Act No. 9165, as amended or Section 37 of House Bill No. 7814, page 33, lines 1653 to 1654:

- Insert additional sentence after the first one: THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT SHALL NOT IN ANY WAY REPEAL REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9346, OR "AN ACT PROHIBITING THE IMPOSITION OF DEATH PENALTY IN THE PHILIPPINES."

Which shall now be read as follows:

SEC. 37. Repealing Clause. – All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT SHALL NOT IN ANY WAY REPEAL REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9346, OR "AN ACT PROHIBITING THE IMPOSITION OF DEATH PENALTY IN THE PHILIPPINES", Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The distinguished Gentleman from Surigao del Norte, what is your position on the proposed amendment introduced by Honorable Agabas?

REP. BARBERS. Mr. Speaker, before I accept this particular proposal, there are two options and the reason being is that in the period of debate, one of the most contentious issues was whether or not this proposed legislation would automatically repeal the Death Penalty Law. Most of the authors have asked this Representation to clarify this. So, in this particular instance, Mr. Speaker, I would accept the proposal wherein we will clearly state in the "Repealing Clause", in Section 37,

that, THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT SHALL NOT IN ANY WAY REPEAL REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9346, OR "AN ACT PROHIBITING THE IMPOSITION OF DEATH PENALTY IN THE PHILIPPINES."

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Majority Leader.

The session is suspended.

It was 5:20 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:20 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Weslie T. Gatchalian presiding.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). The session is resumed.

Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move to approve the individual amendment, the second option for the individual amendment, as proposed and accepted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the proposed amendment is hereby approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, additional amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Sorry, Honorable Agabas. Hindi ko kayo nakita diyan.

REP. AGABAS. Section 12 of House Bill No. 7814, amending Section 15 of Republic Act No. 9165, as amended, page 15, lines 723 to 726 :

Insert the words <u>TO EIGHTEEN MONTHS (18) IN-PATIENT</u> before the word "TREATMENT" on lines 723 to 724;

Delete the phrase "FOR A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING EIGHTEEN (18) MONTHS" on lines 724 to 725; and

Insert the words <u>TO BE DETERMINED BY A PHYSICIAN</u> after the word "PROGRAM" on line 724

Which shall now read as follows:

Sec. 15. Use of Dangerous Drugs AND CONTROLLED PRECURSORS AND ESSENTIAL CHEMICALS. – A person apprehended or arrested, who is found to be positive for use of any dangerous drugs, OR CONTROLLED PRECURSOR AND ESSENTIAL CHEMICAL AND A DRUG DEPENDENT, after a confirmatory test, AND A DEPENDENCY EXAMINATION, shall be imposed a penalty of a minimum of six (6) months <u>TO EIGHTEEN MONTHS (18) IN-PATIENT TREATMENT</u> AND AFTER CARE rehabilitation PROGRAM <u>TO BE DETERMINED BY A PHYSICIAN</u> SHALL START AFTER THE RELEASE OF THE DRUG DEPENDENT FROM THE REHABILITATION CENTER in a government center for the first offense, subject to the provisions of Article VIII of this Act, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). What is the pleasure of the author?

REP. BARBERS. I accept, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move to approve the individual amendments as proposed and accepted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Are there any objections? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the amendments are approved.

Majority Leader—ah, Congressman Agabas.

REP. AGABAS. Section 12 of House Bill No. 7814, amending Section 15 of Republic Act No. 9165, as amended, pages 15 to 16, lines 745 to 746, delete the phrase "HAS SOME PHYSICAL MANIFESTATION OF BEING A DANGEROUS DRUG USER, AND HE/SHE" on lines 745 to 747.

Which shall now be read as follows:

ANY PERSON APPREHENDED UNDER THIS SECTION IS PRESUMED TO HAVE

USED A DANGEROUS DRUG IF HE/SHE REFUSES TO SUBMIT TO A DRUG TEST, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). May I know the reply of the author.

REP. BARBERS. Accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the individual amendment as proposed and accepted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Are there any objections? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the motion is carried.

Honorable Agabas.

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, Section 18 of House Bill No. 7184, amending Section 29 of Republic Act No. 9165, as amended, page 20, lines 1011 and 1012 :

a. Delete "ASSIGNED IN SAID COURT" on line 1012;

b. Insert letter S to the word "PROSECUTOR" on line 1012;

c. Insert the words OFFICE WHERE THE COURT IS SITUATED after the word "PROSECUTORS" on line 1012;

d. Put a COMMA (",") after the word "SECTION" on line 1014, and insert the phrase CONCLUDE THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION WITHIN A PERIOD OF SEVEN (7) WORKING DAYS; and

e. Insert the word WHEN WARRANTED after the word "AND", which shall now read as follows:

AS SOON AS THE ALLEGED PLANTING OF EVIDENCE HAS BEEN INTERPOSED AND/OR PLEADED BEFORE OR DURING THE PROSECUTION OF THE CASE AGAINST THE ACCUSED, THE COURT WHERE THE CASE IS PENDING SHALL CAUSE THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE WHERE THE COURT IS SITUATED TO CONDUCT PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION FOR THE VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION, CONCLUDE THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION WITHIN A PERIOD OF SEVEN (7) WORKING DAYS, AND WHEN WARRANTED, FILE THE CORRESPONDING INFORMATION, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). What is the reply of the Sponsor?

REP. BARBERS. Accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move to approve the individual amendments as proposed and accepted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Are there any objections? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the proposed amendments are approved.

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, additional amendments:

Section 33 of House Bill No. 7814, amending Section 92 of Republic Act No. 9165, as amended, page 30, lines 1487 to 1492:

Delete the sentence "THE ACQUITTAL OF AN ACCUSED OR DISMISSAL OF ANY DRUG-RELATED CASE THROUGH PATENT LAXITY, INEXCUSABLE NEGLECT, UNREASONABLE DELAY OR DELIBERATELY CAUSING THE UNSUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION AND/OR DISMISSAL OF THE SAID DRUG CASES IS PRESUMED BUNGLING IN THE PROSECUTION OF SAID CASE" ; and

Insert the words BASED ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS SUCH AS, FAILURE TO FORMALLY OFFER EVIDENCE, FILING OF WRONG INFORMATION, FAILURE TO PRESENT *CORPUS DELICTI*, IRREGULARITY/ILLEGALITY OF ARREST, SEARCH AND SEIZURE, FAILURE TO CONDUCT CONFIRMATORY TEST, AND FAILURE TO PROSECUTE FOR AN UNREASONABLE LENGTH OF TIME after the word "ACT" in line 1494;

Which shall now be read as follows:

UNLESS PROVEN OTHERWISE, A DECISION OF THE COURT ACQUITTING THE ACCUSED OR DISMISSING A CASE

PROSECUTED UNDER THIS ACT BASED ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS SUCH AS, FAILURE TO FORMALLY OFFER EVIDENCE, FILING OF WRONG INFORMATION, FAILURE TO PRESENT *CORPUS DELICTI*, IRREGULARITY/ ILLEGALITY OF ARREST, SEARCH AND SEIZURE, FAILURE TO CONDUCT CONFIRMATORY TEST AND FAILURE TO PROSECUTE FOR AN UNREASONABLE LENGTH OF TIME IS PRESUMED TO HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFULLY PROSECUTED AND TO THE GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR, LAW ENFORCER, OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE INVOLVED IN THE PROSECUTION THEREOF DELIBERATELY CAUSED THE UNSUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION AND/ OR DISMISSAL OF THE SAID CASE, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). May I know the reply of the good Sponsor.

