

House of Representatives

Congress of the Philippines

JOURNAL NO. 74
Monday, May 18, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Eric D. Singson called the session to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM AND PRAYER

Pursuant to Section 71, Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Members sang the National Anthem and thereafter, Representative Cinchona Cruz-Gonzales delivered an invocation.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

At 4:04 p.m., the Chair suspended the session upon Rep. Roman T. Romulo's motion.

It was 4:03 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:59 p.m., the session was resumed.

ROLL CALL

Thereupon, on motion of Rep. Vincent "Bing-bong" P. Crisologo, the Chair directed the Secretary General to call the Roll and the following Members were present:

Abayon
Ablan
Agbayani
Aggabao
Agyao
Alcover
Alfelor
Alvarez (G.)
Amante
Angping
Arago
Arbison
Arnaiz
Arquiza
Arroyo (D.)
Arroyo (M.L.)
Bagatsing
Balindong
Barzaga
Bautista
Bello
Bichara
Binay
Biron
Bondoc
Briones

Britanico
Cabilao
Cagas
Cajes
Canonigo
Cari
Casifio
Castelo-Daza
Castro
Cerilles
Chatto
Chavez
Chipeco
Chungalao
Clarete
Climaco
Colmenares
Coquilla
Coscolluela
Crisologo
Cruz-Gonzales
Cua
Cuenco
Dangwa
Datumanong
Dayanghirang
Daza
Defensor (A.)
Defensor (M.)
Dela Cruz
Del Mar
Del Rosario
Diaz
Dilangalen
Dimaporo
Domogan
Dumpit
Durano
Emano
Enverga
Escudero
Estrella (C.)
Francisco
Fua
Fuentebella
Garay
Garcia (A.)
Garcia (P.)
Garcia (V.)
Gatchalian
Gatlabayan
Go
Golez
Gonzales (N.)
Gonzalez
Guanlao
Gullas
Hataman
Hernandez

Hofer
Hontiveros
Ilagan
Jaafar
Jalosjos
Javier
Jikiri
Joson
Kho
Lagdameo
Lagman
Lapus
Leonen-Pizarro
Lim (T.)
Lopez (C.)
Madrona
Maglunsod
Mandanas
Mangudadatu
Marcos
Matugas
Mendoza (M.)
Mendoza (R.)
Mendoza (V.)
Mercado
Miraflores
Mitra
Montejo
Montemayor
Nava
Noel
Nograles
Olaño
Omar
Ong
Ortega (F.)
Ortega (V.)
Pablo
Padilla
Paez
Palatino
Palparan
Pancho
Pancrudo
Piamonte
Pichay
Ping-ay
Pingoy
Piñol
Prieto-Teodoro
Puentevella
Ramiro
Remulla
Reyes (C.)
Robes
Rodriguez-Zaldarriaga
Roman
Romualdo
Romulo

Roxas
Santos
Sarmiento III
Seares-Luna
Silverio
Singson (E.)
Suarez
Susano
Sy-Alvarado
Syjuco
Tañada
Teodoro
Teves
Tieng
Tupas
Umali (A.)
Uy (E.)
Uy (R.A.)
Valdez
Velarde
Villafuerte
Villanueva
Villarosa
Vinzons-Chato
Yap
Yu
Zamora (R.)
Zialcita
Zubiri

With 173 Members responding to the Call, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

The following Members appeared before and/or after the Roll Call:

Abante
Abaya
Albano
Alcala
Almario
Alvarez (A.)
Arenas
Biazon
Bonoan-David
Cajayon
Chong
Cojuangco
Dueñas
Dy
Gunigundo
Lacson
Lim (R.)
Lopez (J.)
Mamba
Mariano
Plaza
Puno
Rodriguez
Romualdez
Sandoval

Santiago (J.)
Santiago (N.)
Taliño-Mendoza
Tan
Umali (C.)
Uy (R.S.)
Vargas
Violago

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY
OF REP. MONTEMAYOR

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Leonardo Q. Montemayor inquired on the policy of the House leadership regarding the use of government facilities by a private organization, specifically the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) which holds office on the sixth floor of the Batasang Pambansa building and uses public funds, to the detriment and disadvantage of the newly installed Party-list Members, who until now, have no permanent offices, and thus cannot function effectively as Members of the House.

The Chair replied that the House leadership has taken cognizance of the problem and that the Members would be informed on the policy therein.

Rep. Jesus Crispin C. Remulla, in addition, explained that the PLCPD is comprised of more than 50 Members of the House who are supporting their advocacy and that it has been occupying said office since the 1990s. Considering that there are now 26 additional Party-List Members, he said that the Committee on Rules will have to study the matter on how to allocate the available space to them.

To Rep. Montemayor's subsequent queries, Rep. Remulla replied that given the space limitations, there is nothing to stop advocacy groups from holding office if the Secretary General would permit it.

Rep. Montemayor however disagreed that the matter of legality of a private entity occupying office in the House has not been brought up before the Body. Nonetheless, he stated that he will have to concur with the suggestion of Rep. Remulla to take up this matter in the Committee on Rules and express the hope that they will be given a chance to make further elaboration.

