Journal of the House of Representatives

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2022 - 2023

JOURNAL NO. 18
Wednesday, September 7, 2022

Prepared by the
JOURNAL SERVICE
Plenary Affairs Bureau

JOURNAL NO. 18
Wednesday, September 7, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

At 2:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Kristine Singson-Meehan called the session to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM AND PRAYER

The Members sang the National Anthem and thereafter, observed a minute of silent prayer.

ROLL CALL

On motion of Rep. Munir N. Arbison Jr., there being no objection, the Chair directed the Secretary General to call the Roll and the following Members were present:

Abalos
Abante
Abunda
Acharon
Acidre
Acop
Adiong
Advincula
Agarao
Alba
Albano
Almario
Almonte
Alonte
Alvarez (J.)
Alvarez (M.)
Amante
Amatong
Ang
Angara
Aquino
Arbison
Arenas
Arrogancia
Asistio
Atayde
Aumentado
Balindong
Barba
Barbers
Baronda
Barzaga
Bascug
Bautista
Bautista-Lim
Benitez
Bernos
Billones
Biron
Bolilia
Bondoc
Bongalon
Bordado
Bosita
Briones
Brosas
Buhain
Bulut-Begtang
Bustos
Cabredo
Cagas
Cajayon-Uy
Calderon
Calixto
Campos
Caoagdan
Cardema
Cari
Castro (F.)
Castro (J.)
Celeste
Chan
Chatto
Chua
Chungalao
Co (A.N.)
Co (E.)
Co-Pilar
Cojuangco (J.)
Cojuangco (M.)
Colada
Collantes
Corvera
Cruz (A.)
Cruz (R.)
Cua
Cuaresma
Dagooc
Dalipe
Dalog
Dayanghirang
Daza
De Jesus
de Venecia
Defensor
Del Mar
Delos Santos
Dimaporo (M.K.)
Dimaporo (S.A.)
Dionisio
Domingo
Duavit
Dujali
Duterte
Dy (F.)
Dy (F.M.C.)
Dy (I.P.)
Ecleo
Emano
Enciso
Enverga
Escudero
Espares
Espina
Estrella
Eudela
Fariñas
Fernandez
Ferrer (A.)
Ferrer (J.M.)
Flores
Fortes
Frasco
Fresnedi
Fuentebella
Galeos
Garcia (A.)
Garcia (D.)
Garcia (J.A.)
Garcia (M.A.)
Garcia (P.J.)
Garcia (V.)
Gardiola
Garin
Gasataya
Gatchalian
Gato
Go (E.C.)
Go (M.)
Golez
Gomez
Gonzaga
Gonzales (A.)
Gonzales (N.)
Gonzalez
Gorriceta
Guico
Guintu
Gullas
Gutierrez
Hagedorn
Haresco
Hataman
Hernandez
Herrera
Horibata
Javier
Kho (O.)
Kho (R.)
Kho (W.)
Khonghun
Labadlabad
Lacson
Lacson-Noel

Lagman
Lagon (D.)
Lagon (S.)
Lara
Lazatin
Lee
Legarda
Libanan
Limkaichong
Loyola
Luistro
Lumayag
Macapagal-Arroyo
Maceda
Madrona
Magsino
Malapitan
Mangaoang
Maniquiz
Manuel
Marañon
Marcoleta
Marcos
Mariano-Hernandez
Mariño
Marquez
Martinez
Mastura
Matibag
Matugas
Mendoza
Mercado
Mercado-Revilla
Miguel
Momo
Morden
Nava
Nisay
Noel
Nograles (J.F.F.)
Nograles (M.I.)
Nolasco
Oaminal
Olaso
Olivarez
Ongchuan
Ordanes
Ortega
Ouano-Dizon
Padiernos
Paduano
Paglas
Palma
Panaligan
Pancho
Panotes
Pascual
Peña
Pimentel
Plaza
Pleyto
Primicias-Agabas
Pumaren
Puno
Quimbo
Rama
Recto
Regencia
Revilla (B.)
Revilla (R.J.)
Reyes
Rillo
Rivera
Robes
Rodriguez (E.)
Rodriguez (R.)
Roman
Romero
Romualdez (F.M.)
Romualdez (Y.M.)
Romualdo
Romulo
Roque
Sacdalan
Sagarbarria
Sakaluran
Salceda
Sali
Salimbangon
Salo
Salvame
Santos
Saulog
Silverio
Singson (R.)
Singson (R.V.)
Singson-Meehan
Solon
Soriano
Suan
Suansing (H.)
Suansing (M.A.)
Suarez
Tallado
Tamayo
Tambunting
Tan (J.)
Tan (K.M.)
Tan (R.M.)
Tan (S.)
Tan (S.J.)
Tan-Tambut
Tanchay
Tanjuatco
Tarriela
Teodoro
Teves (A.)
Teves (J.)
Tiangco
Tieng
Tolentino
Tulfo (J.)
Tulfo (R.W.)
Tupas
Tutor
Ty
Umali
Unabia
Ungab
Valeriano
Valmayor
Vargas
Vargas-Alfonso
Velasco
Veloso-Tuazon
Vergara
Verzosa
Villa
Villafuerte (L.R.)
Villafuerte (M.L.)
Villanueva
Villar
Villaraza-Suarez
Villarica
Violago
Yap (C.T.)
Yap (C.)
Yap (Edvic)
Yap (Eric)
Yu (D.G.)
Yu (J.V.)
Yulo
Zamora (A.M.)
Zamora (M.C.)
Zamora (Y.M.)
Zubiri

