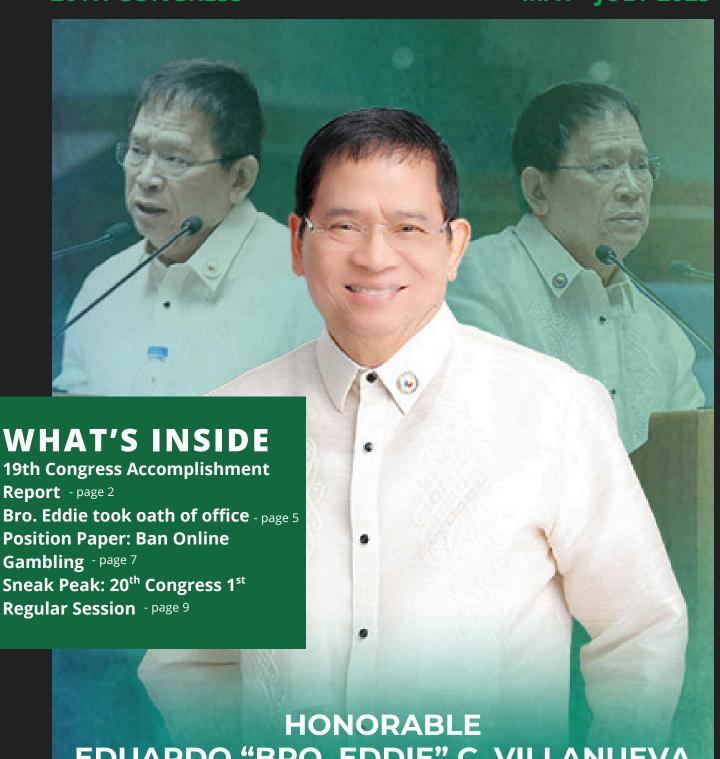
VOLUME IX NO. I



20TH CONGRESS

MAY - JULY 2025



EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA

CIBAC REPRESENTATIVE TO 20TH CONGRESS (2025-2028)



With 593,911 votes, CIBAC Party-List ranked 10th in the 2025 elections



OUR THANKSGIVING MESSAGE

From the bottom of our hearts, we sincerely thank our beloved compatriots, the Filipino people, for their continued trust as CIBAC Party-list secures the 10th spot in the recent elections with 593,911 sacred votes. Though we earned just one seat in the coming 20th Congress, we fully embrace the responsibility it carries.

Each vote for CIBAC is a vote of TRUST, a stand for righteous governance, transparency, and accountability—and we are committed to living up to that TRUST.

To all our volunteers, campaigners, supporters, and prayer warriors—thank you. Kindly accept our appreciation. Your tireless efforts and priceless contributions both on the ground and online, brought our message to the world.

The victory of CIBAC is yours as much as it is ours, and we are deeply grateful for your faith in us.

Above all, we give glory to our Almighty God. We believe He permitted the results of the 2025 Elections for a divine purpose. He gave us another chance to serve the Filipino people and to continue to be His mouthpiece in Congress. By God's grace, we will continue the fight against corruption. With His guidance and your mandate, we will remain a steadfast voice for moral leadership and clean governance in our one and only beloved Philippines.

Mabuhay po ang mamamayang Filipino!



BRO. EDDIE TOOK OATH OF OFFICE BEFORE CHIEF JUSTICE GESMUNDO

Citizens' Battle Against Corruption (CIBAC) Party-list Rep. Bro. Eddie Villanueva took his oath of office on Monday, as the party's representative to the 20th Congress House of Representatives.

Rep. Villanueva was sworn into office by Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo, at the Supreme Court Complex in Manila.

The CIBAC solon was accompanied by his first born son Mayor JonJon Villanueva of Bocaue, Bulacan, grandson Jack Edreen Villanueva, retired Sandiganbayan Justice Efren Dela Cruz and CIBAC National Operations Head Domeng Rivera.

BALITANG CIBAC VOL IX NO. I

"TODAY, WE TAKE OUR OATH OF OFFICE BEFORE THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE TO REAFFIRM OUR SOLEMN AND SERIOUS COMMITMENT TO UPHOLD AND PURSUE THE INDISPENSABLE PRINCIPLES OF TRUTH, JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS IN OUR COUNTRY. WE RENEW THE PLEDGE OF CIBAC TO BE AN AGENT OF PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY AND RULE OF LAW IN THE GOVERNMENT," SAYS THE CIBAC SOLON.

With 593,911 votes, CIBAC Party-List ranked 10th in the 2025 elections entitling it to a seat at the House of Representatives.



"The call to fight corruption has never been more imperative than now," says Rep. Villanueva citing the latest scores in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) of the Transparency International which show that the country has not gained substantial improvement in its fight against corruption.

"Though the fight seems becoming harder, we cannot afford to give up because it is the people, particularly the poor, who is the sure victim if we let our guards down. CIBAC reaffirms its resolve to fight corruption head on," added Rep. Villanueva

Rep. Villanueva said that CIBAC will continue to push for enhanced transparency in the government as well greater citizen empowerment as the key weapons in the fight against corruption. Among the priority legislations that they will sponsor are the Freedom of Information (FOI) bill, imposition of stiffer penalties for heinous corruption crimes, digitalization of government processes and the adoption of manual-electronic hybrid election system to uphold transparency in the electoral system.