Whereupon Rep. Defensor (A.), in his rejoinder, stated that the House leadership is making representations with the concerned organizations to give up their offices in favor of the new Party-List Members.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY
OF REP. BELLO

Rep. Bello, as a followup on the parliamentary inquiry of Rep. Montemayor, asked whether the House has provided funds for the new Party-List Members and their staff. He opined that it would be a disaster, if they would have to get the salaries of their staff from personal funds.

Rep. Remulla replied that the 2009 National Budget does not contain appropriations for the 32 new Party-List Members; thus, the House should be given time to make the appropriate budgetary adjustments.

Rep. Defensor (A.) concurred therewith and said that the Speaker will be constrained to file a supplemental budget to cover for all the financial needs of the new Party-List Members.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY
OF REP. VILLANUEVA

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Emmanuel Joel J. Villanueva noted that the Speaker has issued Special Order No. 0509 creating a technical working group (TWG) to work on the provisions of House Bill No. 4077, extending the Agrarian Reform Program with significant reforms and set the deadline for

the submission of its preliminary report on May 4, 2009. He inquired when this report will be presented to the plenary.

Rep. Defensor (A.) replied that the output of the TWG has already been submitted to the Office of the Speaker and the latter has been reviewing the same along with the output of the Senate's TWG for the immediate approval of the aforementioned measure. He however stated that he cannot make any assurance when the House would be able to make its deliberations on the subject Bill but what he can state for the record is that the Speaker stands pat on his commitment to enact a bill on the extension of the component of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) before the House adjourns its sessions. He said that he would have to ask the Members to forego with their privilege speeches which are not urgent in nature to enable the House to address its immediate concerns.

REMARKS OF REP. DIAZ

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Antonio M. Diaz stated that the query of Rep. Montemayor regarding whether private entities could use the offices of the House has not been answered. Rep. Montemayor concurred with this observation.

In reply, Rep. Defensor (A.) claimed that these private organizations had been allowed by the former Speaker to hold office in the House of Representatives because there were many available office spaces then. Moreover, he claimed that these organizations had been created by Members of the House for legislative work. Considering the current situation, he reiterated that the House leadership would make strong representations to these organizations to make their offices available for the new Party-List Members. He underscored that the Committee on Rules has nothing to do with the presence of these private organizations in the House.

Rep. Montemayor then asked whether the House's approval of the presence of PLCPD and use of the facilities in the House constitutes a policy.

Rep. Defensor (A.) replied in the negative.

Rep. Montemayor cleared that the policy is to not allow private entities to hold office in the House of Representatives which Rep. Defensor was determined to put an end to because of the need for more office spaces.

Recalling a similar incident during the 7th Congress, Rep. Diaz emphasized that whether or not there was a Supreme Court decision, there should be a firm commitment that the presence of whatever private office in the House using facilities therein is illegal and therefore should be removed. On the other hand, Rep. Defensor said that the query of Rep. Diaz has been answered already and that his comments and suggestions will be seriously considered.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Thereupon, the Chair motu proprio suspended the session at 5:42 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:45 p.m., the session was resumed.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL, AS AMENDED

Whereupon, on motion of Rep. Vincent "Bing-bong" P. Crisologo, there being no objection, the Body approved the Journal of the previous session, subject to the amendment of Rep. Eduardo Nonato N. Joson to include his thesis that the "in kind" provision in House Joint Resolution No. 36 be removed because it entails corruption.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

On motion of Rep. Crisologo, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the Reference of Business.

Upon recognition of the Chair, the Secretary General read on First Reading the titles of the following Bills and Resolutions, including the Messages from the President and the Senate, Communications and Committee Reports, which were referred to the appropriate Committees or consigned to the Archives as hereunder indicated:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6328, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING INDANG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – LUMAM-PONG ANNEX IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE INDANG, PROVINCE OF CAVITE FROM LUMAMPONG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE INDANG COMPRE-HENSIVE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Remulla

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 6329, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING TWO REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS WITH SEATS AT TAGAYTAY CITY AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF NAIC, ONE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES WITH SEAT AT TAGAYTAY CITY AND TEN MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS WITH SEATS AT THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ALFONSO, AMADEO, GENERAL AGUINALDO, INDANG, MAGALLANES, MARA-GONDON, MENDEZ, NAIC, SILANG AND TERNATE, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE 'BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129,' OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980,' AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Remulla

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 6330, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 6(F), 71 AND 270 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, ALLOWING THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BY THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE ON TAX MATTERS PURSUANT TO THE INTERNATIONALLY AGREED TAX STANDARDS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Nograles

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 6331, entitled:

“AN ACT TO CONVERT THE MT. PROVINCE – ISABELA ROAD INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Agyao

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 6332, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE MABA-AY – ABATAN PROVINCIAL ROAD OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAUKO PROVINCE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Agyao

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 6333, entitled:

"AN ACT TO CONVERT THE DANTAY – SAGADA – BESAO – TADIAN ROAD INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND AP-PROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Agyao

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMIT-TEE APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 6334, entitled:

"AN ACT STRENGTHENING FURTHER THE REGULATORY POWERS OF THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE RE-PUBLIC ACT NO. 7653, ENTITLED 'THE NEW CENTRAL BANK ACT,' AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES "

By Representatives Nograles and Lopez (J.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 6335, entitled:

"AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING SECTION 23 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 198, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE PROVINCIAL WA-TER UTILITIES ACT OF 1973' AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Romualdo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 6336, entitled:

"AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF JOSE J.. LEIDO JR. MEMORIAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, IN THE CITY OF CALAPAN, PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO TO ORIENTAL MINDORO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL"

By Representative Valencia

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCA-TION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6337, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SHARI'A DISTRICT COURT SYSTEM IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (ARRM) AND IN THE AREAS OUTSIDE THE SAID AUTONOMOUS REGION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1083 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MUSLIM CODE OF PERSONAL LAWS OF THE PHILIP-PINES, PROVIDING FUNDS THERE-FOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Mangudadatu

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIA-TIONS

House Bill No. 6338, entitled:

"AN ACT REQUIRING MOTORCYCLE AND BICYCLE RIDERS TO WEAR RETRO-REFLECTIVE VEST WHILE DRIVING, AND PROVIDING PENAL-TIES THEREFOR"

By Representative Mangudadatu

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTA-TION

House Bill No. 6339, entitled:

"AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 20 OF EACH YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF OLONGAPO, PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES, TO COMMEMORATE THE DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF MAYOR JAMES LEONARD T. GORDON"

By Representative Coscolluela

TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 6340, entitled:

"AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 1 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF OLONGAPO, PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES, TO COMMEMORATE ITS CHARTER DAY ANNIVERSARY"

By Representative Coscolluela

TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 6341, entitled:

"AN ACT IMPROVING THE HOUSING PROGRAM SERVICES OF PAG-IBIG"

By Representative Lazatin

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 6342, entitled:

"AN ACT TO REGULATE THE RATIONAL EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, AND TO ENSURE THE EQUITABLE SHARING OF BENEFITS FOR THE STATE, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representatives Hontiveros, Tañada, Bello, Padilla and Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6343, entitled:

"AN ACT GRANTING THE AURORA TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN FOR EDUCATIONAL, NON-COMMERCIAL AND NON-PROFIT PURPOSES, RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS AND CABLE/COMMUNITY ANTENNAE TELEVISION SYSTEMS IN THE PHILIPPINES"

By Representative Angara

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1147, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE 'BOOK TAX' LEVIED BY THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS ON BOOKS IMPORTED INTO THE PHILIPPINES"

By Representative Hontiveros

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1148, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO INITIATE AID-FOR-TRADE PROGRAMS FOR THE PHILIP-PINES”

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AF-FAIRS

House Resolution No. 1149, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DECLARING MAY 15 OF EVERY YEAR AS A NATIONAL HOLIDAY COMMEMORATING 'FARMERS' DAY' ”

By Representatives Chavez and Guanlao

TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Resolution No. 1150, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE EX-TRAJUDICIAL KILLING OF LUDENIO MONSON AND THE ATTEMPTED KILLING OF ANGELITO ARTIZA, ALLEGEDLY BY MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTAL-ION IN DAVAO ORIENTAL”

By Representatives Ilagan and Maza

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1151, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DEATH OF KAPIS BUTOD, ALLEG-EDLY A VICTIM OF EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING BY COMPOSITE UNITS OF SCOUT RANGERS AND 60TH INFAN-TRY BATTALION OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES IN DA-VAO DEL NORTE”

By Representatives Ilagan and Maza

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Concurrent Resolution No. 26, entitled:

“CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SUBMITTING TO THE PEOPLE THE QUESTION OF CALLING A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION”

By Representative Golez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITU-TIONAL AMENDMENTS

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

With the permission of the Body, the following Members were made coauthors of the following Bills and Resolutions hereunder indicated:

Rep. Marcelino “Marcy” R. Teodoro for House Bill No. 3111;

Rep. Arturo B. Robes for House Bill No. 4244;

Rep. Jose V. Yap for House Bill No. 5213;

Rep. Jaime C. Lopez for House Bill No. 5867;

Rep. Henry M. Dueñas Jr. for House Bill No. 6206;
Rep. Edgardo M. Chatto for House Joint Resolution No. 36;

Rep. Roberto V. Puno for House Resolution No. 1131; and

Rep. Cesar G. Jalosjos for House Resolution No. 1142.

WITHDRAWAL OF COAUTHORSHIP

Reps. Monica "Nikki" Prieto-Teodoro and Ma. Theresa B. Bonoan-David withdrew their coauthorship of House Bill No. 6300.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

May 12, 2009

HON. PROSPERO C. NOGRALES
Speaker
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Dear Speaker Nograles:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, Section 26 (2) of the 1987 Constitution, I hereby certify to necessity of the immediate adoption of Joint Resolution No. 36, under Committee Report No. 1992, entitled:

"JOINT RESOLUTION URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES TO MODIFY THE COMPENSATION AND POSITION CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM IN THE GOVERNMENT AND TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME INITIALLY EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,"

to address the urgent need to make the present Compensation and Position Classification System more responsive to the economic needs of government personnel, more effective in motivating public servants and in invigorating public service, and more equitable by removing overlaps of salaries between salary grades

Best wishes.