With 310 Members responding to the Call, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum. (See Appendix)

APPROVAL OF JOURNAL NOS. 16 AND 17

On motion of Representative Arbison, there being no objection, the Body approved *Journal No. 16* dated September 5, 2022 and *Journal No. 17* dated September 6, 2022.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

At this point, Rep. David "Jay-Jay" C. Suarez acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of his guests from Quezon Province.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

Thereupon, on motion of Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the Reference of Business.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the titles of the following Bills and Resolutions on First Reading as filed, which were referred to the appropriate committees indicated hereunder:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 4382, entitled:
"AN ACT MANDATING THE UPGRADE OF THE SALARY RANGES OF DENTISTS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Acharon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 4383, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A TEACHING SUPPLIES ALLOWANCE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representatives Castro (F.), Brosas and Manuel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4384, entitled:
"AN ACT EXPANDING ENTERPRISE-BASED EDUCATION AND TRAINING, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4385, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING EXPANDED EMPLOYMENT SECURITY FOR WORKERS AND DEFINING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EMPLOYERS CONCERNING EXPOSURE TO COVID-19"
By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 4386, entitled:
"AN ACT PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF PUBLIC UTILITY BUS DRIVERS AND CONDUCTORS TO A FIXED MONTHLY SALARY, SECURITY OF TENURE, AND SELF-ORGANIZATION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF"
By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4387, entitled:
"AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE TELECOMMUTING ACT AND PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR TELECOMMUTING EMPLOYEES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11165, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE TELECOMMUTING ACT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 4388, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN E-LIBRARY AND COMPUTER LABORATORY IN F. SERRANO SR. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY DON BOSCO, PARAÑAQUE CITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4389, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FINANCIAL LITERACY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMS FOR WORKERS"
By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 4390, entitled:
"AN ACT MANDATING BANKING INSTITUTIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE FINANCING SYSTEM FOR AGRICULTURAL, FISHERIES, AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES"
By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 4391, entitled:
"AN ACT MANDATING THE INTEGRATION OF BASIC FIRST AID, AND SURVIVAL SKILLS TRAINING IN THE CURRICULA OF ALL INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING, AND PROVIDING THE APPROPRIATE FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4392, entitled:
"AN ACT AN ACT MANDATING PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES TO ANNUALLY SUBMIT A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE SHOWING FITNESS TO WORK AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 4393, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING PROTECTION TO INDIVIDUALS ENGAGED IN THE FOOD AND GROCERY DELIVERY SERVICES"

By Representative Tambunting

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 4394, entitled:

"AN ACT REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF THE SALE, TRANSFER, OR CONVEYANCE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE WITH THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE WITHIN FIFTEEN (15) DAYS FROM THE SALE, TRANSFER OR CONVEYANCE OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4136, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE *'LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC CODE'* "

By Representative Bustos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4395, entitled:

"AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENCE (OCD) PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Romero

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 4396, entitled:

"AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Romero

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4397, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PROTECTION OF THE REMITTANCES OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS"

By Representative Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 4398, entitled:

"AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PROGRAMS FOR THE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION OF ALL DESTRUCTIVE FIRES IN THE COUNTRY, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9514, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE *'FIRE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES OF 2008'* "

By Representative Bustos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 4399, entitled:

"AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 21 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8526, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF VALENZUELA"

By Representatives Gatchalian and Martinez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4400, entitled:

"AN ACT AMENDING PROCLAMATION NO. 151, S. 1937 DATED APRIL 24, 1937 BY RECLASSIFYING CERTAIN PARCELS OF TIMBERLAND AS ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE AND EXCLUDING THE SAME FROM THE COVERAGE TO BE RESERVED FOR GOVERNMENT CENTER SITE PURPOSES FOR PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF BASILAN AND HOUSING PURPOSES, SITUATED IN THE BARRIO OF BALACTASAN, MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LAMITAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA (NOW) BARANGAY STA. CLARA, CITY OF LAMITAN, PROVINCE OF BASILAN, BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO"

By Representative Hataman

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4401, entitled:

"AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9439 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DETENTION OF PATIENTS IN HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CLINICS ON GROUNDS OF NONPAYMENT OF HOSPITAL BILLS OR MEDICAL EXPENSES' "

By Representative Abunda

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4402, entitled:

"AN ACT UPGRADING THE BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES OF BARANGAY TANOD BRIGADES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SEC. 393 (d) OF REPUBLIC

ACT 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991"

By Representative Abunda

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4403, entitled:

"AN ACT CONVERTING THE EASTERN SAMAR PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN BORONGAN, EASTERN SAMAR INTO THE EASTERN SAMAR MEDICAL CENTER, IN THE CITY OF BORONGAN, PROVINCE OF EASTERN SAMAR, UPGRADING AND MODERNIZING ITS FACILITIES, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Abunda

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4404, entitled:

"AN ACT RECLASSIFYING AND CONVERTING PARCELS OF TIMBERLAND LOCATED IN BARANGAYS 1 AND 2 (POBLACION), BULAWAN, CARAYCAY, LIBERTAD, MALOBAGO, MAPUTI, SAN ROQUE, SAN MIGUEL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MASLOG AND SMALL PORTION IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ARTECHE, ORAS, AND DOLORES IN THE PROVINCE OF EASTERN SAMAR, AS ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE LANDS"