REP. BARBERS. Accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move to approve the individual amendments as proposed and accepted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Are there any objections? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the motion is approved.

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, I now move to my last amendment.

A new Section 25-A under Republic Act No. 9165, to read as follows:

SEC. 25-A. AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCE. – THE PENALTY OF ONE DEGREE HIGHER SHALL BE IMPOSED IF A PERSON VIOLATES SECTIONS 4, 5, 11, AND 15 OF THIS ACT AND THE SAME IS COMMITTED DURING AN EPIDEMIC OR PANDEMIC AS DECLARED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). What is the pleasure of the honorable Sponsor?

REP. BARBERS. Accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move to approve the individual amendment as proposed and accepted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Are there any objections? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the proposed amendment is hereby approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. SANGCOPAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Jose Christopher Belmonte of the Sixth District of Quezon City for his individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Honorable Belmonte, you may have the floor.

REP. BELMONTE. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). O, sira yata.

REP. BELMONTE. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

First of all, I would like to thank the Majority and the honorable Sponsor for their perseverance, patience and statesmanship, and I would also like to thank them for several amendments which I noticed have resolved a certain number of issues that this Representation himself was concerned with. However, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, I would like to include several amendments which this Representation feels will cure the problem of somewhat vague interpretation of certain provisions, likewise the problem of double presumptions, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, while at the same time retaining as much as possible the intent of the law which allows more power to our law enforcement officials

to enable them to go after the drug lords who are the actual targets of this Bill, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

In light of that, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, will the honorable Sponsor allow me to propose certain individual amendments, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Honorable Barbers.

REP. BARBERS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, gladly.

REP. BELMONTE. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor. My first amendment is to remove the problem of broad interpretation on the term "control". So, in Section 2, amending Section 4, line 116 of the proposed Bill, we delete the word "OR INDIRECT" after the word "DIRECT", such that the new phrase is to read as follows: POSSESSION OR UNDER HIS/HER DIRECT CONTROL, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). What is the reply of the good Sponsor?

REP. BARBERS. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, I am sorry, but I will have to reject the proposed amendment for the reason that this will totally reduce the intent of the provision wherein direct or indirect control is very material in this particular section, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Honorable Belmonte.

REP. BELMONTE. Of course, I would like to appeal, but I will submit to the will of the House, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Majority Leader.

REP. SANGCOPAN. Mr. Speaker, considering that the Sponsor of the measure has denied the individual amendment, therefore, we have to request the Honorable Belmonte to proceed to his second amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Honorable Belmonte, you are recognized.

REP. BELMONTE. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, this is in the section related to coddlers. I would like to propose that we remove the presumption of "knows". When the person knows, then he is already presumed to be a coddler. This will be a repeating presumption, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. In light of the second section, the second paragraph actually requires that there is knowledge and reasonable grounds, that he has knowledge and has consented to the actual operative act, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. Such that I would like to delete Section 2, amending Section 4, which is on line 155 to line 163, deleting the paragraph "A PERSON IS PRESUMED A PROTECTOR OR CODDLER OF A PERSON WHO IMPORTS OR EXPORTS DANGEROUS DRUGS, CONTROLLED PRECURSORS OR ESSENTIAL CHEMICALS TO BE USED IN THE PREPARATION FOR SUCH DANGEROUS DRUGS IF HE/SHE KNOWS THE IMPORTER OR EXPORTER OF DANGEROUS DRUGS AND/OR CONTROLLED PRECURSORS AND ESSENTIAL CHEMICALS AND HE/SHE USES HIS/HER INFLUENCE, POWER OR POSITION TO SHIELD, HARBORS, SCREEN OR FACILITATE THE ESCAPE OF SAID IMPORTER OR EXPORTER."

What will be retained is the second paragraph which requires na he has reasonable knowledge that iyong taong iyon ay importer or he has consented to it. reasonable knowledge Also, Mr. Speaker, in connection with that, I propose that we remove lines 173 to 186, remove the paragraph, "UNLESS PROVEN OTHERWISE, A PERSON WHO SHIELDS, HARBORS, SCREENS OR FACILITATES THE ESCAPE OF, OR PREVENTS THE ARREST, PROSECUTION, OR CONVICTION OF THE IMPORTER OR EXPORTER IS PRESUMED TO HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF, OR HAS WILLFULLY CONSENTED TO, THE ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OR EXPORTATION AND THAT HE/SHE HAS USED HIS/HER INFLUENCE, POWER OR POSITION. EXCEPT WHEN IT IS DONE BY ANY MEMBER OF THE IMPORTER'S OR

EXPORTER'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY OR HIS/HER LEGAL COUNSEL. A PERSON WHO INTERCEDES AND/OR REPRESENTS THE SAID IMPORTER OR EXPORTER IS, UNLESS PROVEN OTHERWISE, PRESUMED TO HAVE SHIELDED, HARBORED, SCREENED OR FACILITATED THE ESCAPE OF, OR PREVENTED THE ARREST, PROSECUTION OR CONVICTION OF THE IMPORTER OR EXPORTER."

The purpose, Mr. Speaker, as stated earlier, is kailangan lang mapatunayan ng law enforcement officers na may knowledge siya or he willfully consented, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, then the presumption will stand. Pero iyong mere knowing that person and doing some acts, tingin ko double presumption na po iyon and subject to vague interpretation, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Thank you, Honorable Belmonte. What is the pleasure of the good Sponsor?

REP. BARBERS. Mr. Speaker, again, much as I would like to accept the proposed amendments, but in this particular Section, knowledge is very material as one of the facts to be proven in order to give rise to another presumption. So, it is--hindi naman po ibig sabihin na kapag if you know the person, you are already presumed to be a protector or coddler. Very material po dito ito, and if the elements, such as knowledge, reasonable grounds to believe that there was an unlawful act committed and the presence of the illegal drugs, these are just facts to be proven before they give rise to another presumption of the person being a coddler or a protector. In fact, you can be accused of being a coddler or importer if one, you shielded, you harbored, you screened or facilitated the escape or prevented the arrest, prevented the prosecution or conviction of the known importer or exporter, that is the only time that that would apply. So again, Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, but I have to reject and refuse the proposal because knowledge is very material in this particular Section.