Very truly yours,

(SGD.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
cc: HON. JUAN PONCE ENRILE
Senate President
Philippine Senate
Pasay City

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated May 12, 2009 informing the House of Representatives that on even date the Senate approved the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 2963 and

House Bill No. 3514, both entitled:

"AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF REAL ESTATE SERVICE IN THE PHILIPPINES, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE A PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF REAL ESTATE SERVICE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated May 12, 2009 informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on May 11, 2009 passed Senate Bill No. 2005, entitled:

"AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 311 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991' "

in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated May 12, 2009 informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on May 11, 2009 passed Senate Bill No. 2006, entitled:

"AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 352 AND 513 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991' "

in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated May 13, 2009 informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 3040, entitled:

"AN ACT GRANTING THE CONVERGENCE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES"

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated May 13, 2009 informing the House of Representatives that on even date the Senate reconsidered the approval of the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 2396 and House Bill No. 4273, both, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNA CARTA OF WOMEN"

and accordingly approved the reconstitution of the Senate panel and the recall of the Bi-cameral Conference Committee Report

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated April 27, 2009 of Joaquin C. Lagonera, Senior Deputy Executive Secretary and Acting Head, Presidential Legislative Liaison Office, Office of the President transmitting herewith two (2) original copies of each of the following Republic Acts which were approved and signed into law on April 17, 2009 by Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, entitled:

Republic Act No. 9548, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ARTS AND CULTURE HIGH SCHOOL IN THE CAPITAL TOWN OF PILI, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR TO BE KNOWN AS THE BIKOL HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS AND

CULTURE AND AP-PROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9549, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMPRE-HENSIVE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY POBLACION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAKEWOOD, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS THE POBLACION COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9550, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MI-NOYAN, MUNICIPALITY OF MURCIA, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE MINOYAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND AP-PROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9551, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BOGAYO, MUNICIPALITY OF KUMA-LARANG, PROVINCE OF ZAMBO-ANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS THE BOGAYO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9552, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BOLI-WONG, MUNICIPALITY OF LAGAWE, PROVINCE OF IFUGAO TO BE KNOWN AS THE LAGAWE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9553, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INTE-GRATED NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BUHATAN, CITY OF SORSOGON, PROVINCE OF SORSO-GON TO BE KNOWN AS BUHATAN INTEGRATED NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9554, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INTE-GRATED NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BINALIAN, MUNICI-PALITY OF KAYAPA, PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA TO BE KNOWN AS BINALIAN INTEGRATED NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9555, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BA-LETE, MUNICIPALITY OF KAYAPA, PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA TO BE KNOWN AS NAPO-TUYAK NA-TIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPRO-PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9556, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SA-GUCAN, MUNICIPALITY OF VIN-CENZO SAGUN, PROVINCE OF ZAM-BOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS SAGUCAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9557, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SAL-CEDO, MUNICIPALITY OF BASUD, PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO TO BE KNOWN AS FELIMON M. SAL-CEDO, SR. MEMORIAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9558, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SAN ANTONIO, CITY OF OZAMIZ, PROV-INCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS SAN ANTONIO NA-TIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

AND APPRO-PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9559, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BULU-LAWAN, MUNICIPALITY OF LAKE-WOOD, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS BULU-LAWAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9560, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY HAN-DUMON, MUNICIPALITY OF GETAFE, PROVINCE OF BOHOL TO BE KNOWN AS HANDUMON NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9561, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY PANLAYAAN, WEST DISTRICT, CITY OF SORSOGON, PROVINCE OF SOR-SOGON TO BE KNOWN AS PANLAYAAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9562, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BA-YASONG, MUNICIPALITY OF PILAR, PROVINCE OF SORSOGON TO BE KNOWN AS BAYASONG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9563, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY TOGORON, MUNICIPALITY OF MONREAL, PROV-INCE OF MASBATE TO BE KNOWN AS TOGORON NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9564, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY LI-BAYOY, MUNICIPALITY OF TIGBAO, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS LIBAYOY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND AP-PROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9565, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY PI-CANAN, MUNICIPALITY OF KUMA-LARANG, PROVINCE OF ZAMBO-ANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS PICANAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9566, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SAN JOSE, MUNICIPALITY OF LIBJO, PROVINCE OF DINAGAT ISLANDS TO BE KNOWN AS SAN JOSE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9567, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MA-BUNAO, CITY OF PANABO, PROV-INCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE TO BE KNOWN AS MABUNAO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9568, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY KATIPUNAN, MUNICIPALITY OF SI-LAGO, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE TO BE KNOWN AS KATIPUNAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND

APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9569, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BUNA-WAN, CITY OF DAVAO TO BE KNOWN AS BERNARDINO B. BOSQUE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9570, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BAN-NAWAG, MUNICIPALITY OF MARIA AURORA, PROVINCE OF AURORA TO BE KNOWN AS DIMANPUDSO NA-TIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPRO-PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9571, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY CAT-MON, MUNICIPALITY OF STA. MARIA, PROVINCE OF BULACAN TO BE KNOWN AS CATMON NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9572, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY OZAMIZ (GUBA), MUNICIPALITY OF CLARIN, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS CONGRESSMAN HILARION J. RAMIRO, JR. MEMORIAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9573, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BULI-HAN, CITY OF MALOLOS, PROVINCE OF BULACAN TO BE KNOWN AS BU-LIHAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9574, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SOLO, MUNICIPALITY OF MABINI, PROV-INCE OF BATANGAS TO BE KNOWN AS MABINI NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR” and

Republic Act No. 9575, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPAL-ITY OF PICONG, PROVINCE OF LANA O DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS PICONG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

