



ARANGKADA FOI

Let's make this happen now! *RATIFY THE FOI BILL; SIGN INTO LAW*

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RATIFY FOI, CANVASS THE VOTES

by

Right to Know. Right Now! Campaign

20 May 2010

The Senate and the House of Representatives have agreed to advance the resumption of its session to 24 May 2010, Monday, instead of its original schedule of 31 May.

When the House of Representatives convenes on this day, we, representatives of over 100 organizations and coalitions comprising public-interest groups, environmental protection advocates, independent media groups, print and broadcast journalists, farmers organizations and support groups, women's organizations, private and public sector labor unions, migrant workers, businessmen, academic institutions, and student and youth organizations, call on Speaker Prospero Nograles and all members of the House of Representatives to perform two historically significant acts in the country's public life. **First, ratify the bicameral conference committee report on the Freedom of Information Act, and second, proceed to adopt the resolution to hold a joint session for the presidential and vice presidential canvass of votes.**

The first act will fulfill the long overdue constitutional duty of Congress to provide the law that will secure for the nation the full functioning of our constitutional right to information, and the duty of the state to implement a policy of full public disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest.

After the long and arduous legislative process, from the first reading, committee hearings, approval on second and third readings in each chamber, and the reconciliation of the House and Senate version by a bicameral conference committee, the ratification will be the final step needed before the act can be transmitted to President Arroyo for her signature.

There is no reason why the ratification cannot be done on May 24. The Rules of the House of Representatives in fact call for it. Rule X, Section 61 states: **"(T)he**

consideration of conference committee reports shall always be in order, except when the Journal is being read, while the roll is being called, or the House is dividing on any question.”

The reason for the highly privileged status of a bicameral conference committee report is simple: it settles the differences of the two chambers and perfects legislation as far as Congress can. A Bicameral Conference Committee Report, in gist, is the legislative business at its nearest completion. It is entitled to priority over other businesses of Congress in an earlier stage. This becomes even more compelling as the Senate has already done its part by ratifying the conference report before session adjourned last February.

Not only do the Constitutional duty and the House Rules require immediate ratification on May 24, it is also a moral commitment of the leadership and members of the House of Representatives. The passage of the bill is in the legislative agenda of Speaker Nograles. The bill passed by the House on third reading as early as May 2008 bears the authorship of no less than 181 members. Also, the bicameral conference committee report was unanimously approved and signed by all eight members of the House contingent. (See attached list of bill authors and members of the House panel in the bicameral conference committee.)

The consideration of the conference report on the FOI bill for ratification will by no means hold up or delay the other agenda of canvassing. If Speaker Nograles allows it, it will not take five minutes to put and second the motion to ratify, and for the voting to proceed. The adoption of the resolution to hold a joint session for the presidential and vice presidential canvass of votes can then immediately follow.

The two measures are in fact inextricably linked. The canvass of votes for the President and the Vice President is the first election in years whose results enjoy wide acceptance. What should not be missed is that contributing substantially to the perception that the 2010 elections succeeded in overcoming the trademark features of previous elections is the relatively free flow of information to the media and consequently to the public.

By ratifying the FOI Act and promptly transmitting it to the Office of the President, and by presiding, jointly with the Senate, in an orderly and transparent canvass of votes, the House of Representatives will have given the Filipino people the gift of a credible transition of leadership, and the empowering right of access to information. This will provide a strong foundation for the political, social and economic renewal of the country.

In sum, there is no impediment to ratifying the FOI Act on May 24. We leave behind the events in the House of Representatives in the final days of session last February. We look to the leadership of Speaker Nograles, the champions of FOI and all members of the House of Representatives, to pull through for the Filipino people, and leave a legacy that will benefit our generation, and the generations to come.

Right to know. Right now!

1. Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III 4th District, Quezon Province
2. Rep. Joel Villanueva Citizens Battle Against Corruption (CIBAC)
3. Rep. Del De Guzman 2nd District, Marikina City
4. Rep. Riza Hontiveros-Baraquel Akbayan
5. Rep. Walden Bello Akbayan
6. Rep. Chona Gonzales Citizens Battle Against Corruption (CIBAC)
7. Bishop Broderick Pabillo Auxillary Bishop, Manila; National Director of CBCP-National Secretariat for Social Action - Justice&Peace (NASSA-JP)
8. Mr. Vincent T. Lazatin Transparency and Accountability Network (TAN)
9. Ms. Malou Mangahas Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ)
10. Dr. Wilfrido V. Villacorta Member, 1986 Constitutional Commission; Author of Right to Information on Matters of Public Concern (Art. III, Sec.7, 1987 Constitution)
11. Dr. Florangel Rosario - Braid Member, 1986 Constitutional Commission and Chair, Communication, UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines
12. Ms. Adelina Alvarez Center for Community Journalism and Development
13. Atty. Roberto Cadiz LIBERTAS
14. Prof. Luis Teodoro Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility
15. Ms. Jenina Joy Chavez Focus on the Global South – Philippines Programme
16. Mr. Sonny Fernandez National Union of Journalists of the Philippines
17. Mr. Nestor Burgos National Union of Journalists of the Philippines
18. Ms. Rowena Paraan National Union of Journalists of the Philippines
19. Mr. Alberto Lim Makati Business Club
20. Mr. Joshua Mata Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL)
21. Ms. Yuen Abana Partido ng Mangagawa
22. Ms. Precy Bellomes Makabayan
23. Mr. Teody Navea Bukluran ng Mangagawang Pilipino (BMP)
24. Ms. Judy Pasimio Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center - Kasama sa Kalikasan
25. Ms. Maria Lisa Alano Alternate Forum for Research in Mindanao (AFRIM), Inc.
26. Dean Antonio La Viña Ateneo School of Government (ASoG)
27. Dr. Sixto K. Roxas Maximo T. Kalaw Institute for Sustainable Development
28. Mr. Isagani Serrano Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement
29. Mr. Joseph Purugganan EU-ASEAN FTA Campaign Network-Philippines; Stop the New Round Coalition
30. Mr. Al Alegre Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA)
31. Ms. Annie Geron Public Services Labor Independent Confederation (PSLINK)
32. Prof. Leonor M. Briones Social Watch Philippines

33.	Dr. Rene Ofreneo	Center for Labor Justice
34.	Dr. J. Prospero De Vera III	National College of Public Administration and Governance
35.	Atty. Tanya Lat	IDEALS
36.	Mr. Raul Socrates Banzuela	PAKISAMA
37.	Chester Amparo	Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (KPD)
38.	Mr. Pete Pinlac	Mangagawa para sa Kalayaan ng Bayan (MAKABAYAN)
39.	Mr. Ramon Tuazon	Philippines Communication Society
40.	Ms. Mae V. Buenaventura	Women's Legal Bureau, Inc.
41.	Ms. Ana Maria R. Nemenzo	WomanHealth Philippines
42.	Ms. Mercedes Fabros	WomanHealth Philippines
43.	Mr. Sixto Donato Macasaet	CODE-NGO
44.	Mr. Jun S. Aguilar	Filipino Migrant Workers
45.	Mr. Pablo Rosales	Progresibong Alyansa ng mga Mangingisda (PANGISDA); Pambansang Katipunan ng Makabayang Magbubukid (PKMM)
46.	Mr. Crispino Aguelo	Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA)
47.	Ms. Karen Tañada	Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute
48.	Atty. Eirene Jhone E. Aguila	Team RP
49.	Prof. Gigi Francisco	Development Alternatives for Women in the New Era (DAWN)
50.	Mr. Byron Abadeza	Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and the Pacific
51.	Mr. Abby Y. Pato	Task Force on Food Sovereignty Mindanao
52.	Ms. Carolyn Arguillas	MindaNews
53.	Mr. Abner Francisco	DXCA – FM
54.	Mr. Rey Hulog	Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas
55.	Mr. Jose Pavia	Philippine Press Institute
56.	Ms. Angelica Simone Mangahas	Ateneo Debate Society
57.	Mr. Bartholome Guingona	pagbabago@pilipinas
58.	Atty. Virginia S. Jose	Citizens' Battle Against Corruption (CIBAC)
59.	Ms. Ellene Sana	Center for Migrant Advocacy (CMA)
60.	Ms. Ester Perez Tagle	Concerned Citizens Against Pollution (COCAP)
61.	Ms. Luz Malihiran	Community Organizers Multiversity
62.	Mr. Milo Tanchuling	Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC)
63.	Mr. Jude Esguerra	Institute for Popular Democracy (IPD)
64.	Mr. Doy Cinco	Institute for Popular Democracy (IPD)
65.	Mr. Ric Serrano	La Liga Policy Institute
66.	Mr. Rey Rasing	Labor Education and Research Network (LEARN)
67.	Atty. Farah Marie Decano	Lady Local Legislators' League of the Philippines, Inc.
68.	Mr. Raymond Marvic Baguilat	UP Law Student Government