REP. BELMONTE. Actually, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, that is precisely my point para hindi ho vague. Kailangan ho clear na hindi lang ho kilala mo, tapos nag operative act. May pananaw ka, may reasonable grounds ka to presume na talagang engaged siya sa dangerous drugs, tapos nanggulo ka pa, nakialam ka pa. Iyon lang po ang sinasabi ko, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. Nonetheless, I understand the position and I will concede to the will of the Majority, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Thank you to the good Sponsor for clarifying. Honorable Belmonte, you still have the floor for further amendments.

REP. BELMONTE. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, in the same light, I would like to propose on Section 3, amending Section 5, lines 257 to 261, delete the paragraph, "A PERSON IS PRESUMED A PROTECTOR OR CODDLER IF HE/SHE KNOWS THE SELLER, TRADER, DISTRIBUTOR OR VIOLATOR OF THIS SECTION AND HE/SHE USES HIS/HER INFLUENCE, POWER OR POSITION IN SHIELDING, HARBORING, SCREENING OR FACILITATING THE ESCAPE OF SAID VIOLATOR."

And, on lines 271 to 281, the paragraph reading: "A PERSON WHO SHIELDS, HARBORS, SCREENS OR FACILITATES THE ESCAPE OF, OR PREVENTS THE ARREST, PROSECUTION OR CONVICTION OF THE SELLER, TRADER, DISTRIBUTOR OR VIOLATOR OF THIS SECTION IS, UNLESS PROVEN OTHERWISE, PRESUMED TO HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF OR WILLFULLY CONSENTED TO, THE ILLEGAL SELLING, TRADING OR DISTRIBUTION AND HAS USED HIS/HER INFLUENCE, POWER OR POSITION IN DOING SO. EXCEPT WHEN IT IS DONE BY ANY MEMBER OF THE VIOLATOR'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY OR HIS/HER LEGAL COUNSEL. A PERSON WHO INTERCEDES AND/OR REPRESENTS THE SAID VIOLATOR IS, UNLESS PROVEN OTHERWISE, PRESUMED TO HAVE SHIELDED, HARBORED, SCREENED OR FACILITATED THE ESCAPE OF, OR PREVENTED THE ARREST, PROSECUTION OR CONVICTION OF THE VIOLATOR".

Also for the same reasons, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). What is the pleasure of the good Sponsor?

REP. BARBERS. Again, Mr. Speaker, much as I want to accept the proposal, the proposed amendment, again, this Section, just like in the previous proposed amendment, would have the elements to be proven, which is very material in this particular Section. A person who uses his influence, his power and position to prevent the arrest, allows the escape or prevents the conviction of the seller or trader -- e iyan po ang pinaka-material dito sa Section na ito. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I am again, much to my dismay, I would have to reject and refuse the proposed amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Noted, Mr. Sponsor.

Honorable Belmonte.

REP. BELMONTE. Then I would like to move on to Section 4, amending Section 6, lines 313 to 319, which concerns the presumption of a single usage equals the presumption that there is a den, dive or resort which arises, which adds to it the presumption that the person who administers the place is automatically presumed, and anybody who intercedes for the person who has control of the place is also likewise presumed to be related to the drug incident, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. My only problem with this whole Section is the part where it is presumed — when there is one single occasion — the presumption is that the place is already a den, dive and resort.

So, I propose, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, that we delete the paragraph, "FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING ARE PRESUMED:

ANY DEN, DIVE RESORT IS PRESUMED INTENTIONALLY USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF SELLING OR USING DANGEROUS DRUGS AND/ OR CONTROLLED PRECURSORS AND ESSENTIAL CHEMICALS EVEN ON ONE OCCASION ONLY."

And lines 326 to 333, which is paragraph (C), note that I retained paragraph (B), Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, na kung napatunayan ng State na den, dive talaga iyan, iyong person who is directly in control ay presumed na may kinalaman po doon. Pero sa paragraph "(C) IF ANY PARAPHERNALIA OR INSTRUMENT SUITABLE OR FIT FOR THE USE OR ADMINISTRATION OF ANY DANGEROUS DRUG IS FOUND IN A DEN, DIVE OR RESORT, IT IS PRESUMED THAT THE PREMISES ARE USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE ADMINISTRATION, SMOKING OR CONSUMPTION OF A DANGEROUS DRUG BY A HUMAN BEING AND THAT THE OPERATOR, MAINTAINER OR ADMINISTRATOR PERMITS SAID PREMISES TO BE USED FOR SUCH PURPOSE."

Iyong problema ko lang po diyan talaga, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, is iyong single use and single arrest, damay-damay na lahat, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). What is the reply of the Sponsor?

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BARBERS. Mr. Speaker, may I move for a one-minute suspension, just to confer with the …

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). The session is suspended.

It was 5:44 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:49 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). The session is resumed.

REP. BARBERS. Mr. Speaker, after conferring with the good Gentleman from Quezon City on his proposed amendments, this Representation needs more clarification. But much again to my dismay, I would have to reject the proposed amendments of the Gentleman from Quezon City.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Noted on that.

Honorable Belmonte, do you still have more amendments?

REP. BELMONTE. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

In the same light and also for the same grounds, na ang feeling ko hindi na ho naman kailangan ng unang presumption na knowledge kasi requirement naman iyong knowledge na may—like hindi kailangan iyong presumption na "knows", tapos nangialam siya. Ang kailangan lang natin is may knowledge siya o reasonable grounds to believe na engaged sa drugs iyong person, doon mag-a-arise iyong presumption.

In that light, Mr. Speaker, I move that we delete the sentence in Section 4, amending Section 6, lines 358 to 363, deleting the sentence: "A PERSON IS PRESUMED A PROTECTOR OR CODDLER IF HE/SHE KNOWS THE OPERATOR, MAINTAINER, ADMINISTRATOR OR MANAGER OF THE DEN, DIVE OR RESORT AND HE/SHE USES HIS/HER INFLUENCE, POWER OR POSITION IN SHIELDING, HARBORING, SCREENING OR FACILITATING THE ESCAPE OF THE VIOLATOR."

And, lines 372 to 387: "A PERSON IS PRESUMED A PROTECTOR OR CODDLER IF HE/SHE KNOWS THE OPERATOR, MAINTAINER, ADMINISTRATOR OR MANAGER OF THE DEN, DIVE OR RESORT AND HE/SHE USES HIS/HER INFLUENCE, POWER OR POSITION IN SHIELDING, HARBORING, SCREENING, OR FACILITATING THE ESCAPE OF THE VIOLATOR. A PERSON IS, LIKEWISE, PRESUMED THE PROTECTOR OR CODDLER IF HE/SHE HAS KNOWLEDGE OF OR HAS REASONABLE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE OR TO SUSPECT THAT THE SAID OPERATOR, MAINTAINER, ADMINISTRATOR OR MANAGER ACTUALLY OPERATES, MAINTAINS, ADMINISTERS OR MANAGES A DEN, DIVE, OR RESORT, AND HE/SHE USES HIS/HER INFLUENCE, POWER OR POSITION IN PREVENTING THE ARREST, PROSECUTION AND CONVICTION OF THE VIOLATOR."

