



Journal of the House of Representatives

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2022 - 2023

JOURNAL NO. 31
Tuesday, November 22, 2022

Prepared by the
JOURNAL SERVICE
Plenary Affairs Bureau

PRIVILEGE HOUR

With leave of the House, on successive motions of Rep. Francisco Paolo P. Ortega V, there being no objection, the Chair declared a Privilege Hour; and thereafter recognized Rep. Juan Carlos “Arjo” C. Atayde for his privilege speech.

**PRIVILEGE SPEECH
OF REPRESENTATIVE ATAYDE**

Representative Atayde spoke about the urgent concern of flooding in the National Capital Region which he said directly affects the lives of his constituents and the millions of Filipinos in Metro Manila and which, if not addressed, may derail the aspirations for the Philippines to become “Asia’s Fastest Rising Star.”

Citing statistics, he discussed the substantial cost of damage caused by flooding and how it had regularly paralyzed many parts of Metro Manila especially in his district. While he commended city and barangay officials and national government agencies for providing help and support during typhoons, he stressed that they are just stopgap measures that would not address the roots of the perennial flooding problem.

As nothing can be done about the climate and the weather, Representative Atayde then pushed to fast track the implementation of the Metro Manila Flood Management Project (MMFMP). Approved in 2012 and launched in 2017, he said MMFMP was funded by the World Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to improve flood management in selected areas in Metro Manila by modernizing drainage areas, minimizing solid waste in waterways, implementing participatory housing and resettlement of affected families, and promoting project management and coordination between the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

However, Representative Atayde lamented that while the project is scheduled to be completed by 2024, its accomplishment status indicators are very low, and thus to fast track its implementation, he proposed that a “Flooding Czar” be designated; urged that DPWH allocate funds to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing retarding

ponds and box culverts, relocating informal settlers, constructing high-rise walls and pumping stations at the San Juan river, and to assess the flood control master plan for Metro Manila and its surrounding areas.

He then sought the support of his colleagues to finally solve the flooding problems in Metro Manila.

**REFERRAL OF PRIVILEGE SPEECH
OF REPRESENTATIVE ATAYDE**

On motion of Representative Ortega, there being no objection, the Body referred the privilege speech of Representative Atayde to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

At this point, Reps. Marie Bernadette G. Escudero, Aniela Bianca D. Tolentino, Jefferson F. Khonghun, and Sancho Fernando “Ando” F. Oaminal, one after the other, acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Reps. Khonghun, Jude A. Acidre, and Jose “Bong” J. Teves Jr.

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Keith Micah “Atty. Mike” D.L. Tan, the Chair recognized Rep. France L. Castro for her privilege speech.

**PRIVILEGE SPEECH
OF REPRESENTATIVE CASTRO (F.)**

Representative Castro denounced the baseless and malicious red tagging, illegal profiling, and harassment of teachers especially those affiliated with the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) by State forces; the alleged attempts of disaffiliation of teachers as members of ACT; the issuance of a memorandum circular by the Department of the Interior and Local Government labeling ACT and the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees as fronts of communist terrorist groups; and the continuous webinars and face-to-face information drives against ACT and other progressive organizations including the Representatives of Makabayan bloc, which she said were attempts to silence women, who comprise the majority of teachers in the public and private schools, and the society as a whole.

As she recalled that the upcoming International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women