TO THE ARCHIVES

Letter dated May 4, 2009 of Joaquin C. Lagonera, Senior Deputy Executive Secretary and Acting Head, Presidential Legislative Liaison Office, Office of the President transmitting herewith two (2) original copies of each of the following Republic Acts which were approved and signed into law on April 30, 2009 by Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, entitled:

Republic Act No. 9577, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPAL-ITY OF LIANGA, PROVINCE OF SURI-GAO DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS THE LIANGA NATIONAL COMPREHEN-SIVE HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRI-ATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9578, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY JUPI, MUNICIPALITY OF GUBAT,

PROV-INCE OF SORSOGON TO BE KNOWN AS THE JUPI NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9579, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY GATE, MUNICIPALITY OF BULAN, PROV-INCE OF SORSOGON TO BE KNOWN AS THE GATE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9580, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY NANENG, CITY OF TABUK, PROV-INCE OF KALINGA TO BE KNOWN AS NANENG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9581, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY RE-CODO, CITY OF ZAMBOANGA TO BE KNOWN AS THE RECODO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9582, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SALAWAO, STO. NIÑO, MUNICIPAL-ITY OF TALAINGOD, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE TO BE KNOWN AS THE DATU JOSE A. LIBAYAO MEMORIAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9583, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY ME-SAOY, MUNICIPALITY OF NEW CORELLA, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE TO BE KNOWN AS THE MESAJOY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9584, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SA-GAYEN, MUNICIPALITY OF ASUN-CION, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE TO BE KNOWN AS THE SA-GAYEN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9585, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SE-MONG, MUNICIPALITY OF KAPA-LONG, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE TO BE KNOWN AS THE SE-MONG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9586, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MARAYAG, MUNICIPALITY OF LUPON, PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIEN-TAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE MARAYAG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9587, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MAILHI, CITY OF BAYBAY, PROV-INCE OF LEYTE TO BE KNOWN AS THE MAILHI NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9588, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SINUBONG, CITY OF ZAMBOANGA

TO BE KNOWN AS THE SINUBONG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND AP-PROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Republic Act No. 9589, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY CADANDANAN, MUNICIPALITY OF BULAN, PROVINCE OF SORSOGON TO BE KNOWN AS THE CADAN-DANAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR” and

Republic Act No. 9590, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY LA-JONG, MUNICIPALITY OF JUBAN , PROVINCE OF SORSOGON TO BE KNOWN AS THE LAJONG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

TO THE ARCHIVES
COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Poverty Alleviation (Committee Report No. 2005), re H.R. No. 531, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION ENJOINING ALL MEM-BERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRES-ENTATIVES TO SUPPORT THE PROPA-GATION OF THE GAWAD KALINGA FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AS A DOABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND REP-LICABLE STRATEGY OF ALLEVIAT-ING THE PLIGHT OF THE POOR SEC-TOR OF OUR SOCIETY”

recommending its adoption

Sponsors: Representatives Escudero and Mitra

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Health (Committee Report No. 2033), re H. No. 6362, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MANDA-TORY PREGNANCY TESTING OF ALL WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE WHO WILL UNDERGO COSMETIC SURGERY, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PUR-POSES”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3417

Sponsors: Representatives Pingoy and Cajayon

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Health (Committee Report No. 2034), re H. No. 6363, entitled:

“AN ACT BANNING AND PROHIBITING THE USE, PURCHASE AND STORAGE OF ELEMENTAL MERCURY IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTI-TUTIONS AND FOR OTHER PUR-POSES”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 427

Sponsors: Representatives Pingoy, Cua (J.) and Zialcita

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 2035), re H. No. 387, entitled:

“AN ACT LIBERALIZING AND ACCEL-ERATING THE PROCESSING AND DE-PLOYMENT OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO CONTRACT WORKERS, AND APPRO-PRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval with amendments

Sponsors: Representatives Zamora (M.), Cua (J.) and Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Special Committee on Land Use (Committee Report No. 2036), re H. No. 6364, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE DEVELOP-MENT AND MANAGEMENT OF LAKES IN THE PHILIPPINES”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4506

Sponsors: Representatives Cerilles, Abaya, Chungalao, Garcia (P.J.), Miraflores, Di-maporo, Bichara, Pichay, Romarate, Val-dez, Piñol, Padilla, Garay and Nava

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Special Committee on Land Use (Committee Report No. 2037), re H. No. 6365, entitled: "AN ACT REGULATING THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF SMALL ISLANDS IN THE PHILIPPINES"

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4247

Sponsors: Representatives Cerilles, Abaya, Chungalao, Garcia (P.J.), Miraflores, Dimaporo, Bichara, Pichay, Romarate, Valdez, Piñol, Padilla, Garay and Nava

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

At this point, Rep. Crisologo acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of guests of Reps. Walden F. Bello, Risa N. Hontiveros, Teodoro "Teddy" A. Casiño, Saturnino C. Ocampo, Matias V. Defensor Jr., Florencio C. Garay, Arnulfo F. Go Datu Pax S. Mangudadatu, Edcel C. Lagman, Liza Largoza Maza, Emil L. Ong, Herminia B. Roman, and Deputy Speaker Ma. Amelita C. Villarosa.