Ang point ko lang talaga, as I pointed out earlier, Mr. Speaker, puwede naman na nandiyan pa rin ang presumptions basta mapatunayan ng State na hindi lang kakilala niya at nangialam siya, kung hindi may reasonable grounds siya to know na engaged ito sa drugs at nag-consent siya dito, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Honorable Barbers.

REP. BARBERS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, the good Gentleman from Quezon City is correct. Iyong knowing or iyong knowledge is just one of those elements that needs to be proven before another presumption of being a protector or coddler arises. So, iyong knowledge, isa lang iyan. Iyong reasonable ground to believe that he is a maintainer, an operator of a den, dive or resort, plus the knowledge also of the use of a den, a drug den, those are elements that need to be proven first. So, hindi lang ho limited doon sa knowledge or knowing the person na nag-me-maintain noon is already perceived to be a—you are already perceived to be a protector or coddler. Again, the important operative words that we need to see here before you can be accused of being a protector or coddler is one, if you, knowing all these facts that are proven, that mayroong nangyaring bayaran o gamitan ng droga sa isang dive, den, resort, mayroon kang knowledge, mayroong nakitang droga, therefore, nagamit iyong lugar sa pagiging isang den. And ikaw bilang isang maintainer, operator, you are presumed to be a protector. Now, immediately, you cannot be presumed to be a protector yet because you have to use your power, your influence and your position to aid or to harbor, or to allow the escape, or to prevent the arrest, or prevent the conviction or prosecution of the accused.

So, iyon lamang po, Mr. Speaker. Again, much to my dismay again, I would have to reject the proposal of the good Gentleman from Quezon City.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Thank you for clarifying, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. BELMONTE. I thank the Honorable Barbers for being very gentlemanly in rejecting my proposals, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

Ang point ko lang po, para lang ho malinaw na malinaw, hindi ko po nais na tanggalin iyong mga presumptions na gusto po ni Honorable Barbers. Ang ayaw ko lang po ay itong mga provisions na ito which give rise to a very broad and vague interpretation na puwedeng ina-assume na po na may knowledge ka na kaagad basta nangialam ka at may reasonable grounds ka.

Anyway, this is belaboring the point. I will just continue to raise the same points, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. Pasensya na po, kasi madami po itong mga provisions na ito, para lang po ma-record.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Go ahead, Honorable Belmonte. You still have the floor.

REP. BELMONTE. Tapos, tuloy-tuloy na po tayo, in the interest of time, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

Section 5, amending Section 8, lines 457 to 463, delete the sentence, "A PERSON IS PRESUMED A PROTECTOR OR CODDLER IF HE/SHE KNOWS THE MANUFACTURER, PRODUCER OR PROCESSOR OF ANY DANGEROUS DRUG AND/OR CONTROLLED PRECURSOR AND ESSENTIAL CHEMICALS, AND HE/SHE USES HIS/HER INFLUENCE, POWER OR POSITION TO SHIELD, HARBOR, SCREEN OR FACILITATE THE ESCAPE OF SAID MANUFACTURER, PRODUCER OR PROCESSOR." And remove on line 463, the word "LIKEWISE" after the phrase "A PERSON IS".

So, required pa rin po iyong presumption, pero tinatanggal po natin iyong presumption na knowledge lang at nangialam ka, problematic ka na diyan, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). May I know the reply of the honorable and gentleman , Mr. Sponsor.

REP. BARBERS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, gaya rin po ng mga naunang mga sections that were proposed to be amended, ganoon din po itong section po na ito because—sabi ko nga kanina, you are presumed to be a protector or coddler if there are three very important elements that need to be proven first or proven facts, as they say: one, you know the manufacturer/producer or the processor of the dangerous drug; and two, you use your influence, your power or position to shield, harbor, screen or facilitate the escape of the said manufacture, producer, et cetera, et cetera. So, iyon po iyong elemento na hindi po maaaring mawala dito in order to give rise to a presumption of a person being a protector or a coddler of a manufacturer or producer of dangerous drugs.

So, again, much to my dismay, Mr. Speaker, I would have to beg the indulgence of the Gentleman from Quezon City that I will reject the proposed amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Thank you for clarifying, Mr. Sponsor.

Please continue, Honorable Belmonte.

REP. BELMONTE. Moving on to Section 8, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. Section 8, amending Section 11, lines 625 to (623) 635, this is in relation to the presumption of finding a substance or an instrument in the subject—in a property.

For the purpose of this Section, the following are presumed:

DANGEROUS DRUGS OR SIMILAR SUBSTANCES FOUND TO BE CONCEALED IN ANY PROPERTY SHALL BE PRESUMED, UNTIL THE CONTRARY IS PROVEN, THAT THE SAID DRUGS OR SIMILAR SUBSTANCES ARE IN THE POSSESSION OF AND/OR CONCEALED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PERSON WHO HAS OR APPEARS TO HAVE THE EXCLUSIVE CONTROL OR MANAGEMENT THEREOF.

Ito po, [Section] paragraph (A) lang po iyong worry ko po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. I will not touch [Section] paragraph (B) which is—there is a specific compartment, specifically constructed, na nagtatago at doon ho nakita. Iyon obvious pa, then puwedeng mag-presume. Ito po, subject to vague

interpretation pa rin po itong Section na ito, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. Basta merong drugs doon, nakitaan ka na doon, e ang dali-dali hong magtanim o ang dali-dali pong mag-set-up, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. Iyon lang po ang problema ko dito.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Mr. Sponsor.

REP. BARBERS. Mr. Speaker, earlier the Deputy Majority Leader, Congressman Agabas, has proposed amending the same Section, which this Representation accepted and if I may read. Perhaps, this would clear the perception of the good Gentleman from Quezon City on the points that he raised.

The new section will now read as follows:

DANGEROUS DRUGS FOUND CONCEALED IN ANY COMPARTMENT THAT IS SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED FOR THE PURPOSE ON ANY BUILDING, REAL PROPERTY, VEHICLE, VESSEL OR ANY KIND OF TRANSPORTATION OF (OR) PERSONAL PROPERTY, SHALL UNTIL THE CONTRARY IS PROVEN BE PRESUMED TO HAVE BEEN POSSESSED AND/OR CONCEALED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE OCCUPANT, ADMINISTRATOR, OWNER, OR PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE PROPERTY.