By Representative Abunda

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4405, entitled:

"AN ACT TO DECLARE DECEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS *'NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS MONTH'* IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9418, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE *'VOLUNTEER ACT OF 2007'* "

By Representative Bustos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

House Bill No. 4406, entitled:

"AN ACT CREATING THE 'PHILIPPINE SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY' AND PROVIDING THE APPROPRIATE FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Lacson

TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 4407, entitled:

"AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL CANCER CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Lacson

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4408, entitled:

"AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF PASSI, PROVINCE OF ILOILO, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 (G) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED"

By Representative Biron

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4409, entitled:

"AN ACT CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DUMANGAS, PROVINCE OF ILOILO, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 (G) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED"

By Representative Biron

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4410, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS IN THE CITY OF PASSI, PROVINCE OF ILOILO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Biron

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4411, entitled:

"AN ACT RIGHTSIZING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY"

By Representative Lacson

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION

House Bill No. 4412, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INCLUSIVE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER OF LEARNERS WITH DISABILITIES (ILRC) IN THE CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, BULACAN TO BE CREATED IN THE FORMER DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED) SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE (SDO) IN BARANGAY POBLACION, CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, BULACAN TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE ILRC AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Robes

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4413, entitled:

"AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE TAX TREATMENT FOR THE PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED"

By Representative Bustos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 4414, entitled:

"AN ACT CREATING A DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE FOR THE 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF ILOILO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Defensor

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4415, entitled:

"AN ACT CONVERTING THE MINA-BADIANGAN DIVERSION ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOILO TO A NATIONAL ROAD, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Defensor

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4416, entitled:

"AN ACT REQUIRING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO INDICATE THE BLOOD TYPE OF INDIVIDUALS ON THEIR IDENTIFICATION CARDS, CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4417, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE FOR THE PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE OF TOURISTS"

By Representative Guintu

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 4418, entitled:

"AN ACT ENHANCING THE RESILIENCY AND ADAPTABILITY OF FARMERS TO ADVERSE WEATHER AND CLIMATE EVENTS BY INSTITUTIONALIZING THE USE OF CROP CLIMATE CALENDARS, EQUIPPING FARMERS FOR CLIMATE-SENSITIVE DECISION-MAKING, AND PROVIDING ACCESS TO LOCALIZED WEATHER AND CLIMATE INFORMATION"

By Representative Guintu

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4419, entitled:

"AN ACT TO CONVERT BARANGAY ITBUD, MUNICIPALITY OF UYUGAN, PROVINCE OF BATANES, FROM ITS PRESENT CLASSIFICATION AS NATIONAL PARK TO AN ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE RESIDENTIAL LAND/SITE"

By Representative Gato

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4420, entitled:

"AN ACT ABOLISHING THE USE OF COMMUNITY TAX CERTIFICATE AND THE POWER TO LEVY COMMUNITY TAX REPEALING FOR THAT PURPOSE THE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991"

By Representative Revilla (R.J.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4421, entitled:

"AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE ORDER OF PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION"

By Representative Bustos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

House Bill No. 4422, entitled:

"AN ACT CONVERTING MARC YSRAEL B. BERNOS MEMORIAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MUDENG,

MUNICIPALITY OF LA PAZ, PROVINCE OF ABRA INTO A NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS MARC YSRAEL B. BERNOS MEMORIAL NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Bernos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4423, entitled:

"AN ACT CONVERTING THE BUKIDNON PROVINCIAL MEDICAL CENTER IN MALAYBALAY CITY, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON INTO A REGIONAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS BUKIDNON REGIONAL HOSPITAL, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY FROM ONE HUNDRED FIFTY (150) TO THREE HUNDRED (300) BEDS, MODERNIZING ITS FACILITIES AND SERVICES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Flores

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4424, entitled:

"AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 1 OF EVERY YEAR AS 'ARAW NG BUKIDNON', A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON"

By Representative Flores

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4425, entitled:

"AN ACT DECLARING THE *SULTAN HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH MASJID,* OR THE GRAND MOSQUE OF COTABATO, AS A TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Mastura

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 4426, entitled:

"AN ACT DECLARING AUGUST 30 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA, TO BE KNOWN AS 'ARAW NG PINAGLABANAN' "

By Representative Zamora (Y.M.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4427, entitled:

"AN ACT REGULATING THE USE OF BICYCLE AS AN ALTERNATIVE MODE OF TRANSPORTATION, DEFINING THE RIGHTS OF BICYCLE RIDERS, ESTABLISHING REQUISITE INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Zubiri

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4428, entitled:

"AN ACT MANDATING THE PROPER INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF OVERHEAD ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION, COMMUNICATION LINES, AND STRUCTURES BY ALL ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION, CABLE, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES FOR PURPOSES OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND GOOD HOUSEKEEPING"

By Representative Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 4429, entitled:

"AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS IN CRISIS SITUATION PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF CERTAIN UNLAWFUL ACTS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representatives Yap (Eric), Yap (Edvic), Tulfo (J.), Tulfo (R.W.) and Soriano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

House Bill No. 4430, entitled:

"AN ACT EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF AND PROVIDING FOR EXTENDED PATERNITY LEAVE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8187, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Rillo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 4431, entitled:

"AN ACT REGULATING THE SALE AND REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN METROPOLITAN AREAS BY REQUIRING A PROOF-OF-PARKING SPACE OR FACILITY FROM MOTOR VEHICLE BUYERS AS A PREREQUISITE