The reelected CIBAC solon will reassume office on noon of June 30 while 20th Congress will open session on July 28, 2025.





CIBAC POSITION PAPER ON ONLINE GAMBLING: Ban Online Gambling in the Philippines — A Call to End Digital Exploitation

Position:

The Philippine Congress must enact a total ban on online gambling, both offshore and domestic, to prevent further social decay, protect vulnerable citizens, and restore public accountability in our digital economy.

Context and Justification:

Online gambling has transformed into a silent epidemic, no longer confined to shady corners or private dens, but aggressively marketed on public transport, social media, and even to our youth through smartphones. The result is a growing wave of addiction, broken families, bankrupt entrepreneurs, and false hope — all while a heavily taxed industry continues to claim legitimacy through supposed revenue gains.

While it's true that the online gambling sector contributes around Php 51.8 billion in revenues in just the first quarter of 2025, and is taxed at 35% to 38% (Insider PH, 2025; Inquirer, 2025b), this economic justification collapses when weighed against its deep and destructive social cost. These billions are not free money. They are extracted from Filipinos' desperation, dreams, and vulnerabilities — from tricycle drivers betting away their day's income, to young people being hooked by flashy apps, to entrepreneurs and millionaires losing fortunes that could have built legitimate businesses and jobs.

A recent feature (<u>Inquirer, 2025a</u>) reveals how one successful businessman, a self-made millionaire, was undone by online gambling. The ripple effects extended beyond his personal ruin — they threatened the jobs of his employees, the financial stability of his family, and his entire enterprise.

Regulation is Not Enough:

Despite existing regulation and taxation, the damage persists — precisely because the product is inherently harmful. Regulation cannot change the fact that online gambling is designed to addict, available 24/7, and tailored to exploit the most vulnerable members of our society.

The State cannot continue justifying its role as a beneficiary of destruction, profiting from activities that ruin lives while claiming to fund social services.

There Is a Better Way: Empower the BIR, Not the Gambling Industry

If the goal is to fund social programs, online gambling is not our only path — and certainly not our best one. Instead of relying on this ethically compromised source of income, the government should strengthen the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and modernize its systems for tax collection.

Experts estimate that up to Php 500 billion in additional revenue could be raised annually through improved tax compliance, stricter enforcement, and digitalization (<u>BusinessWorld, 2023</u>). That is nearly ten times what online gambling provides in a quarter — and it would come from legitimate sources of productivity, not from exploiting human weakness.



Online Gambling is Structurally Predatory:

- Hyper-accessible through mobile phones and social media, especially among the youth and working class.
- Targeting the Poor, who are lured by unrealistic dreams of instant wealth.
- Addictive by Design, using psychological tricks to encourage compulsive behavior.
- Socially Destructive, linked to debt, domestic violence, job loss, and mental health crises.

Conclusion:

We do not need blood money to fund our nation's needs. The Philippines deserves a revenue strategy rooted in dignity, fairness, and justice — not in addiction and destruction. Online gambling must be banned in full. The temporary economic benefit does not and will never justify the permanent social damage it causes. The real solution lies in empowering the BIR to collect rightful taxes from value-creating industries, rather than surrendering to the easy, corrosive profits of vice.

No more compromises. Ban online gambling now.



CIBAC Party-List Representative Bro. Eddie Villanueva has renewed his call for a total and uncompromising ban on online gambling in the Philippines, amid mounting social harm and some proposals to just introduce additional tax to the industry. This renewed call follows the statement of President Bongbong Marcos Jr., who said he is considering a total ban on online gambling but open to proposals to impose additional taxes.

"We thank the President for acknowledging the nationwide clamor. This is a defining moment to put people over profit. We reiterate our call for a total ban online gambling," Villanueva said. "Online gambling has become a silent epidemic in our nation. It's no longer hidden in corners—it's on our phones, public transport, and social media feeds. Every click is a potential ruin, especially for the poor and the youth," Villanueva warned.

While PAGCOR reported that the online gambling sector contributed over ₱51.8 billion in revenues in the first quarter of 2025 alone, industry experts said that the industry is already heavily taxed. "Industry experts already said that online gambling is already heavily taxed—but taxation does not cancel out destruction," Villanueva stressed. "Calls for better regulation or even higher taxes miss the point. The product itself is inherently harmful, and the social costs far outweigh the revenues it generates. Let us not forget what happened in POGOs, E-Sabong, and the missing sabungeros."

CIBAC pushes for Freedom of Information bill anew on the opening of 20th Congress

JULY 1, 2025

As part of its continuing mission to promote transparency, accountability, and good governance, CIBAC Party-List Representative Bro. Eddie Villanueva has filed ten priority measures for the 20th Congress on Monday, with a strong emphasis on restoring public trust in government and addressing the moral and spiritual challenges facing the nation.