REP. BELMONTE. Yes, yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, I thank the honorable Sponsor for that section. Kaya po ayaw ko hong pakialaman iyong section na iyon kasi I agree po. Obvious ba? Bakit ka may hidden compartment doon, tapos nandoon iyong drugs? Ang question ko po is the preceding section, Section (A), Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, na nakita doon may presumption na kaagad, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BARBERS. Is the Gentleman referring to Section 8-A?

REP. BELMONTE. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, as I understand it, it is Section 8, amending Section 11, lines 625 to 635, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. Or, is the Sponsor telling me na wala na po iyong section na iyon?

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BARBERS. A minute of suspension, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). The session is suspended.

It was 6:01 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:03 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). The session is resumed.

REP. BARBERS. Mr. Speaker, after conferring with the good Gentleman from Quezon City on his proposed amendments, again, I would like to ask for his indulgence, that I will have to reject the proposal because earlier, Congressman Agabas has already proposed the same amendment in the mentioned section, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Honorable Belmonte, you may continue.

REP. BELMONTE. Again, I thank the Honorable Barbers for being very gentlemanly in letting this Representation down, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

Now, I move to the very controversial death penalty, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, and I would really like na very clear so that there will be no room for misinterpretation or this law being questioned as to the death penalty in our courts, all the way up to the Supreme Court, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. I do appreciate the amendment made by the Majority, including the line towards the end of this Bill, saying clearly na there is no intention to amend the prior law. However, I would prefer na mas malinaw po ito by deleting the word "TO DEATH" after the word "IMPRISONMENT" in Section 11, amending Section 13, line 711, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). What is the reply of the good Sponsor?

REP. BARBERS. Mr. Speaker, earlier, again, the good Gentleman, Congressman Agabas, has likewise proposed to add another sentence in Section 37 of the said proposed law, in the "Repealing Clause", where it clearly states, "THAT THE PROVISION OF THIS ACT SHALL NOT IN ANY WAY REPEAL REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9346 OR AN ACT PROHIBITING THE IMPOSITION OF DEATH PENALTY IN THE PHILIPPINES", to clear the notion, Mr. Speaker, that there was no intention in this law to amend the Death Penalty Law.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Honorable Belmonte, you may continue.

REP. BELMONTE. Moving on, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. I move now to the Section requiring imprisonment for the persons found not to be drug dependents. I appreciate and thank the honorable Sponsor and the Majority Leader for their amendment, making it clear na ang priority po talaga, as it has long been proven by experience , iyong rehabilitation and intervention programs. However, para lang po mabalik iyong Section sa original Bill, which requires the same intervention muna po para sa mga first-time users, iyong mga nag-e-eksperimento lang, imbes na imprisonment, I propose that we delete the phrase, "IF FOUND TO BE NOT A DRUG DEPENDENT, HE/SHE SHALL SUFFER THE PENALTY OF IMPRISONMENT RANGING FROM SIX (6) MONTHS AND ONE (1) DAY TO SIX (6) YEARS AND THE FINE RANGING FROM TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000) to FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000)" after the word "Act.

Okay na po sa akin kasi nilinaw naman po sa akin ni Majority, ng honorable Sponsor at ng Majority, na kailangan may arrest muna. So, I will concede on the point of physical manifestations. Although, inayos na rin po iyon ng Majority and I thank the Majority for that, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. Ang nais ko lang po dito ay mabalik iyong original provision which states na iyong mga first offender ay rehabilitation ang direksiyon, hindi po kulong, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Mr. Sponsor.

REP. BARBERS. Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the proposal of the good Gentleman from Quezon City earlier was to delete the sentence which states that "ANY PHYSICAL MANIFESTATION EXHIBITED BY THE ACCUSED SHALL BE PRESUMED TO HAVE USED ILLEGAL DRUGS" and we agreed to that particular proposal, as proposed as well by Congressman Agabas earlier.

REP. BELMONTE. Thank you for that, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BARBERS. But in the same Section where a drug dependent is apprehended at mayroon po siyang dependency examination at napatunayan po na siya ay positive user ng droga, sa first offender, he will be given six months and the amendment introduced was six months to 18 months of in-patient treatment, so para ma-clear. And iyon hong wala namang—hindi naman dependent, after a confirmatory and dependency test, ay diretso hong makukulong ito, because the rationale behind this, Mr. Speaker, is that our proposal does not focus on putting to jail immediately iyong mga first-time offenders. There is still compassion here, Mr. Speaker, because binibigyan natin ng chance na ma-rehabilitate sila at maibalik into the folds of the society and hoping na after a rehabilitation program ay magbago na po at hindi na po gumamit ng droga. Pero doon po sa hindi pumasa, iyong nag-negative doon sa dependency test pero nahuli siya, I think it is much worse , Mr. Speaker, because maaaring hindi siya gumagamit, nahulihan siya ng droga, so mas maaaring ibinebenta niya ito, which is much worse than being a user. So, in that context, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Gentleman from Quezon City, ay binigyan pa rin natin ng kaunting compassion itong Section na ito. Inalis natin iyong pino-propose ni Congressman Belmonte na physical manifestations because, apparently, this would be perceived by some law enforcers and could be subject to abuse.

So, again, Mr. Speaker, much to my dismay, I will have to reject the proposed amendment of the good Gentleman from Quezon City.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Thank you for the clear explanation, Mr. Sponsor.

Honorable Belmonte, you may continue.

REP. BELMONTE. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, ang point ko lang po, I agree na puwedeng ma-interpret that way iyong Section na ito. Hindi ka nga dependent, may droga ka and gumamit ka, puwedeng kuwan ka lang, nagtulak ka kasi hawak mo. Ang point ko lang is, paano iyong batang inosenteng sinubukan lang niya? Under this provision, puwede siyang ma-interpret na diretso siyang kulungan. Iyon lang po iyong problema ko dito, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

Nonetheless, if I may move on. Again, in the same light, ito na po iyong last ko na, again, it is a presumption of knowledge ang hinihingi ko.

Section 13, amending Section 16, lines 807 to 813, delete the sentence "A PERSON IS PRESUMED A CODDLER OR PROTECTOR IF HE/SHE KNOWS THE CULTIVATOR, PRODUCER OR VIOLATOR OF THIS SECTION AND HE/SHE USES HIS/HER INFLUENCE, POWER OR POSITION IN PREVENTING THE COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE WITHOUT ANY JUSTIFIABLE REASONS OR GROUNDS, SHIELDING, HARBORING, SCREENING OR FACILITATING THE ESCAPE OF SAID VIOLATOR."