FOR THE PURCHASE OF A MOTOR VEHI CLE AND REGISTRATION WITH THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE"

By Representative Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4432, entitled:

"AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7722, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1994', AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Rillo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4433, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOLARSHIP AND EDUCATIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEM TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs) AND THEIR CHILDREN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Dionisio

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4434, entitled:

"AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM SALARY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF"

By Representative Dionisio

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 4435, entitled:

"AN ACT REQUIRING ALL NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN DIALYSIS WARDS OR UNITS AND PROVIDING FREE DIALYSIS TREATMENT TO INDIGENT PATIENTS AND INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZEN PATIENTS"

By Representative Dionisio

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4436, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING AN INCREASE AND AN AUTOMATIC ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM IN THE PERSONNEL ECONOMIC RELIEF ALLOWANCE (PERA) GRANTED TO PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF"

By Representative Dionisio

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 4437, entitled:

"AN ACT PROHIBITING ALL PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENTITIES AND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY PROVIDERS FROM IMPOSING AN EXPIRATION PERIOD ON THE VALIDITY OF PREPAID LOAD CREDITS AND THEIR FORFEITURE"

By Representative Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 4438, entitled:

"AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MAGNA CARTA OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS"

By Representatives Brosas, Castro (F.) and Manuel

TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 4439, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE IN THE SOUTHERN LUZON STATE UNIVERSITY (SLSU) CAMPUS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CATANAUAN, PROVINCE OF QUEZON TO BE KNOWN AS THE SOUTHERN LUZON STATE UNIVERSITY CATANAUAN-COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representatives Suarez and Villaraza-Suarez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4440, entitled:

"AN ACT MANDATING AND INSTITUTIONALIZING ROLL-OVER DATA ALLOCATION SCHEME AND PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES"

By Representative Benitez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 4441, entitled:

"AN ACT MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT, MANAGEMENT, MAINTENANCE, AND REGULATION

OF A RAINWATER HARVESTING FACILITY IN ALL NEW INSTITUTIONAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN METRO MANILA"

By Representative Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4442, entitled:

"AN ACT CONVERTING THE JICA HIGHWAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF JALAJALA, PROVINCE OF RIZAL FROM A MUNICIPAL INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Tanjuatco

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 334, entitled:

"RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RAMPANT TEXT SPAM AND PHISHING MESSAGES IN THE COUNTRY, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROTECTING THE CONSUMERS' RIGHTS TO PRIVACY AND SECURITY"

By Representative Lee

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 335, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND BASIC EDUCATION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED ACTS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT COMMITTED BY EDUCATORS WITH THE END VIEW OF CREATING SAFE SPACES FOR LEARNERS AND MAKING PERPETRATORS ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS"

By Representatives Mercado-Revilla, Revilla (B.) and Revilla (R.J.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 336, entitled:

"RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING ERNEST JOHN 'EJ' OBIENA FOR WINNING IN THE BRUSSELS DIAMOND LEAGUE HELD IN BELGIUM ON SEPTEMBER 2, 2022"

By Representative Gomez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 337, entitled:

"RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY, TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGSILATION, THE PROLIFERATION OF TEXT SCAMS"

By Representatives Asistio, Revilla (R.J.) and Revilla (B.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

House Bill No. 4496, entitled:

"AN ACT ADOPTING INTEGRATED COASTAL ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AS A NATIONAL STRATEGY TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY'S COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND ESTABLISHING SUPPORTING MECHANISMS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION"

By Representative Mendoza

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

At this point, Reps. Laarni Lavin Roque and Jeyzel Victoria C. Yu acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Reps. Loreto S. Amante and Edwin L. Olivarez, respectively.

BUSINESS FOR THE DAY:
COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 27
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 4339

Thereupon, on successive motions of Representative Primicias-Agabas, there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading House Bill No. 4339 contained in Committee Report No. 27 as submitted by the Committee on Ways and Means.

As copies of House Bill No. 4339 had already been distributed to the Members, the Body dispensed with the reading of the text of the measure without prejudice to its insertion into the records of the

House; and upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title of the Bill, to wit:

> "AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 6, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 32, 34, 37, 38, 39, 42, 51, 52, 54, 56, 57, 73, 108, 109, 112, 121, 122, 123, 127, 149, 174, 176, 179, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 190, 195, 198, 199, 204, 222, 237, 237-A, 255, 256, 257, 258, 261, 263, 264, 266, 275; INSERTING NEW SECTION 270-A; AND REPEALING SECTIONS 175, 177, 178, 180, 188, 192, AND 193; ALL UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED."

Thereafter, the Chair recognized Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, chairperson of the Committee on Ways and Means, for his sponsorship speech.

SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE SALCEDA

Representative Salceda presented to the Body the key features of House Bill No. 4339, the fourth and final package of the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (CTRP), which was also approved in the 18th Congress and would include the essential provisions of the CTRP that were not enacted in previous packages, as follows: 1) simplify the number of tax bases and tax rates applicable on passive income from 74 to 52; 2) harmonize passive income tax rates on royalties and interest income from 20 percent to 15 percent and single tax rate of 15 percent on interest income, royalties, dividends, and capital gains; 3) harmonize the gross receipts tax on the income of banks, quasi-banks and other non-bank financial intermediaries to five percent; 4) harmonize the tax on premiums of pre-need, life insurance, and health maintenance organizations to two percent; 5) gradually reduce the stock transaction tax from 0.6 percent to 0.1 percent to be consistent with the removal of the Initial Public Offering Tax provided under the "Bayanihan to Recover as One Act"; 6) rationalize the documentary stamp tax (DST) regime by imposing a single rate on original issuances; 7) remove the DST on documents required for visas, job applications, and other day-to-day transactions like certificates, bank checks, and power of attorneys, among others; 8) repeal exemption of foreign currency deposit from interest income tax; 9) remove excise tax exemption of pick-up trucks under Republic Act (R.A.) No. 10963 or the "Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion" Law; and 10) adopt tax administration provisions originally proposed under the previous tax packages of CTRP.

He pointed out that the measure, if enacted into law, will be one of the largest tax reform programs in the world; and that the CTRP is already being used as a case study for model reforms and best practices for taxation at Harvard University. He thereafter appealed to his colleagues to expeditiously and favorably consider the approval of the said measure.

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, the Chair recognized Rep. Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, senior vice-chairperson of the Committee on Ways and Means, for her sponsorship speech.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE SUANSING (M.A.)

Representative Suansing expressed honor to sponsor House Bill No. 4339 which is one of the priority measures of President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr.

Then stressing the need to create a more inclusive investment climate to safeguard the country's economic growth trajectory, and bolster the government's ability to help uplift the lives of Filipinos, Representative Suansing explained that House Bill No. 4339 will specifically 1) trim down the current tax base and tax rate combinations from 83 to 58 to make taxation easier to discern, uphold, and enforce; 2) rectify the inequitable distribution of the tax burden for long-term and short-term investments by harmonizing the interest income tax rates and gradually reducing the same from 20 percent to 15 percent to allow middle-to low-income segments enjoy a net gain on their savings while higher-income segments pay more taxes, exempting common employment requirements from the ₱30 DST, removing the 0.3 percent DST on local remittances, and imposing a uniform rate of 15 percent on interests, royalties, dividends, and capital gains; and 3) lower the tax rate on health maintenance organizations, pension, and pre-need insurance products from the current 12 percent value-added tax (VAT) to a two percent premium tax to harmonize the rate with the rates on life insurance.

As she implored her colleagues' support for House Bill No. 4339, Representative Suansing underscored that it is high time for a financial tax reform that would attract investments and enable

government to generate reliable revenue streams, generate jobs, promote capital market development, increase financial inclusion, and help the economy recover from the effects of the pandemic.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 4339

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 4339.

BUSINESS FOR THE DAY: COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 4102

On another motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading House Bill No. 4102 contained in Committee Report No. 24 as submitted by the Committee on Ways and Means.

As copies of House Bill No. 4102 had already been distributed to the Members, the Body dispensed with the reading of the text of the measure without prejudice to its insertion into the records of the House; and upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title of the Bill, to wit:

> "AN ACT IMPOSING EXCISE TAX ON PLASTIC BAGS, THEREBY ADDING NEW SECTIONS 150-C AND 288(H) IN THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED."

On further motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, the Chair recognized anew Representative Salceda for his sponsorship speech.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE SALCEDA

At the outset, Representative Salceda stated that House Bill No. 4102 or the proposed "Single-Use Plastic Bags Tax Act" will add a new Section 150-C in the Tax Code to impose a ₱20 per kilo excise tax on single-use or the so-called *"labo"* plastic bags, which he projected will generate a revenue stream of ₱1 billion annually and effectively quadruple the budget of the national government for solid waste management assistance to local government units (LGUs). He also lamented that single-use plastic bags are sources of national shame because the Philippines has become the world's largest source of plastic wastes and, due to this, the richest but most at-risk ocean biodiversity.

While he commended the initiatives of various LGUs in enacting ordinances that ban or impose levies on single-use plastics, Representative Salceda said that rather than totally banning the use of the same, House Bill No. 4102 will impose a more reasonable tax rate; and welcomed possible amendments from his colleagues at the proper time.

He asked his fellow lawmakers to support the approval of the measure which completes the circle of plastic waste management policies in the country as it addresses both the social and environmental costs of single-use plastic bags; and allayed the fears of retailers by emphasizing that alternative and reusable bags will not be affected by the proposed tax.

On further motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, the Chair recognized Representative Suansing (M.A.), one of the principal authors of the Bill, for her sponsorship speech.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE SUANSING (M.A.)

Representative Suansing initially presented data on plastic wastes and plastic waste leakages that the Philippines generates despite the enactment of R.A. No. 9003 or the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2001"; discussed its negative effects on the environment; and highlighted the need to curb the use of plastic bags through the imposition of a ₱20 excise tax for every kilogram removed from the place of production or released from the custody of the Bureau of Customs, which is lower compared to taxes imposed by other ASEAN countries on single-use plastic bags.

In encouraging her colleagues to support House Bill No. 4102, Representative Suansing maintained that aside from promoting the utilization of environment-friendly alternatives to plastic bags, the proposed measure will also generate additional revenues which could help finance the implementation of R.A. No. 9003 and provide assistance to LGUs.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 4102

On motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 4102.

BUSINESS FOR THE DAY: COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 25 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 4122

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading House Bill No. 4122 contained in Committee Report No. 25 as submitted by the Committee on Ways and Means.