THE PRIVILEGE HOUR

It being a Monday, on motion of Rep. Crisologo, there being no objection, the Chair declared a Privilege Hour.

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Crisologo, the Chair recognized Rep. Herminia B. Roman to deliver her privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ROMAN

Rep. Roman referred to the privilege speech of Rep. Albert S. Garcia regarding the article written in the Manila Times on May 4, 2009 where Rep. Garcia accused her of assaulting his honor and integrity of his family. As copies of the said article have been distributed to the Members of the House, she recounted the story behind the emergence of the drug-involvement issue of Rep. Garcia and claimed that common sense dictated why the government raided the drug laboratory again.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Singson relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Ma. Amelita C. Villarosa.

Rep. Roman said that the referral of the matter to the Committee on Dangerous Drugs will enable her province to ask legislative and executive assistance about the drug problem and the Garcias to air their side on the controversy. She traced the political history of the Romans and related how they helped the Garcias in the same field. She emphasized that she won a seat in Congress because of her constituents' support and she would never take advantage of their poverty and that the Garcias did not have to accuse her of something she had not done just because they wanted to replace her. She then took note of Rep. Garcia's silence about the case of Sunrise Paper Products Industries, Inc. which alleged graft and corruption on the part of Governor Garcia.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Bondoc, the Chair suspended the session at 6:15 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:17 p.m., the session was resumed.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. GARCIA (A.)

Upon Rep. Crisologo's motion, Rep. Albert S. Garcia stressed that evidence could be presented to refute Rep. Roman's denial and that irresponsible and baseless claims would malign the reputations of public servants and institutions.

Rep. Garcia asked what Rep. Roman had done in reaction to the allegations which he vehemently denied and further challenged the latter to resign from office if he is able to prove that she was the one spreading the allegations. He said that he continues to strongly support moral renewal, including people who hurl baseless accusations against public servants. In closing, he cited the accomplishments of Governor Tet Garcia in the war against illegal drugs in Bataan.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. CAGAS

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Marc Douglas C. Cagas IV appealed to the Body to consider the issues raised by Reps. Roman and Garcia (A.) before the Committee on Dangerous Drugs as previously moved by Rep. Antonio H. Cerilles in order to clear the names of the two Members.

REFERRAL OF REP. ROMAN'S PRIVILEGE SPEECH

On motion of Rep. Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body referred the privilege speech of Rep. Roman to the appropriate Committee.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Bondoc, the session was suspended at 6:26 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:28 p.m., the session was resumed.

The Chair next recognized Rep. Raymond V. Palatino for his privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. PALATINO

Rep. Palatino discussed the following contributory factors for the increasing dropout and repetition rates in Philippine public schools: poverty, price hikes in basic commodities, school fee increases, stagnant wage levels, mass layoffs, high cost of tertiary education and limited slots in state universities. He also talked about the problems brought about by the Education Act of 1982 which empowered private schools to increase their fees, like tuition and miscellaneous, so as to rake in bigger profits thereby forcing a substantial percentage of college students from private schools to transfer to state universities which to date are facing similar problems. He concluded that the commercialization of the country's educational system has resulted in the current educational crisis.

Rep. Palatino thereafter stressed that education is the foundation upon which the country would be built and that unless the government reverses its present policies and its thrust to hand over tertiary education to the private sector and flexes its muscles to stop unabated tuition fee increases, it would bury the confidence, hope and faith of the Filipino youth and the country for a brighter future.

MOTION OF REP. BONDOC

Thereupon, Rep. Bondoc moved for the referral of the speech of Rep. Palatino to the appropriate Committee.

However, before the Body could act on the motion, Rep. Teodoro A. Casiño sought recognition from the Chair.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. CASIÑO

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Casiño congratulated Rep. Palatino for discussing the condition of

education in the country and expressed hope that the appropriate Committee would immediately conduct a hearing on said matter to address the concerns of the education sector.

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Bondoc, the Chair recognized Rep. Joel B. Maglunsod for his privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. MAGLUNSOD

Rep. Maglunsod commemorated the first death anniversary of the late Rep. Crispin B. Beltran describing the latter as a fiery labor leader, an agitator and an example of an untiring, sun-soaked, activist labor leader who marched tirelessly for miles in mass demonstrations calling for better working conditions, higher wages and benefits for workers, and fought for the rights of the urban poor and the landless peasants. He stressed that as a government official, the late Rep. Beltran always upheld public interest over and above his personal interest and the policy that government resources paid for the taxes of the people must be used honestly and economically to avoid wastage of public funds.

As he narrated the achievements of Rep. Beltran as Anakpawis Party-List Representative during the Twelfth to the Fourteenth Congresses, Rep. Maglunsod pointed out that the former had authored and coauthored Bills and Resolutions that concerned public interest, unjust power rates, oil price increase, human rights violations, privatization of basic services, government restructuring, undue cuts on social benefits, undue taxation, and called for protection of overseas/migrant workers, landless peasants and urban poor, wage hike and across-the-board salary increase for government and private employees, and revision/repeal of laws that are against public welfare and interest, national patrimony and sovereignty.

Considering that Rep. Beltran was willing to sacrifice his life for the cause of the workers and the masses, Rep. Maglunsod enjoined the Members to support a Resolution endorsing the name of Rep. Beltran in the Wall of Remembrance of the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation and to name a room in the Mitra Building as Crispin Beltran Hall.