And lines 822 to 837, "ANY ACT OF THE PROTECTOR OR CODDLER OF SHIELDING, HARBORING, SCREENING OR FACILITATING THE ESCAPE OF, OR IN PREVENTING THE ARREST, PROSECUTION OR CONVICTION OF THE VIOLATOR OF THIS SECTION IS, UNLESS PROVEN OTHERWISE, *PRIMA FACIE* PROOF THAT THE PROTECTOR OR CODDLER HAS KNOWLEDGE OF, OR CONSENTED TO, THE CULTIVATION OR PRODUCTION OF PLANTS CLASSIFIED AS DANGEROUS DRUGS OR SOURCE THEREOF, AND HE/SHE IS PRESUMED FURTHER TO HAVE USED HIS/HER INFLUENCE, POWER OR POSITION IN DOING THE SAME. EXCEPT WHEN IT IS DONE BY ANY MEMBER OF THE VIOLATOR'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY OR HIS/HER LEGAL COUNSEL, ANY PERSON WHO INTERCEDES AND/OR REPRESENTS THE SAID VIOLATOR IS, OTHERWISE, PRESUMED TO HAVE SHIELDED, HARBORED, SCREENED OR FACILITATED THE ESCAPE OF OR PREVENTED THE ARREST, PROSECUTION OR CONVICTION OF THE VIOLATOR."

Again, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, *prima facie* and presumed ang knowledge na engaged sa drugs at coddler siya and presumed na kilala niya. Iyon ang ibig sabihin ng provision na ito. Hindi na kailangan patunayan ng State na may knowledge siya, presumed na po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. Iyon lang po iyong vague interpretation na iyan at saka iyong double presumption na iyan iyong objection ko po sa provision na ito, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Mr. Sponsor.

REP. BARBERS. Mr. Speaker, if I may reiterate, the proposed legislation simply says or grants additional legal tools to our law enforcers, to our prosecutors in running after the big time "members of the drug syndicate". In this case, hindi lang ho iyong mga pushers sa kalsada.

And also to reiterate that providing for a legal disputable presumption is not contrary to law. In fact, there are several jurisprudence, there are several statutes that provide for legal presumptions. The reason why I am saying that, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, kagaya po dito sa cultivator o iyong producer, halimbawa po sa property ni Congressman Kit Belmonte ay may––sa daan-daang ektarya na property ni Congressman Belmonte ay mayroon hong tumutubong mga plantation ng marijuana doon. Now, it is presumed that he has knowledge that there was marijuana there. Two, because there was the presence of evidence, in this case, iyong mga marijuana plantation, you are presumed to be the cultivator because you own the property, it is

inside your property, and there was marijuana in that property. So, iyong reason bakit natin ina-allow iyong presumptions, so that we can run after the owner of the property kasi karamihan o kadalasan, Mr. Speaker, ang depensa ho lagi noong mga inaakusahan ay, "Wala ho akong kinalaman diyan, tumubo lang ho iyan diyan, e". O hindi kaya, "Aba, e, noong siguro nag-abroad ako, nawala ako ng mga ilang buwan, ilang taon, e iyong property ko, pagbalik ko, may nakatanim na."

REP. BELMONTE. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, knowing the strong sense of justice of Honorable Barbers at knowing na alam niyang wala po akong isang ektarya, una pa ho siyang tatakbo para proteksyunan ako kasi kilala niya po ako, wala po akong isang ektaryang lupa na ganoon. Pero dahil sa tumakbo siya sa akin, under the provisions of this law, may presumption na rin na coddler, protector po siya, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BARBERS. Mr. Speaker, yes, I will be perceived to be the protector and coddler of Cong. Kit Belmonte if I interceded on his behalf, I allowed his escape; I prevented his arrest; I prevented his prosecution, knowing fully well that mayroon hong tumubong marijuana doon and that is already a *prima facie* proof that mayroong pagkakasala o mayroon pong unlawful act o mayroon pong violation of this proposed legislation na nangyari; and I used my power, my influence, and my position to help him escape. Iyon lang ho iyong pagiging coddler ko doon, Mr. Speaker. But I hope both of us, Mr. Speaker, were able to illustrate by using ourselves as examples in this particular section na maaaring mangyari ito at hindi ho imposible.

So, along that line, much again to my dismay, Mr. Speaker, I would have to beg the indulgence of the Gentleman from Quezon City that I will have to reject his proposed amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Noted, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. BELMONTE. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, I would have—I have no intention of touching the provisions relating to the law enforcement officers, the two sections, I will leave to the better wisdom of my Minority Leader who wants to propose some amendments on these two sections. However, if I had my way, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, I would have deleted entirely Section 33, amending Section 92, lines 1487 to 1499, on the presumption of bungling. However, I noticed the amendment as proposed by the Majority and they are rather clear and sharp, and I thank them for that. So, hindi ko na po ipapasok iyong amendments kong iyon and I leave that to my Minority Leader if he does intend to further refine that section.

With that, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, sa haba-haba po ng ligaw, panliligaw ko po sa napakakisig na Honorable Barbers, I thank him for his patience, understanding and statesmanship. Basted man po ako ay magandang-maganda po ang pagbasted niya po sa akin.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BARBERS. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to state for the record that in the course of deliberations on this particular proposed legislation, the good Gentleman from Quezon City has contributed a lot to the Committee in order to craft this particular legislation because the good Gentleman from Quezon City is also serious in his efforts to help this administration in fighting the nemesis of illegal drugs. So, I would like to thank him for that, Mr. Speaker, because isa pong patunay na ang atin pong kasama ay isa sa mga lumalaban dito sa problema natin sa iligal na droga. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Thank you, Honorable Belmonte.

Thank you, Honorable Barbers. Ang hirap mo raw ligawan.

Minority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Joseph Stephen Paduano, the Minority Floor Leader of Party-List ABANG LINGKOD.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). The Minority Floor Leader is recognized. You may have the floor, Sir.

REP. PADUANO. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Majority Floor Leader.

Mr. Speaker, before I proceed with my amendments to the amendments being introduced by our esteemed Deputy Majority Floor Leader Tyrone Agabas, Mr. Speaker, let me put on the record, Mr. Speaker, that I really support the amendments being introduced by my Deputy Minority Leader Christopher Kit Belmonte of Quezon City, Mr. Speaker, especially, Mr. Speaker, on the double presumptions provisions in line with the amendments being introduced in this House Bill, Mr. Speaker. But, of course, Mr. Speaker, I submit to the wisdom of our good Sponsor, Cong. Robert Ace Barbers, and of course, to the Majority Floor Leader. I really respect the wisdom and position of both the Sponsor and the Majority Floor Leader for denying or rejecting the proposed amendments being introduced by my Deputy Minority Floor Leader.