As copies of House Bill No. 4122 had already been distributed to the Members, the Body dispensed with the reading of the text of the measure without prejudice to its insertion into the records of the House; and upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title of the Bill, to wit:

> "AN ACT IMPOSING VALUE-ADDED TAX ON DIGITAL TRANSACTIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 105, 108, 109, 110, 113, 114, AND 236 AND ADDING A NEW SECTION 105-A OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED."

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, the Chair again recognized Representative Salceda for his sponsorship speech.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE SALCEDA

Representative Salceda first explained the principle of equity in taxing domestic and foreign goods and services, emphasizing that whatever consumption taxes apply to domestic digital service providers (DSPs) should also apply to nonresident DSPs which include the domestic creative sector industry providing streaming services such as iWant TV and Viva Max, and the 20 local YouTube content creators who generated a total of USD 84.5 million in advertisements and other revenues where 30 percent of which were for taxes withheld by the U.S. government. He however lamented that the Philippines has not imposed taxes on nonresident DSPs despite previous legislative efforts, such as the bill he filed in the 18th Congress which proposed to impose VAT on DSPs but was not taken up in the Senate, thus making the Philippines the last major ASEAN economy that has not done so.

He thereafter urged the Body to immediately send to the Senate House Bill No. 4122, which 1) clarifies the imposition of VAT on electronic or online sale of services; 2) defines DSPs; 3) requires nonresident DSPs to collect and remit the VAT on their transactions; 4) exempts educational services including online courses and webinars of private institutions from VAT and the sale of online subscription-based services to educational institutions recognized by the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, and state universities and colleges; 5) precludes nonresident DSPs from claiming creditable input tax; 6) simplifies invoicing and registration requirements for VAT-registered nonresident DSPs; 7) imposes a five percent VAT to registered nonresident DSPs providing services to the government, otherwise a 12 percent VAT is imposed; 8) requires nonresident DSPs to register for VAT if gross sales or receipts for the past year have exceeded ₱3 million; 9) provides a transition period of 180 days from the effectivity of the proposed Act to enable the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to establish implementation systems before VAT is imposed on DSPs; and 10) requires nonresident DSPs to designate a representative office or agent which shall be a resident corporation registered under Philippine law.

He also said that apart from the ₱12 billion expected revenues, the government could actually collect an additional ₱35 billion in incremental revenues from income taxes; maintained that the proposed measure targets big earners among nonresident DSPs and will not include small-time local internet online sellers; and thereafter sought the support of his colleagues for the Bill's immediate approval.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Singson-Meehan relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Camille A. Villar.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, the Chair next recognized Rep. Rosanna "Ria" V. Vergara, a principal author, to sponsor House Bill No. 4122.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE VERGARA

Representative Vergara discussed the benefits of the digital age and technology development to both providers and consumers who utilize online platforms for commercial transactions. She stressed the need to regulate digital services provided by companies of the growing digital sector industry through appropriate tax regulations to avoid further revenue losses to the government.

She stated further that 1) digital services taxation is not a new tax but merely an amendment to include digital transactions as taxable services; 2) the imposition of VAT on digital transactions under the proposed law would address the ambiguities in the country's tax system thereby rendering digital services as taxable; and 3) small online businesses may apply for exemption based on an income threshold of ₱3 million. She added that imposing tax on digital services has been a long-standing practice in the international community as embodied in the fiscal and tax policies of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which other United Nations member countries had followed and the Philippines had aligned with.

Finally, Representative Vergara pointed out that with the rate of the internet economy growing by 20 to 30 percent annually, the government stands to gain an estimated ₱850 trillion in gross merchandise value and an estimated VAT incremental revenue of ₱11.7 billion in the Bill's first year of implementation; and then strongly urged the Body to support the timely passage of an important legislation that could support the country's economic programs and social expenditures.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 4122

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 4122.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

At this point, Reps. Irene Gay F. Saulog, Adrian Jay C. Advincula, and Margarita Ignacia B. Nograles acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Reps. Christopherson M. Yap, Maria Carmen S. Zamora, and Salvador A. Pleyto, respectively.

BUSINESS FOR THE DAY: COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 26 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 4125

Whereupon, on motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading House Bill No. 4125 contained in Committee Report No. 26 as submitted by the Committee on Ways and Means.

As copies of House Bill No. 4125 had already been distributed to the Members, the Body dispensed with the reading of the text of the measure without prejudice to its insertion into the records of the House; and upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title of the Bill, to wit:

> AN ACT INTRODUCING ADMINISTRATIVE TAX REFORMS, AMENDING SECTIONS 21, 22, 51, 56, 58, 77, 81, 90, 91, 103, 106, 108, 109, 110, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 128, 200, 236, 237, 245, AND 248, AND ADDING SECTIONS 312 AND 313 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997', AS AMENDED."

Subsequently, on motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, the Chair recognized Representative Salceda for his sponsorship speech.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE SALCEDA

Representative Salceda stated that with the limitations of the proposed 2023 national budget, the Committee on Ways and Means has proposed four measures that would help expand government taxation while ensuring that these will not affect low-income Filipinos, and one of which is House Bill No. 4125 or the "Ease of Paying Taxes Act."