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| 69. | Mr. Ed Mora | Pambansang Kaisahan ng Magbubukid sa Pilipinas |
| 70. | Prof. Carlos Magtolis, Jr. | Siliman University – ASPAP |
| 71. | Ms. Evi-Ta Jimenez | Center for People Empowerment in Governance |
| 72. | Mr. Ben-Hur Sacopla | Southern Luzon State University ASPAP – Region IV |
| 73. | Dr. Buenaventura B. Dargantes | Program on Integrated Water Resources |
| 74. | Mr. Boy Nuera | Pandayan para sa Sosyalistang Pilipinas (PANDAYAN) |
| 75. | Mr. Roy Calfoforo | People's Alternative Studies Center for Research and Education in Social Development (PASCRES) |
| 76. | Mr. Alain Pascua | Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan All Filipino Democratic Movement (KAAKBAY) |
| 77. | Mr. Reggie Guillen | GCAP-Phils |
| 78. | Mr. Horacio T. Cadiz | The Philippine Network Foundation, Inc (PHNET) |
| 79. | Mr. Joe Valencia | KASAPI-HELLAS |
| 80. | Mr. Nestor Villanueva | Akbayan Greece |
| 81. | Ms. Mardi Mapa-Suplido | Negros Peace Watch |
| 82. | Dr. Jose Reuben Alagaran | Philippines Communication Society |
| 83. | Ms. Aurora Regalado | Management Organization for Development and Empowerment, Inc. |
| 84. | Mr. Ernesto Lim Jr. | People's Campaign on Agrarian Reform (AR NOW!) |
| 85. | Mr. Anthony Marzan | KAISAHAN |
| 86. | Mr. Nonoy Oplas | Minimal Government Thinkers |
| 87. | Mr. Jesus Vicente Garganera | Alyansa Tigil Mina |
| 88. | Ms. Luz Cabucos-Fegarido | RSW |
| 89. | Ms. Ma. Lourdes M. Tison | Paghiliusa sa Paghidaet-Negros (PsPN) |
| 90. | Ms. Trinidad Domingo | Pambansang Koalisyon ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan |
| 91. | Mr. Richard Gutierrez | Ban Toxics |
| 92. | Mr. Harvey Keh | Kaya Natin! Movement |
| 93. | Mr. Czarina Sacaguino | Confederation of Student Government in the Philippines |
| 94. | Dr. Ma. Olivia Domingo | Center for Leadership, Citizenship and Democracy, UP-NCPAG |
| 95. | Dr. Angelo Ramos | Philippine Community e-Center Network |
| 96. | Ms. Mae Sabio | Sulong CARPER |
| 97. | Mr. Diosdado Calmada | PEACE |
| 98. | Ms. Lanie Factor | Task Force Mapalad |
| 99. | Ms. Maris Dela Cruz - Cardenas | EmPOWER Consumers |
| 100. | Atty. Elpidio Peria | Third World Network; Vice Chairman, Social Concerns Committee, IBP South Cotabato – General Santos City |
| 101. | Mr. Obet Pagdanganan | Coalition for Health Advocacy and Transparency (CHAT) |
| 102. | Mr. Omi Royandoyan | Centro Saka |
| 103. | Ms. Florencia Casanova-Dorotan | Women's Action Network for Development |
| 104. | Ms. Violeta Corral | Aksyon para sa Kapayapaan at Katarungan |

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| 105. Ms. Michelle Domocol | Visayas Climate Action Network |
| 106. Judge Dolores L. Español (Ret.) | Transparency International – Philippines |
| 107. Mr. Roby Alampay | Southeast Asian Press Alliance |
| 108. Ms. Teresita Quintos Deles | International Center on Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Governance (INCITEGov) |
| 109. Ms. Maita Gomez | Bantay Kita |
| 110. College Editors Guild of the Philippines | |
| 111. Ms. Emy M. Santos | National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO) |
| 112. Ms. Tes M. Borgoños | Manggagawang Kababaihang Mithi ay Paglaya (MAKALAYA) |
| 113. Ms. Marilyn Fuentes | National Union of Building and Construction Workers (NUBCW) |
| 114. Atty. Michael Yu | Integrated Bar of the Philippines- Cebu City Chapter |
| 115. Dr. Sylvia Estrada Claudio | Center for Women’s Studies, University of the Philippines |
| 116. Mr. Viktor Samuel Fontanilla | UP ALYANSA |
| 117. Ms. Anna Luz Lopez | UP BUKLOD CSSP |
| 118. Mr. Jeffrey Crisostomo | AKBAYAN Youth - UP Diliman |
| 119. Ms. Susan Ople | Blas Ople Foundation |
| 120. Mr. Romeo Cabagnasan | Alyansa ng Maralitang Pilipino |
| 121. Mr. Gus Micalat | Initiative for International Dialogue |
| 122. Mr. Antonio Claparols | Ecological Society of the Philippines |
| 123. Mr. Javier Claparols | Ecological Society of the Philippines |
| 124. Dr. Helen N. Mendoza | Soljuspax |
| 125. Dr. Mario Joyo Aguja | Mindanao State University System Faculty Federation |
| 126. Ms. Maria Rita Melecio | Task Force Detainees of the Philippines – Davao |
| 127. Mr. Juanito Enriquez | Civil Society Organization Forum for Peace |
| 128. Ms. Edeliza Hernandez | Medical Action Group |
| 129. Ms. Laudica Casana | Anda Rural Women Workers Alliance for Progress |
| 130. Ms. Flordeliz Abanto | Philippine Association of Communication Educators Foundation, Inc. (PACE) |
| 131. Atty. Nepomuceno Malaluan | Action for Economic Reforms (AER) |