Among the key measures is House Bill No. 634 or Freedom of Information (FOI) Bill, which seeks to provide citizens access to official records, documents, and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions or decisions, and government research data used as basis for policy development.

Key provisions of the bill include obligatory publishing of certain information by government agencies even without prior request from the public; full online disclosure of government contracts amounting to at least Fifty Million Pesos (PhP50,000,000); and mandatory production of all government offices, including government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCs), of their own Freedom of Information Manual that outlines the processes and procedures the public must know in order to request data.

"Transparency is a moral imperative in public service," CIBAC Rep. Villanueva said. "Through the FOI Bill, we aim to institutionalize honesty and accountability across all government agencies and empower citizens to be active participants in governance." ("Ang tiwala ng taumbayan ay nabubuo sa liwanag ng katotohanan. Kailangang buksan natin ang mga pintuan ng impormasyon upang makita ng taumbayan kung paano ginagastos ang kanilang buwis.")

CIBAC has been filing the FOI Bill consistently for several Congresses and remains committed to pursuing its passage into law. "Hindi po kami titigil hangga't ang batas na ito ay maisabatas. Panahon na para gawing pamantayan ang bukas at tapat na pamahalaan," added the CIBAC Solon. ("We will not stop until this bill is enacted. It is time to make transparent and honest governance the standard, not the exception.")

Citing the importance of citizen empowerment in the fight against corruption, another centerpiece bill is House Bill No. 635 or Moral Regeneration Program Bill which will create programs that promote family values, responsible citizenship, and spiritual renewal.

"We cannot build a strong Republic without strong moral foundations. This measure aims to fight corruption not only through laws but through the conscience. It is a cultural transformation anchored on faith, discipline, and integrity," CIBAC Rep. Villanueva ended.

Other notable bills include:







20TH CONGRESS

1st Regular Session

July 28, 2025



I am glad that the President touched on the issue of corruption in flood control program which we have consistently raised ever since. Being sometimes a lone voice in echoing the problem of worsening flooding which has more than P1 billion daily budget, I feel relieved and vindicated that the President heeds our consistent calls to probe into flood control budgets in order to make sure that every peso serves its intended purpose—to protectour communities and save lives during disasters, not to enrich corrupt individuals.

However, we expected that the President will lay down more concrete ways to address the worsening problem of graft and corruption which robs the public funds intended for development and better services for our people. We also expected that the President, like what he did to POGOs, will declare his opposition to online gambling which is destroying many lives.

Though not included in the speech, we hope that the President will still put equal emphasis and priority on these two crucial issues.

As for CIBAC Party-List, we will continue to be an objective fiscalizer towards a more transparent, accountable and effective government for the Filipino people.





The father-son tandem reunites at the South Wing Lobby while waiting for SONA



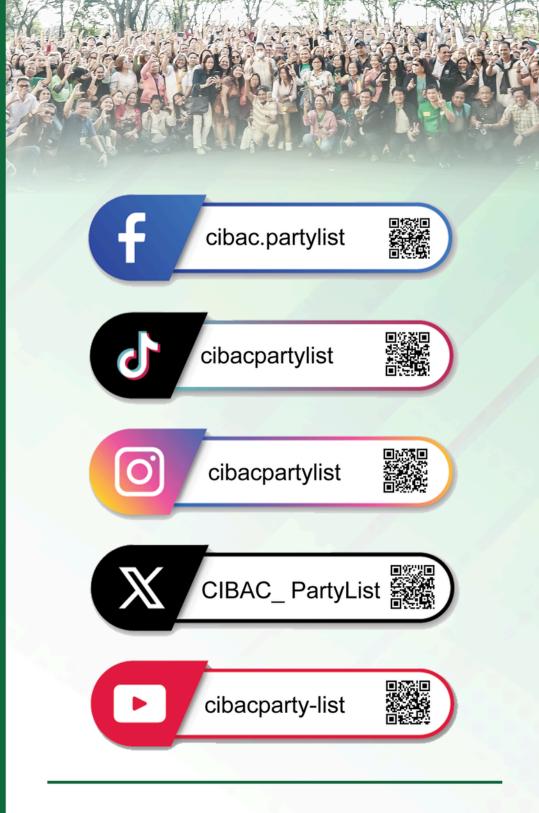
Senator Joel Villanueva takes his oath as Senate Majority Floor Leader



Congressman Bro. Eddie Villanueva signs next batch of bills to be filed during the session



In obedience to God's Word to pray for authorities, Cong. Bro. Eddie prayed over Speaker Martin Romualdez at the opening of 1st Regular Session



Ang Balitang CIBAC ay opisyal na publication ng Citizens' Battle Against Corruption (CIBAC) Party-List, sa pamamagitan ng CIBAC Media Department. Para sa inyo pong katanungan, komento o mungkahi, maaari po kayong makipag-ugnayan sa CIBAC Party-List sa pamamagitan ng mga sumusunod: Room 317, North Wing Building, House of Representatives, Batasan Hills, Quezon City (02) 8931-5442 / (02) 8931-5001 local 7356

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