Stressing the need to reform the country's tax administration system, he discussed how the reform of the tedious, complex, and complicated tax administration system will facilitate ease of doing business, boost tax morale, increase revenues with little enforcement, and decrease the tax gap. He also pointed out various tax administration concerns that the Bill seeks to address to support a robust and sustainable tax system by 1) simplifying the process of filing tax returns for small taxpayers; 2) introducing a medium taxpayer classification in BIR to safeguard

the country's tax collection; 3) removing venue restrictions in the filing of returns and payment of taxes; 4) removing distinction between sales invoice and official receipt for purposes of recognizing VAT transactions; 5) creating registration facilities for nonresident taxpayers especially overseas Filipino workers; 6) removing the required ₱500 annual taxpayer registration fee; and 7) institutionalizing a Taxpayer's Bill of Rights.

Thereafter, he said that the measure shall yield billions of additional revenues over a period of five years, reduce opportunities for corruption, and improve taxpayer experience; and that it aimed to build trust and legitimacy between the government and taxpayers as such will translate to more services for the people.

On further motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, the Chair next recognized Rep. Teodorico Haresco Jr., a main author of the measure, for his sponsorship speech.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE HARESCO

Representative Haresco informed the Body that the Bill aimed to improve tax administration with lower compliance costs through simplified tax collection mechanisms, and to encourage voluntary compliance with tax laws by making taxpayer-friendly systems and procedures; and that it was first filed by Representative Salceda in the 17th Congress as the Tax Administration Reform Bill.

As he opined that imposing new taxes or restricting tax exemptions were not the only solutions to address the economic slowdown arising from the pandemic, he subsequently stressed that the reforms embodied in the Bill will not only encourage greater tax compliance thus translating to a broadened tax base and higher tax collection without imposing additional taxes, but will also safeguard the rights and welfare of taxpayers.

He then urged his colleagues to push for a modernized tax environment and improved taxpayer experience.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 4125

Upon Representative Primicias-Agabas' motion, there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 4125.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

At this point, Representative Advincula acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Reps. Bai Dimple I. Mastura and Jude A. Acidre.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

With leave of the House, on successive motions of Rep. Jaime D. Cojuangco, there being no objection, the Chair declared a Privilege Hour; and thereafter recognized Rep. Mark O. Cojuangco for his privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE COJUANGCO (M.)

At the outset, Representative Cojuangco discussed how the anti-nuclear advocates among the residents and legislators of California recently turned around and supported the extension of the license of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant (DCNPP) until year 2030 in view of an energy crisis arising from low power generation from their solar and wind energy sources; and how carbon emission in said State increased when they relied instead on coal and gas for their needs. He also related the harsh winter that Texas experienced in 2021 due to inadequate electricity supply resulting to a number of deaths.

Representative Cojuangco said that the extension of DCNPP was good news and proof that nuclear power plant can rise above the challenge of providing cheap, clean, and reliable energy. He stressed how California, which is a champion of renewable energy, would turn to nuclear power in the midst of high prices of coal and gas; and that even environmentalists are reconsidering nuclear energy with the failure of replacing coal with renewable energy.

He opined that in the Philippines, electricity produced from solar energy is way less compared to the energy that could have been generated through the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP); and that in 2008, much of the funds went to solar and wind energy generators under the feed-in tariff system.

Again citing California's case, Representative Cojuangco then questioned the contention about BNPP of his colleague from Bataan, when the said power plant could provide cheap, clean, and reliable

energy to the country especially to Bataan; and urged his colleagues to look into the action of the California State legislature to continue the operation of a power plant that will help its people.

He said that the increasing local prices of electricity is an opportune time to find alternative energy sources that will ensure its sufficient supply while the consumption and the economy is growing; and thus, urged for a new nuclear power plant bill and the commissioning of BNPP.

REFERRAL OF PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE COJUANGCO (M.)

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Cojuangco (J.), there being no objection, the Body referred the privilege speech of Representative Cojuangco (M.) to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

TERMINATION OF PRIVILEGE HOUR

On another motion of Representative Cojuangco (J.), there being no objection, the Body terminated the Privilege Hour.

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

On motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, there being no objection, the Body approved to include as additional coauthors of House Bill Nos. 3968, 4102, 4122, 4125, and 4339 the names of the Members contained in the list to be submitted by the Committee on Rules.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The Chair suspended the session at 3:53 p.m., upon motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 4:27 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Upon resumption of session, on motion of Majority Leader Manuel Jose "Mannix" M. Dalipe, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until two o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, September 12, 2022.

It was 4:28 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

REGINALD S. VELASCO
Secretary General

Approved on September 12, 2022.

(Appendix)

Congress of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Philippines

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE
Journal No. 18
Wednesday, September 7, 2022

** ABALOS
ABANTE
ABUNDA
ACHARON
ACIDRE
ACOP
ADIONG
** ADVINCULA
AGARAO
ALBA
ALBANO
ALMARIO
ALMONTE
ALONTE
ALVAREZ (J.)
ALVAREZ (M.)
*** ALVAREZ (P.)
AMANTE
AMATONG
ANG
ANGARA
AQUINO
ARBISON
** ARENAS
ARROGANCIA
ASISTIO
** ATAYDE
** AUMENTADO
BALINDONG
BARBA
BARBERS
BARONDA
** BARZAGA
BASCUG
BAUTISTA
BAUTISTA-LIM
BENITEZ
** BERNOS
BILLONES
** BIRON
** BOLILIA
BONDOC
** BONGALON
BORDADO
BOSITA
BRIONES
BROSAS
BUHAIN
BULUT-BEGTANG
BUSTOS
** CABREDO
CAGAS
CAJAYON-UY
** CALDERON
CALIXTO
CAMPOS
CAOAGDAN
** CARDEMA
CARI
CASTRO (F.)
** CASTRO (J.)
CELESTE
CHAN
** CHATTO
CHUA
CHUNGALAO
CO (A.N.)
** CO (E.)
CO-PILAR
COJUANGCO (J.)
COJUANGCO (M.)
COLADA
COLLANTES
CORVERA
CRUZ (A.)
** CRUZ (R.)
CUA
CUARESMA
DAGOOC
DALIPE
DALOG
DAYANGHIRANG
** DAZA
DE JESUS
** DE VENECIA
DEFENSOR
DEL MAR
DELOS SANTOS
** DIMAPORO (M.K.)
DIMAPORO (S.A.)
DIONISIO
DOMINGO
DUAVIT
DUJALI
DUTERTE
DY (F.)
DY (F.M.C.)
DY (I.P.)
ECLEO
** EMANO
ENCISO
ENVERGA
ESCUDERO
ESPARES
ESPINA
ESTRELLA
** EUDELA
FARIÑAS
FERNANDEZ
FERRER (A.)
FERRER (J.M.)
FLORES
** FORTES
FRASCO
** FRESNEDI
FUENTEBELLA
** GALEOS
** GARCIA (A.)
GARCIA (D.)
GARCIA (J.A.)
** GARCIA (M.A.)
GARCIA (P.J.)
GARCIA (V.)
GARDIOLA
GARIN
** GASATAYA
GATCHALIAN
GATO
GO (E.C.)
GO (M.)
GOLEZ
GOMEZ
GONZAGA
GONZALES (A.)
GONZALES (N.)
GONZALEZ
GORRICETA
** GUICO
GUINTU
GULLAS
GUTIERREZ
HAGEDORN
HARESCO
HATAMAN
HERNANDEZ
HERRERA
HORIBATA
JAVIER
KHO (O.)
KHO (R.)
KHO (W.)
KHONGHUN
LABADLABAD
LACSON
LACSON-NOEL
LAGMAN

** LAGON (D.)
** LAGON (S.)
LARA
LAZATIN
LEE
LEGARDA
LIBANAN
LIMKAICHONG
LOYOLA
** LUISTRO
LUMAYAG
MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
** MACEDA
MADRONA
MAGSINO
** MALAPITAN
** MANGAOANG
MANIQUIZ
** MANUEL
MARAÑON
** MARCOLETA
** MARCOS
MARIANO-HERNANDEZ
MARIÑO
MARQUEZ
MARTINEZ
** MASTURA
MATIBAG
MATUGAS
MENDOZA
MERCADO
** MERCADO-REVILLA
MIGUEL
MOMO
MORDEN
** NAVA
NISAY
NOEL
** NOGRALES (J.F.F.)
NOGRALES (M.I.)
NOLASCO
OAMINAL
OLASO
OLIVAREZ
ONGCHUAN
ORDANES
ORTEGA
OUANO-DIZON
** PADIERNOS
PADUANO
PAGLAS
PALMA
PANALIGAN
** PANCHO
PANOTES
PASCUAL
PEÑA
** PIMENTEL
PLAZA
PLEYTO
PRIMICIAS-AGABAS
PUMAREN
PUNO
** QUIMBO
** RAMA
RECTO
REGENCIA
REVILLA (B.)
REVILLA (R.J.)
REYES
RILLO
RIVERA
ROBES
RODRIGUEZ (E.)
** RODRIGUEZ (R.)
ROMAN
ROMERO
** ROMUALDEZ (F.M.)
ROMUALDEZ (Y.M.)
** ROMUALDO
ROMULO
ROQUE
SACDALAN
** SAGARBARRIA
SAKALURAN
SALCEDA
** SALI
SALIMBANGON
SALO
** SALVAME
SANTOS
SAULOG
SILVERIO
SINGSON (R.)
SINGSON (R.V.)
SINGSON-MEEHAN
SOLON
SORIANO
** SUAN
SUANSING (H.)
SUANSING (M.A.)
SUAREZ
TALLADO
** TAMAYO
TAMBUNTING
** TAN (J.)
TAN (K.M.)
TAN (R.M.)
TAN (S.)
TAN (S.J.)
TAN-TAMBUT
TANCHAY
TANJUATCO
TARRIELA
TEODORO
TEVES (A.)
TEVES (J.)
TIANGCO
TIENG
TOLENTINO
TULFO (J.)
TULFO (R.W.)
TUPAS
TUTOR
TY
** UMALI
UNABIA
UNGAB
VALERIANO
VALMAYOR
VARGAS
** VARGAS-ALFONSO
VELASCO
** VELOSO-TUAZON
VERGARA
** VERZOSA
VILLA
** VILLAFUERTE (L.R.)
VILLAFUERTE (M.L.)
** VILLANUEVA
VILLAR
VILLARAZA-SUAREZ
VILLARICA
VIOLAGO
YAP (C.T.)
YAP (C.)
YAP (EDVIC)
YAP (ERIC)
** YU (D.G.)
YU (J.V.)
YULO
ZAMORA (A.M.)
ZAMORA (M.C.)
ZAMORA (Y.M.)
ZUBIRI

* Appeared after the Roll Call

** Section 71, Rule XI of the Rules of the House
(Attended committee meetings as authorized by the Committee on Rules/Attended meetings of the CA, HRET, or bicameral conference committees/
On official mission as approved by the Speaker)

*** Officially notified the House, through the Secretariat, of their absence

**** Absent without notice

(Subject to correction/s that may appear in the Annual Journal)