REFERRAL OF REP. MAGLUNSOD'S SPEECH

On motion of Rep. Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body referred the speech of Rep. Maglunsod to the appropriate Committee.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. HERNANDEZ

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Ariel C. Hernandez initially expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome bestowed on to him and fellow Party-List Members. He thereafter proposed for the immediate establishment of Peace in Mindanao Academy (PMA) that will help Mindanao evolve and be known as the center of gravity of all peace education and peace building initiatives in Mindanao, the country and in the Asian Region. More-over, he said that the PMA will strengthen and has-ten the ongoing peace processes in Mindanao, in the country and in Asian Region through a combination of academic inputs, field-based learning and community-based initiatives.

Whereupon, he cited the following distinct characteristics of the PMA: 1) it will be a premier education center for peace in Mindanao, in the country and in Asia; 2) the curriculum and education program will be designed by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Office of the Presidential Assistance of the Peace Process (OPAPP), the Department of National Defense, (DND), the civil society, the academic institutions, and the church; 3) the target clientele of the academy will be the state and non-state security sector, the local government units, the business sector, the different churches and denominations, the civil society and if permitted, the lawmakers from Mindanao, the country and the region; and 4) it will provide a new perspective of analyzing and understanding of the situation, and crafting response to the situation by offering full courses and subjects in conflict analysis, conflict transformation, conflict management and peace building, transitional and restorative justice and demobilization, disarmament and reintegration (DDR).

In ending, he expressed belief that the proposal will remain relevant this day and in the years to come

and will be a lasting legacy for a change to-wards peace.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BELLO

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Walden F. Bello spoke as a Member of the House and as president of the Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC). As he cited the trip he made to Austria to follow up on the FDC's request for cancellation of the Philippine debt on the Austrian medical waste incinerator, he recapped the key details about the said loan. He said that when he presented said de-tails in a meeting with Austrian Finance State Secretary Reinhold Lopatka to push the case for the cancellation of the loan, the latter supported their position and was committed to immediately taking up the case with the Austrian foreign minister. The full refund of payments on the loan by the Philippine government which he requested might not be possible, he said but that the balance of US\$10 million payable up to 2014 could be cancelled. He added that this would mean a savings of US\$10 million for the country's public health services, particularly when the Administration should be looking for every single peso that can bankroll the economy so it can survive the global financial crisis serve as a very strong precedent to legitimize the cancellation of other illegitimate debts owed by the government, as well as other developing countries.

Moreover, he disclosed that the FDC has identified 25 projects and programs, and loan agreements as fraudulent, wasteful or useless, with combined interest payments worth \$95.5 million or P4.3 billion which are obligations undertaken by different administration.

With the Members' help, he said that they can win this campaign for debt cancellation and could prove to be a historic triumph for bipartisanship, a legacy that all the Members will be proud of.

REFERRAL OF REP. BELLO'S SPEECH

On motion of Rep. Victor E. Agbayani, there being no objection, the Body referred the speech of Rep. Bello to the appropriate Committee.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. TAÑADA

Rep. Tañada underscored in his manifestation the need for President Arroyo to lead the other leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in demanding the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and all political detainees. He claimed that Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, whose house arrest is set to expire on May 27, 2009, has been slapped with another ridiculous case that would extend her detention beyond 2010. He stated that Aung San Suu Kyi's current situation is a test case on how serious ASEAN is in respecting and promoting human rights.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. ABANTE

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Bienvenido M. Abante Jr. manifested his support to Rep. Tañada's call to uphold the human rights of Aung San Suu Kyi. He cited that the country should support other ASEAN-member countries insofar as human rights are concerned.

TERMINATION OF THE PRIVILEGE HOUR

On motion of Rep. Agbayani, there being no objection, the Body terminated the Privilege Hour.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: COMMITTEE REPORT NO.1992 ON HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 36

On motion of Rep. Agbayani, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration on Second Reading of House Joint Resolution No. 36, as embodied in Committee Report No. 1992 and reported out by the Committee on Appropriations.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title of House Joint Resolution No. 36, to wit:

“JOINT RESOLUTION URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES TO MODIFY THE COMPENSATION AND POSITION CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM IN THE GOVERNMENT AND TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME INITIALLY EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

On motion of Rep. Agbayani, the Chair recognized Rep. Junie E. Cua, Chairperson of the Committee on Appropriations, to resume sponsorship of the measure and Rep. Luzviminda C. Ilagan for her interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. ILAGAN

Rep. Ilagan initially inquired on the present entry level of salary of school teachers and its equivalent in the proposed measure. She claimed that under the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers, it is provided that their salaries shall compare favorably with those paid in other occupations requiring equivalent or similar qualifications. She then noted that under the proposed measure, the level of salary of a public school teacher is only one salary grade higher than that of a staff sergeant in the military. While she does not want to denigrate the qualifications of a staff sergeant, she pointed out that a school teacher does not have similar qualifications with a staff sergeant considering that a teacher has to undergo more training, educational qualifications, additional technical knowledge and even a master's degree to qualify for promotion. She then stated that the comparison between the proposed levels of salary for public school teachers to that of a staff sergeant is most unfair.

Rep. Cua replied that under the Bill, the proposed level of salary of school teachers would be at a rate that is already competitive or even more than that of the salary of a teacher in the private sector.