Now, Mr. Speaker, supposedly, I have at least three amendments, but I would like to thank our esteemed Deputy Majority Floor Leader Tyrone Agabas for proposing those three amendments that, supposedly I have to propose today, and in advance. I would like to thank the good Sponsor for accepting those proposed amendments that will be introduced by this Representation, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

Now, Mr. Speaker, just to give and to articulate my thoughts on the first amendment that was introduced by the good Deputy Majority Floor Leader about the planting of evidence, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, it is very clear during the debate and interpellation that by putting such provision in these amendments to Republic Act No. 9165, Mr. Speaker, the provision about the proposed amendments, Mr. Speaker, will be used by the accused in his defense. Now, Mr. Speaker, that is why my first position is to amend or to delete the whole provision, Mr. Speaker, but, of course, talking to the good Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, we have agreed that instead, just to make sure that this provision of planting of evidence will not be abused by the accused and used as a defense, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, we introduced that the preliminary investigation should be within a period of seven working days and the good Sponsor accepted the amendments being introduced by this Representation and, of course, by our esteemed Deputy Majority Floor Leader Tyrone Agabas. That is number one, Mr. Speaker.

Number two, Mr. Speaker, on the issue of bungling, the Deputy Majority Floor Leader Tyrone Agabas also introduced an amendment which is also my personal amendment that is supposedly to be introduced with regard to the deletion of the words "patent laxity and inexcusable neglect". And with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Sponsor for accepting the amendments being introduced by Deputy Majority Leader Tyrone Agabas and this Representation, Mr. Speaker.

And on the third amendment to be introduced by this honorable Representation, Mr. Speaker, I would like to propose an amendment to the amendments which have been introduced by the good Deputy Majority Floor Leader Agabas, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. This is in line with the provision about the bungling of cases, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, I would just like to insert some reasons that will be considered as bungling of cases by the prosecution and at the same time, by the law enforcement agents who filed the cases against a particular suspect with regard to drugs.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the amendments being introduced by the Deputy Majority Leader Agabas on Section 33, letter B, Mr. Speaker, and let me read the amendments that were introduced by the Honorable Agabas, Mr. Speaker:

Letter B, insert the words BASED ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS SUCH AS FAILURE TO FORMALLY OFFER EVIDENCE, FILING OF WRONG INFORMATION, FAILURE TO PRESENT *CORPUS DELICTI*, IRREGULARITIES/ILLEGALITY OF ARREST, SEARCH AND SEIZURE, FAILURE TO CONDUCT CONFIRMATORY TEST

AND FAILURE TO PROSECUTE FOR AN UNREASONABLE LENGTH OF TIME.

If the good Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, will accept the amendments that I will be introducing this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the amendments introduced by the good Deputy Majority Floor Leader, Mr. Speaker, my amendments, Mr. Speaker, will be to delete the word "AND" before the word "FAILURE" on the last sentence, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor. Instead of "AND", you delete it, maintain the "comma" and we will insert some reasons, Mr. Speaker, and others with regard to the dismissal of cases, in which we just get the data and the reasons for dismissal of cases from the PDEA sources, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

Now, allow me to insert, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the words INSUFFICIENCY OF EVIDENCE (COMMA), IRREGULARITIES/ ILLEGALITY OF ARREST, SEARCH AND SEIZURE (COMMA), FAILURE TO COMPLY SECTION 21 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9165 (COMMA), INCONSISTENT TESTIMONIES (COMMA), QUASHAL OF INFORMATION OR SEARCH WARRANT (COMMA), LACK OF PROBABLE CAUSE (COMMA), DEMURRER TO THE EVIDENCE GRANTED BY THE COURT (COMMA), AND NON-PRESENTATION OF VITAL WITNESSES.

Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, I do believe that the prosecution and the security agency that filed the cases should not have filed a case unless otherwise, in their study, in their preliminary investigation, there is such sufficiency of evidence, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. In the first place, why should they file a case? At the end, you know for a fact that it will be dismissed, same is true, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, to all other reasons that this Representation has mentioned, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Mr. Sponsor.

REP. PADUANO. Will the good Sponsor accept the amendments being introduced by this …

REP. BARBERS. Absolutely, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader. In fact, I was impressed by the fact that he has enumerated all the reasons for the dismissal of drug-related cases and these have been, all these reasons have already been pestering the Department of Justice, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader, because kailangan talaga paigtingin natin dahil hindi lamang po iyong mga suspects na may hawak ng droga o iyong nag-iimport ng droga ang dapat habulin. Dapat din habulin dito iyong mga prosecutors na intentionally watering down cases against the suspects so that––para magkaroon ng basis for dismissal and including judges, those who are what they call "rogues" in the Department of Justice, na dapat din nating habulin because dadami at dadami itong mga drogang ito at hindi mabibigayan ng hustisya kapag hindi po natin mahahabol itong mga taong ito. And I must admit, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader, that including and accepting the proposed amendments would definitely give the law more teeth and more tools to run after these people, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader.

REP. PADUANO. Thank you for that, Mr. Speaker, Ginoong Sponsor, for accepting the amendments of this Representation to the amendments being introduced by the good Deputy Majority Floor Leader Tyrone Agabas.

That is all, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity, Ginoong Sponsor.
Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Thank you, Minority Floor Leader and thank you, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. BARBERS. Mr. Speaker, let me just state for the record before the Majority Leader ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Please proceed.

REP. BARBERS. … that just like the Deputy Minority Floor Leader, Cong. Kit Belmonte, our Minority Leader was very instrumental as well in the finalization of this proposed legislation. In fact, if we have Minority

Members who are supportive of the cause of the Majority, then perhaps it would be a worthy addition to the Majority coalition if we get these two Gentlemen in the Majority coalition.

Just a thought, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much, Deputy Minority Leader and Minority Leader Paduano.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Okay iyon ah. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor.

Minority Leader—ah, Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the amendments to the amendments that have been proposed and accepted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Are there any objections? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the proposed amendments are hereby approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Mark Go from the Lone District of Baguio City for his individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Honorable Go is recognized via Zoom.

REP. GO (M.). Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Majority Leader, and our good friend, the Sponsor of the Bill. I have some amendments that I would like to propose.

On page 4, line 131, Mr. Speaker, it says here and this is what I propose, "A PERSON", after the "PERSON", I would like to propose that you delete the phrase "IS PRESUMED TO BE" and insert the words IT CAN BE HELD LIABLE AS A FINANCIER, IF HE OR SHE CAUSES THE PAYMENT, RAISES, PROVIDES, OR SUPPLIES MONEY FOR OR UNDERWRITES THE IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION OF DANGEROUS DRUGS OR CONTROLLED PRECURSORS AND ESSENTIAL CHEMICALS, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Mr. Sponsor.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BARBERS. Mr. Speaker, just one-minute suspension, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). The session is suspended.

It was 6:34 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:35 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). The session is resumed.

REP. BARBERS. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to clarify to the good Gentleman from Baguio City if he wanted to add the phrase TO BE HELD LIABLE AS A FINANCIER. Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Honorable Go.

REP. GO (M.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, "A PERSON"—you delete the phrase "IS PRESUMED TO BE AND CAN BE HELD LIABLE AS A FINANCIER IF SHE/HE CAUSES THE PAYMENT", et cetera, Mr. Speaker. That is correct.

REP. BARBERS. Mr. Speaker, the reason why we put "PRESUMED" was because again, the word "PRESUMED" would definitely make the violator of this Section liable. And if we add or delete the "PERSON IS PRESUMED", it might change the intent of this particular Section.

So, again, much to my dismay, I would have to reject the proposed amendment of the good Gentleman from Baguio City.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Noted, Mr. Sponsor.

Honorable Go, do you have other amendments?

REP. GO (M.). Well, just a little reaction to that. You know, when you presume that

somebody is a financier, if he causes all of these items stated here, you are presuming based on probabilities and, therefore, in order to ensure that we pursue the objectives of this Bill and at the same time protect the rights of the individuals, we just hold them liable if and when they commit such action, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BARBERS. Mr. Speaker, I know the intention of the good Gentleman from Baguio City. However, this is already clearly spelled out in this particular Section. And if we read the whole paragraph, clearly, it would say that if a person violates those acts or causes the payment, et cetera, et cetera, these are already the perceived liability of the person presumed to be a financier. So, again, I am just worried, Mr. Speaker, that it might change the intention. Anyway, if the intention of the Gentleman from Baguio City is just to ensure that these people who have caused the payment, raises, provides or supplies is liable or must be liable, it is already spelled out in this particular Section.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Honorable Go.

REP. GO (M.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to go to line 155 which is basically the same, instead of using the word "IS PRESUMED", A PERSON CAN BE HELD LIABLE AS A PROTECTOR OR CODDLER. It is a lighter message or provision than the word "PRESUMED". Still, he can be liable. He can be jailed if a case is filed against a person for committing this act, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor.

REP. BARBERS. Thank you for that question, Mr. Speaker.

Again, I would have to beg the indulgence of the Gentleman from Baguio that what we are providing in this proposed legislation, particularly in this section are legal, disputable presumptions. So, to make it clear and to avoid a vague interpretation, we are putting the word "PRESUMED" there so that it cannot be interpreted otherwise.

So, again, I would like to beg his indulgence, that we cannot delete the word "A PERSON IS PRESUMED" in this particular section.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Honorable Go.

REP. GO (M.). Well, Mr. Chair, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, if your answer on those two amendments are all in the negative, I presume that the other proposals that I have here will be having the same negative response. So, I think I will just discontinue with the other parts of this Bill, as far as my amendments are concerned, because I know, based on the two items, that my other proposals will also be having negative response, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor.

So, having said that, I would like to end my proposed amendments, I will not continue with that, Mr. Chair, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Thank you to Honorable Go.

REP. BARBERS. Thank you very much, distinguished Gentleman from Baguio City.

Just to clarify, our proposal is to provide presumptions and it could be interpreted otherwise if we delete the word "presumed" from the presumed violators of this Act. So, I hope the Gentleman clearly understands.

Thank you, Gentleman from Baguio City. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GO (M.). Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Thank you, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. GO (M.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, I understand where you are coming from and the message that you would like to communicate in this particular Bill, and that is the very reason that after hearing you on my two proposed amendments, I think it will just be, I would say, probably not possible to have the other proposals that I have here, in terms of amendments, considered by your honorable Representation, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to introduce individual amendments, I move that we close the period of individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the motion is carried.

Majority Leader.

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, there being no other individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Are there any objections? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7814,
AS AMENDED,
ON SECOND READING

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 7814, as amended.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). There is a motion to approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 7814, as amended.

As many as are in favor, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). As many as are against, please say *Nay*.

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 7814 is hereby approved, as amended. *(Applause)*

Congratulations to the good Sponsor, Honorable Barbers.

Majority Leader.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BARBA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend for a few minutes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). The session is suspended.

It was 6:44 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:44 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). The session is resumed.

Majority Leader.

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS TO THE
CONF. CTTEE. ON H.B. NO. 8512
AND S.B. NO. 2027

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, as members of the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 8512 or "AN ACT GRANTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES THE POWER TO SUSPEND THE SCHEDULED INCREASES IN SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) CONTRIBUTION RATES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11199, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 2018'," and Senate Bill No. 2027 or "AN ACT GRANTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES THE POWER TO DEFER THE INCREASES IN CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM FOR A LIMITED PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS WHICH MAY BE EXTENDED TO ANOTHER SIX MONTHS IN TIMES OF A DECLARED NATIONAL EMERGENCY OR STATE OF CALAMITY, AMENDING SECTION 4(a)(9) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11199, ALSO KNOWN AS THE 'SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 2018', AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

For the Majority:
Rep. Eric L. Olivarez;
Rep. Kristine Singson-Meehan;

Rep. Bernadette "BH" Herrera-Dy; and
Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" S. Garcia III.

And for the Minority:
Rep. Stella Luz A. Quimbo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Are there any objections? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the said individuals are hereby elected to the Bicameral Conference.
Majority Leader.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. LACSON-NOEL. A few minutes suspension, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). The session is suspended.

It was 6:46 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 9:00 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). The session is resumed.
Majority Leader.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we take up the Additional Reference of Business and direct the Secretary General to read the Messages from the Senate.
I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Secretary General.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary General read the Message from the Senate, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding reference:

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated February 22, 2021, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 2027, entitled:

"AN ACT GRANTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES THE POWER TO DEFER THE INCREASES IN CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM FOR A LIMITED PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS WHICH MAY BE EXTENDED TO ANOTHER SIX MONTHS IN TIMES OF A DECLARED NATIONAL EMERGENCY OR STATE OF CALAMITY, AMENDING SECTION 4(a)(9) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11199, ALSO KNOWN AS THE 'SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 2018', AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

Message dated February 22, 2021, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 1513, entitled:

"AN ACT INTEGRATING LABOR EDUCATION IN THE TERTIARY EDUCATION CURRICULUM"

in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Message dated February 23, 2021, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 2057, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) VACCINATION PROGRAM EXPEDITING THE VACCINE PROCUREMENT AND ADMINISTRATION PROCESS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Majority Leader.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. LACSON-NOEL. A few minutes suspension, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). The session is suspended.

It was 9:02 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 9:35 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). The session is resumed.

Majority Leader.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, the House and the Senate have approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 8648 and Senate Bill No. 2057, respectively, EXPEDITING THE PROCUREMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF VACCINES FOR THE PROTECTION AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 OR COVID-19.

We have been informed that the Committee on Appropriations, sponsor of House Bill No. 8648, as well as the authors thereof, is in concurrence with the provisions of Senate Bill No. 2057.

In accordance with our rules, I move that we adopt Senate Bill No. 2057 as an amendment to House Bill No. 8648.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). There is a motion to adopt Senate Bill No. 2057 as an amendment to House Bill No. 8648. Are there any objections? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session until three o'clock in the afternoon, on February 24.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Are there any objections? *(Silence)* The session is suspended until February 24, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 9:37 p.m.

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