Annex “1”

Authors of House Bill 3732

HB 3732 has a total of 181 members of the House of Representatives listed as authors. These are Representatives ANGARA, DEL MAR, VILLANUEVA, CRUZ-GONZALES, ABAYA, TALIÑO-MENDOZA, TAÑADA, DE GUZMAN, GONZALES (A.), OCAMPO, CASIÑO, PABLO, HONTIVEROS-BARAQUEL, COQUILLA, FUA, TEODORO, CHATTO, MAZA, BELTRAN, ILAGAN, ABANTE, CODILLA, DAZA, ALCALA, BIAZON, UMALI (A.), CUA (J.), UY (R.A.), DEL ROSARIO, PINGOY, LAGMAN, OLAÑO, CAJAYON, JOSON, SOON-RUIZ, GARAY, SANDOVAL, MANDANAS, HATAMAN, ABLAN, AGBAYANI, AGGABAO, AGYAO, ALFELOR, ALMARIO, ALVAREZ (A.), AMATONG, ANGPING, APOSTOL, AQUINO, ARAGO, ARENAS, ARNAIZ, ARROYO (D.), ARROYO (I.), ASILO, BAGATSING, BALINDONG, BARZAGA, BINAY, BIRON, BONDOC, BONOAN-DAVID, BRIONES, BULUT, CABILAO, CAGAS, CASTELO DAZA, CASTRO, CAYETANO, CELESTE, CERILLES, CHIPECO, CHONG, CLARETE, CLIMACO, COSCOLLUELA, CRISOLOGO, CUA (G.), CUENCO, DATUMANONG, DEFENSOR (A.), DEFENSOR (M.), DIAZ, DILANGALEN, DIMAPORO, DOMOGAN, DUAVIT, DUMARPA, DURANO, DY, ENVERGA, ESCUDERO, ESTRELLA (C.), FABIAN, FERNANDEZ, FERRER, FUENTEBELLA, GARCIA (A.), GARCIA (P.), GARCIA (V.), GARIN, GATCHALIAN, GATLABAYAN, GO, GOLEZ, GONZALES (N.), GONZALEZ, GULLAS, GUNIGUNDO, HOFER, JAAFAR, JALA, JAVIER, JIKIRI, KHO, LACSON, LAGDAMEO, LAPUS, LIM, LOPEZ, MADRONA, MAGSAYSAY, MAMBA, MANGUDADATU, MARAÑON, MARCOS, MATUGAS, MERCADO, MITRA, NAVA, NICOLAS, NOEL, NOGRALES, ONG, ORTEGA, PADILLA, PANCHO, PANCRUDO, PICHAY, PIÑOL, PLAZA, PRIETO-TEODORO, PUNO, RAMIRO, REMULLA, REYES (V.), ROBES, RODRIGUEZ, RODRIGUEZ-ZALDARRIAGA, ROMAN, ROMARATE, ROMUALDEZ, ROMULO, SALVACION, SANTIAGO (J.), SANTIAGO (N.), SILVERIO, SINGSON (E.), SINGSON (R.), SUAREZ, SUSANO, SY-LIMKAICHONG, TEVES, TIENG, TUPAS, UNGAB, UY (E.), UY (R.S.), VARGAS, VELARDE, VILLAFUERTE, VILLAROSA, VINZONS-CHATTO, VIOLAGO, YAP, YU, ZAMORA (M.), ZAMORA (R.), ZIALCITA AND ZUBIRI.

The Bicameral Conference Committee Report was approved and signed by all eight members of the House Panel. These are Representatives Bienvenido M. Abante (Chairman), Eduardo C. Zialcita, Lorenzon Tañada III, Jesus Crispin C. Remulla, Rodolfo W. Antonino, Rodante D. Marcoleta, Emmanuel Joel J. Villanueva, and Cinchona Cruz-Gonzales.