Rep. Ilagan stated that if there would be a comparison, it should not be between a teacher in the public sector and a teacher in the private sector because it is known that the latter receives less in terms of salary. The appropriate comparison that should be made, she said, is with other professions receiving much higher rates because the Constitution mandates that public school teachers should have adequate remuneration. She stated that the proposed measure does not conform with the constitutional mandate.

Rep. Cua replied that the Bill provides for a higher remuneration for public school teachers in comparison with the present level of salary of private school teachers. She added that the proposed salaries of public school teachers are even comparable with the salaries of nurses.

Adverting to a National Wages Productivity Commission statistic that the family living wage should be P917 per day or about P21,000 a month, Rep. Ilagan noted that this is equivalent to Salary Grade 13 which is above the entry level of Salary Grade 11. She reiterated that the proposed Salary Grade 11 does not conform with the constitutional provision and the P6,523 proposed increase in the salaries of public school teachers to be implemented in four years is contrary to what the teachers are asking which is P9,000 to be implemented in three years. The proposed increase, she further stated, would not help the public school teachers in coming up with the economic difficulties.

In response, Rep. Cua claimed that the salary increase being asked by the teachers would have a budgetary implication to the country's educational system amounting to P81 billion per year. Moreover, by acceding to the request of the teachers, he said that the government will have no more reason to refuse the request for salary increase of other professions.

To Rep. Cua's statements on the resulting drained resources for infrastructure projects and on additional allowances and Magna-Carta benefits for teachers, Rep. Ilagan suggested that the Committee instead adjust the salary scheme to ensure equity among the subprofessional, professional and executive levels of teachers. After the Sponsor's explanation that 84% of teachers were in the professional category, she opined that government should find means to give what the teachers demand as she stressed the multiple tasks and vital functions these martyrs have been performing despite very meager salaries.

Rep. Ilagan subsequently asked on upgrading of the salary grade of nurses as provided for in the Nursing Act of 2002, to which Rep. Cua said that the instant Bill does not implement this because it

would distort the compensation for doctors and would embolden other professionals to follow the nurses' suit.

Rep. Ilagan advanced her proposed amendments to the Joint Resolution, to wit: implement the Nursing Act; increase the salaries of teachers and other nonteaching personnel by P9,000; and to set the implementation of the measure to three years instead of four.

The Sponsor reiterated that the approval of the Joint Resolution will amend the previously approved modernization laws which have remained unimplemented due to insufficient public funds.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Bondoc, the session was suspended at 8:05 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session was resumed at 8:07 p.m.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. BELLO

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Bello inquired whether the Committee can realign the government's allocations for debt servicing to capital expenditures, which include increased salaries for teachers, given the accepted observation among economists that the country's debt burden is irreconcilable with its development needs. He urged Congress to follow what other developing countries are doing at present, which is to actively work for debt renegotiation given the prevailing global financial crisis. He also proposed that the House convene itself into a Committee of the Whole which will review the Automatic Appropriations Act and possibly repeal the same. He pointed out that there are other sources of revenues which the government can tap if it will only exercise its political will.

In reply, Rep. Cua recalled that as early as the Eight Congress, the Body had decided not to suspend debt payments and to use whatever savings for development purposes because it was the collective wisdom that defaulting on debt payments would have negative fiscal implications. He also shared his personal view that it is the duty of a debtor to honor his financial obligations and that Rep. Bello may take up his views with the House leadership at another time.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Bondoc, the session was suspended at 8:19 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 8:27 p.m., the session was resumed.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 36

Thereupon, on motion of Rep. Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration of House Joint Resolution No. 36.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Bondoc, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until four o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, May 19, 2009.

It was 8:27 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the forego-ing.

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

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED

Printed copies of the following documents were distributed during the session:

1. House Bill No. 611, entitled:

"AN ACT FIXING THE SPECIFIC LIMITS OF FORESTLANDS IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES"

2. House Bill No. 6190,

"AN ACT DECLARING CERTAIN PORTIONS OF A PARCEL OF LAND OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN, IDENTIFIED AS LOT NO. 4828, CAD 240, LOCATED IN BARANGAY MALAUBANG, OZAMIS CITY, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL AGRICULTURAL LANDS OPEN TO DISPOSITION FOR SOCIALIZED HOUSING"

3. House Bill No. 6205, entitled:

"AN ACT CHANGING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER FROM OPTIONAL TO MANDATORY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 484 (a) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991"

4. House Bill No. 6244, entitled:

"AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING THE FRANCHISE OF SAN FERNANDO ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY, INC. GRANTED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3207, AS AMENDED, TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF ELECTRIC POWER TO THE END-USERS IN THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, THE MUNICIPALITY OF FLORIDABLANCA AND BARANGAYS TALANG AND LIGAYA IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUAGUA, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA, AND RENEW

ING/EXTENDING THE TERM OF THE FRANCHISE TO ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS FROM THE DATE OF APPROVAL OF THIS ACT"

5. House Bill No. 6257, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND CONCRETING OF THE SIBUTU AIRPORT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SIBUTU, PROVINCE OF TAWI-TAWI AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

6. House Bill No. 6267 entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A RELOCATION SURVEY OF CADASTRAL LOTS IN LAHAR-AFFECTED AREAS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES".