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			COMMITTEE MEETINGS	
	M	EASURES		
COMMITTEE	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR	SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
Bases Conversion (Special Committee)	HB 613	Rep. Roman	Designating one seat in the Board of Directors of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) to represent the Municipality of Dinalupihan, Province of Bataan, amending for the purpose RA 7227, otherwise known as the Bases Conversion and Development Act of 1992, as amended	The Committee, chaired by Pasay City Rep. Emi Calixto-Rubiano, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to discuss the bills further.  The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Geraldine Roman (1st District, Bataan).  Rep. Roman, author of HBs 613 and 3997,
	HB 3997	Rep. Roman	Mandating the appointment of representatives from the indigenous peoples (IPs) to the Board of Directors of the SBMA, further amending for the purpose RA 7227	said that HB 613 aims to ensure that the people of the Municipality of Dinalupihan, Bataan, wherein most part of the Subic Bay Freeport Zone (SBFZ) is situated, will be represented in the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority's (SBMA) Board.
				Likewise, HB 3997 seeks the appointment of a member from the indigenous community to the Board of Directors of the SBMA to ensure that the IPs, such as the Aetas, will have a voice in the Board considering that a large portion of the SBFZ is located within their ancestral domains.
				SBMA Senior Deputy Administrator for Support Service Ramon Agregado said that SBMA fully supports the intent of HB 613.
				However, with regard to HB 3997, Agregado informed the Committee that the rights of the IPs within the SBFZ are already fully protected under the 25-year Joint Management Agreement (JMA) among the SBMA, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), and the <i>Tribong Aeta Ambala</i> .
				According to Agregado, the benefits received by the Aetas under the JMA include: a five percent share on all gross incomes generated from the utilization of the ancestral lands in Subic Bay; direct financial, social and community development assistance; and control and management of tourism facilities within the ancestral domains.
				Agregado also said that a committee was formed consisting of representatives from the SBMA, NCIP and the <i>Tribong Aeta</i> wherein all matters pertaining to the interest of the IPs are being discussed.

Continuation				Rep. Roman, however, maintained that the IPs
Bases Conversion (Special				need to have a say in the SBMA policies that will affect their interests.
Committee)				On the question of Malabon City Rep. Federico "Ricky" Sandoval II if there is a qualification requirement in selecting the members of the Board, Agregado replied in the affirmative.
				Rep. Roman argued that the extensive knowledge of the IP representative's community should be the only qualification to become a member of the Board.
				The Committee requested the SBMA and NCIP to submit data on the number of IP communities living within the SBFZ.
	HR 429	Rep. Villanueva	Investigation into the continuous stay of the Philippine Air Force (PAF) within the Clark special economic zone in violation of RA 7227, as amended	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to discuss further the issues raised relative to HR 429.
			TVA 1221, as amended	The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Noel Villanueva (3 <sup>rd</sup> District, Tarlac).
				Rep. Villanueva said that his resolution, HR 429, calls for an investigation into the continuous stay of the PAF within the Clark Special Economic Zone (CSEZ) in violation of RA 7227, which authorizes the conversion of the base lands primarily for civilian and economic purposes.
				Sought to comment on the matter, Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) Executive Vice President Aileen Anunciacion Zosa said that based on a 1995 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the BCDA, Department of National Defense (DND)/Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)/PAF, and Clark Development Corporation (CDC), the PAF was allowed to occupy 313 hectares of land inside CSEZ for its interim use.
				Zosa also informed the Committee of BCDA's discussion with the DND/AFP/PAF on the relocation of PAF to Basa Air Base in Floridablanca, Pampanga. However, both parties have not arrived at an agreement yet on the matter, she added.
				PAF Chief of Air Staff, Major General Rozzano Briguez, disclosed that PAF has an ongoing discussion with CDC and Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC) regarding the reduction of the area in CSEZ being occupied by PAF.
				When asked by Baguio City Rep. Mark Go if PAF is willing to move out of CSEZ, Briguez replied that PAF can forego a portion of the land it is occupying now, but he insisted that it needs to retain about 102 hectares for its operations.

Good	HR 867	Speaker Alvarez	Inquiry into the alleged grossly	The Joint Committee, co-presided by Rep.
Government and Public Accountability jt. with Justice			disadvantageous contract entered into by the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) and the Tagum Agricultural Development Company, Inc.(TADECO)	Johnny Ty Pimentel (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Surigao del Sur), Chair of the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Oriental Mindoro), Chair of the Committee on Justice, will deliberate further on the issues raised relative to HR 867 in its next meeting.
				HR 867, authored by Speaker Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez (1st District, Davao del Norte), states that the contract between BuCor and TADECO is grossly disadvantageous to the government in terms of the production and profit sharing arrangements, citing the prevailing higher lease costs in the area and higher prices of bananas in the export market.
				Department of Justice (DOJ) Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre presented before the Joint Committee the DOJ's recommendations based on the report of the Fact-Finding Committee created by the Department to investigate the legality of the Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) entered into by BuCor and TADECO on the use of a portion of land within the Davao Prison and Penal Farm (DPPF):
				For the President to revoke or rescind the contract pursuant to Section 1-A of PD 1585, which prescribes certain standard conditions for government contracts, concessions, licenses, permits, leases, or similar privileges involving the exploration, development, exploitation, or utilization of natural
				resources;  For the BuCor to file an appropriate action in court for the declaration of the nullity of the JVA; and  For the President to issue a proclamation reclassifying the DPPF as alienable and disposable land pursuant to Commonwealth Act 141 (Public Land Act), before BuCor may be allowed to enter into a concession agreement on the land.
				Rep. Gabriel Bordado (3 <sup>rd</sup> District, Camarines Sur) opined that the JVA violates the 1987 Constitution as it covers 5,308 hectares which is five times more than the limit of 1,000 hectares, and allows TADECO to use the land for 60 years (1969 to 2029) which is more than the maximum allowable period of 50 years.
				Rep. Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP) said that the DPPF is classified as inalienable land of the public domain and therefore it cannot be a subject of a JVA. Citing Commonwealth Act 141, he added that the DPPF should first be reclassified as alienable and disposable, through a presidential proclamation, before any disposition can be made.

Continuation...
Good
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Aguirre mentioned that the 1935, 1973 and 1987 Constitutions have differing provisions on the disposition of public lands. Generally, he said, inalienable land of the public domain is "beyond the commerce of man," thus cannot be the subject of any disposition. However, the 1987 Constitution allowed the State to enter into co-production or joint venture agreement on the utilization of natural resources.

Rep. Henry Oaminal (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Misamis Occidental) asked why the BuCor, which is a party to the contract and an attached agency of the DOJ, could not directly take action to rescind the contract and had to rely on the President to do so.

Aguirre said that it is actually the recommendation of the DOJ that BuCor should file a case in court to nullify the contract. He also stated that a more expedient remedy is the rescission of the JVA by the President.

On Rep. Doy Leachon's (1st District, Oriental Mindoro) query as to the appropriate cases that should be filed against erring officials of BuCor, Aguirre said that a criminal case, particularly in violation of RA 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, may be filed based on the evidence presented.

TADECO President and Chief Executive Officer Alexander Valoria belied the allegations that the JVA entered into by TADECO and BuCor is grossly disadvantageous to the government. He claimed that the JVA was subjected to several reviews by both the executive and legislative branches of government that found the contract beneficial to the government. He added that the primary objective of the JVA is to provide financial benefits and assistance to the inmates and their families, as well as to the community.

Speaker Alvarez emphasized that the contract between BuCor and TADECO is that of a lease and not a joint venture agreement. He said that BuCor has limited participation in the operation and management of TADECO's banana plantation in the DPPF, which is contrary to the idea of a JVA. The Speaker also said that TADECO's objective in entering into a contract with BuCor is primarily to gain profit.

The Joint Committee requested the DOJ to submit a copy of its recommendations on the matter at hand, and TADECO to provide copies of documents requested by Speaker Alvarez and the Members of the Joint Committee.

The Joint Committee agreed to issue subpoena to compel the attendance of those persons who failed to heed the invitation of the Joint Committee.

Good Government and Public Accountability	HR 753	Rep. Oaminal	Inquiry into the reported procurement irregularities committed by the officers of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) leading to the stoppage of the construction and eventually the demolition of the GSIS Quezon City branch office in Elliptical Road, Quezon City	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), assumed jurisdiction over HR 753.  Rep. Henry Oaminal (2nd District, Misamis Occidental), author of HR 753, requested the Committee to invite the officials of the GSIS and the Commission on Audit (COA) auditor assigned to the GSIS to answer the issues he raised in the resolution.
	HR 767	Rep. Roque (H.)	Inquiry into the alleged corruption and irregularities in the operation and business of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth)	The Committee assumed jurisdiction over HR 767.  Kabayan Party-List Rep. Harry Roque Jr., author of HR 767, requested the Committee to invite the officials of PhilHealth and the COA auditor assigned to PhilHealth to answer the issues he raised in the resolution.
Public Order and Safety	HR 763	Rep. Acop	Inquiry into the manifest breakdown of discipline in the Philippine National Police (PNP) in light of the recent high-profile criminal incidents allegedly involving officers and members of the organization	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 763 in its next meeting.  Rep. Acop said that the purpose of the inquiry is to look into the seeming breakdown of discipline among the members of the PNP in view of recent high profile incidents involving the police. He stressed the importance of examining the PNP's recruitment process, training programs, performance evaluation system, disciplinary mechanism, and leadership to determine corrective measures that should be instituted.  PNP Director for Plans Edwin Roque presented data on the number of police personnel charged with administrative cases from 2012 to 2015 and reported the status of recent sensational cases involving police personnel. He mentioned that the PNP has put in place an internal cleansing program to weed out erring personnel.  Roque also presented the results of the 2016 regular recruitment program for Police Officer 1 (PO1), as follows:  81% or 19,066 of the 23,529 applicants passed the Physical Agility Test (PAT);  74% or 10,950 of the 14,853 applicants passed the Psychiatric/Psychological Exam (PPE);  91% or 9,888 of the 10,880 applicants passed the Physical, Medical, and Dental Exam (PMDE); and  99% or 9,750 of the 9,888 applicants passed the Drug Test (DT).
				Roque reiterated the PNP's recommendation that the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) and the National Police Training Institute (NPTI), which is currently under the Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC), be

Continuation Public Order and Safety				transferred to the PNP which believes that it is in a better position to determine the appropriate training for the police.
				P/SSupt. Oliver Enmodias of the PNP's Recruitment and Selection Division of the Directorate for Personnel and Record Management (DPRM) briefed the Committee on the recruitment process for PO1.
				PPSC President Retired Police Deputy Director General Ricardo De Leon discussed the training programs for police recruits. He cited the gaps and disparities in training and the interventions and initiatives being undertaken by the PPSC, NPTI, and PNPA to improve the quality of training and education in the police force.
				Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1st District, llocos Norte) called on the PNP to relentlessly strive to regain the trust and confidence of the people it is tasked to protect.
				On the observation of Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu) that the figures given by the PNP on the number of police personnel with pending criminal and administrative cases were incomplete, the Committee asked the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) to submit all such data from the following sources: Internal Affairs Service (IAS), People's Law Enforcement Board (PLEB), PNP-Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management (DIDM), Office of the Ombudsman, and from the NAPOLCOM itself.
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development	HB 5158	Rep. Unabia	Providing for a socialized microfinancing program for micro enterprises, thereby promoting entrepreneurship	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Peter "Sr. Pedro" Unabia (1st District, Misamis Oriental), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune HB 5158.
				The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon).
				Rep. Unabia, principal author of HB 5158, underscored the need to institutionalize the <i>Pondo sa Pagbabago at Pag-asenso (P3)</i> Program of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) as an alternative micro lending scheme providing micro enterprises the means to start or sustain their business and generate income.
				Rep. Unabia added that the passage of the proposed measure will pave the way for the continuity of the P3 Program which was allocated a budget of P1 billion under the 2017 General Appropriations Act for its implementation this year.
				Rep. Gil "Kabarangay" Acosta (3rd District, Palawan), one of the co-authors of the bill, explained that through the Program, microfinancing is made available to micro,

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Continuation Small Business and Entrepreneurship				small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) which are oftentimes facing difficulty in accessing formal lending facilities.
Development				Representatives from the DTI, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP), and the Chamber of Thrift Banks expressed support for the bill.
				On the other hand, Microfinance Council of the Philippines, Inc. Executive Director Allan Robert Sicat expressed reservations on the bill, explaining that micro-financing programs funded by the government tend to weaken several private financing institutions, as what happened in the 1970s and 1980s.
				Concerned about proper allocation and use of funds, Rep. Jocelyn Limkaichong (1st District, Negros Oriental) suggested that pertinent BSP regulations should be followed in the implementation of the P3 Program.
				Small Business Corporation (SBC) Senior Vice President Melvin Abanto apprised the Committee that the P3 Program started four months ago with three pilot areas in Mindoro, Saranggani, and Tacloban. SBC is an attached agency of the DTI which administers this program.
				Rep. Tan inquired if the DTI has already initiated information dissemination activities to promote the program and encourage the participation of micro enterprises. Abanto answered in the affirmative, adding that DTI has partnered with local cooperatives and the local government units (LGUs) to promote awareness of the program.
				The DTI was requested to submit a status report on the implementation of the P3 Program in the three pilot areas.
Ways and Means	HB 3719	Rep. Lanete	Amending certain provisions of RA 8424, otherwise known as the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997	The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, will deliberate further on the bill in another meeting.
				Rep. Scott Davies Lanete, M.D. (3rd District, Masbate), author of HB 3719, said that his bill seeks to impose tax on food and beverage products containing more than one-third of the prescribed daily allowable intake of sodium chloride (salt). This, he said, will help control the prevalence of "lifestyle diseases" such as high blood pressure, diabetes, heart attack and stroke, which have been attributed to the high intake of sodium, nitrates and other preservatives in certain food and beverage products.
				However, Dr. Clarito Cairo, medical officer at the Department of Health (DOH), explained that the daily allowable intake of salt depends on the age and health condition of a person.

Continuation	1	1		National Tay Decearch Contar (NTDC) Demoted
Continuation Ways and Means				National Tax Research Center (NTRC) Deputy Executive Director Teresita Solomon echoed Cairo's statement and suggested that the proposed law must clearly define the food items that will be subject to tax.
				The Committee agreed to limit the scope of the bill to the manufacturing of food products that have salt, or any of its derivatives, as an ingredient.
				The resource persons present were requested to submit their respective position papers on the proposed law.
	HB 4839	Deputy Speaker Garin	Amending Sections 141, 142 and 143 of the NIRC, increasing and restructuring the excise tax rates on alcohol	The Committee will deliberate further on HB 4839 in another meeting.
			excise tax rates on alconor	Deputy Speaker Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), author of HB 4839, said that the proposed law intends to bring the level of the "sin tax" imposed on alcohol products at par with the "heavily taxed" tobacco and cigarette products. She pointed out that 70% of the total excise tax collection came from tobacco and cigarette products while only 30% was collected from alcohol products.
				Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. (1st District, Surigao del Sur), however, warned that an increase in taxes on alcohol products may subsequently reduce government revenue collection because of the expected decrease in alcohol consumption. This situation will ultimately defeat the purpose of the proposed law, he added.
				The concerned government agencies were requested to submit data on the following:  • Sin tax revenue collections for the last four years and how these were earmarked pursuant to RA 10351 or the Sin Tax Reform Law;  • Expenditure of the average Filipino on alcohol; and  • Health benefits that were achieved after the law came into effect in January 2013.
				Deputy Speaker Romero "Miro" Quimbo (2nd District, Marikina City) said the above data will help the Committee determine whether or not RA 10351, which the bill intends to supplement, was able to meet its objectives as a health promotion and revenue generation measure.

	TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
	MEASURES				
COMMITTEE	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR	SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION	
Energy (Technical Working Group)	HB 3353	Rep. Uybarreta	Institutionalizing the electric cooperatives' (ECs) disaster management fund and providing funds therefor, amending for the purpose certain laws	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by 1-CARE Party-List Rep. Carlos Roman Uybarreta, agreed to draft a Substitute Bill to HBs 3353 and 4408 in its next meeting,	

Continuation	HB 4408	Rep. Uybarreta	Creating an energy disaster trust fund for	incorporating therein the recommendations of
Energy (Technical	715 7700	Nop. Oybunda	ECs and providing funds therefor	the resource persons.
Working Group)				Rep. Uybarreta, author of the two bills, underscored the importance of having a single agency to receive all donations (funds, materials and/or equipment) which are intended for the restoration of ECs' infrastructure damaged by a force majeure or fortuitous event, including the proper accounting of these donations.
				AKO-BICOL Party-List Rep. Rodel Batocabe, co-author of HB 4408, recommended the inclusion of a provision in the bill that will allow the annual replenishment of the trust fund in order to respond quickly to the urgent needs of ECs.
				Among the agreements reached during the meeting were the following:  • Adopt the proposal of the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (PhilRECA) pertaining to the Declaration of Policy (Section 2):
				<ul> <li>2);</li> <li>Increase the initial appropriations intended to implement the proposed law to P1 billion, from P750 million, which will be sourced from the Malampaya Fund (Section 10);</li> <li>Subject all donations that will be received by the National Electrification Administration (NEA) to audit by the Commission on Audit (Section 9); and</li> <li>Reallocate the Electric Cooperatives Disaster Management Fund in the following manner: 60% for the restoration or rehabilitation of ECs' damaged infrastructures due to force majeure or fortuitous event; 30% for the EC's disaster preparedness, prevention and mitigation measures; and 10% for the repayment of the outstanding obligations of ECs (Section 11).</li> <li>NEA, PHILRECA, and Philippine Federation of Electric Cooperatives (PHILFECO) were requested to submit a report on the calamity loans incurred by ECs.</li> </ul>
Trade and Industry (Technical Working Group)	HB 2171	Rep. Santos- Recto	Promoting the ease of doing business by mandating the automatic approval of business permit applications after 30 days of inaction and extending the validity period thereof	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, decided to draft a Substitute Bill to HBs 2171, 4838, 5031 and 5093.
	HB 4838	Rep. Unabia	Expanding the functions of the <i>negosyo</i> centers and requiring the local <i>government</i>	The TWG used HB 5031, authored by Rep. Ferjenel Biron, M.D. (4 <sup>th</sup> District, Iloilo), as its working draft.
			units (LGUs) to link up with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for the Philippine business registry databank, amending for the purpose RA 10644, otherwise known as the Go Negosyo Act in order to promote the ease of doing business	Among the agreements reached during the meeting were as follows:  • Another policy of the State shall be added in Section 2 (Declaration of Policy), to read as: "Ensure timely and expeditious processing of
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Continuation Trade and Industry (Technical Working Group)	HBs 5031 & 5093	Reps. Biron and Yap (A.)	Establishing a national policy on ease of doing business, creating for the purpose the Ease of Doing Business Commission	business requirements by the local government units (LGUs) or national agencies;"  • The prescribed processing time for license, clearance or permit applications of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) shall not be longer than one day for the barangay level, three working days for simple applications, and 20 working days for complex applications from the time the application is received; and  • The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) will submit a revised version of Section 8 (Extension of License, Clearance or Permit Application).  Rep. Romualdo requested the concerned government agencies to submit their recommendations by Friday, May 12, for the TWG's consideration in the drafting of the substitute bill.
Transportation (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 1952, 1996, 2152, 2294, 2542, 2792, 2817 & 4627	Reps. Santos-Recto, Tan (A.) Pineda, Acop, Pimentel, Ferriol-Pascual, Suansing (E.), and Deputy Speaker Andaya	Rationalizing and strengthening the policy regarding driver's license, providing for a five-year validity and penalizing acts in violation to its issuance, application and use	The technical working group (TWG), presided by BUHAY Party-List Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr., approved the substitute bill subject to style and amendment. The bill will be reported out to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.  Land Transportation Office (LTO) Operations Division head Mercy Jane Paras-Leynes apprised the TWG that the Department of Transportation (DOTr) has already issued an administrative order extending the validity of professional and non-professional driver's license from three to five years.  Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija) proposed that LTO officers who issue a driver's license to unqualified applicants should be immediately removed from the service and penalized accordingly.  The Motorcycle Development Program Participants Association, Inc. (MDPPA), through the Road Safety Committee head Jacinto Cadugo, said that an actual driving test should also be required from motorcycle drivers.

	AGENCY BRIEFING					
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS				
Bicol Recovery and Economic Development (Special Committee)	Briefing by concerned government agencies on their plans and programs for Region V:	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Renato "Kuya Jojo" Unico Jr. (1st District, Camarines Norte), listened to the briefing conducted by CHED, DPWH and LTFRB on their plans and programs for Region V.				
(openia committee)	Commission on Higher Education (CHED)	CHED Region V Regional Director George Colorado discussed the various grants and scholarship programs that can be availed of by high school, college, and post-graduate students, as well as by higher				

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Bicol Recovery and
Economic
Development
(Special Committee)

education institutions (HEI), in the region, as follows:

- Senior High School Support Grants;
- Student Financial Assistance Programs (StuFAPs);
- Scholarships for Graduate Studies (local and abroad);
- "Dare to Research" Grant;
- Non-Degree Professional Advancement Grants;
- · Sectoral Engagement Grants; and
- Institutional Development and Innovation Grants.

Reps. Evelina Escudero (1st District, Sorsogon) and Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte (2nd District, Camarines Sur) commented that allocating a budget for scholarship on a yearly basis, such as the P8 billion budget of CHED for 2017, limits students to only one year of full scholarship, which also means they will have to reapply for scholarship the following year.

Colorado said that granting scholarship that would cover a student's entire degree program would quickly deplete the budget and would reduce the number of beneficiaries at any given time. He informed the Committee of CHED's online scholarship application that would facilitate the process of re-applying for scholarship for the next school year.

On the concern raised by Rep. Gabriel Bordado (3rd District, Camarines Sur) that CHED's online scholarship application might favor only those in the middle-income bracket who have access to the internet, Colorado assured Rep. Bordado that the basis to qualify for CHED's scholarship grants would be the student's economic status and grades.

CHED was requested to submit to the Committee the list of students who have qualified for scholarship for SY 2017-2018, per congressional district. It was likewise asked to provide a report on the status of application of the Province of Camarines Sur to put up six colleges in the province.

 Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) DPWH Region V Regional Director Danilo Versola presented the Department's proposed 2018 budget for Region V of P30.13 billon for the implementation of several infrastructure programs and projects, namely:

- Construction, widening, rehabilitation and repair of national roads and bridges; flood mitigation structures and facilities, including those within major river basins and principal rivers; and drainage systems; and
- Convergence programs in partnership with the Department of Tourism (DOT) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

Versola acceded to the request of Reps. Villafuerte and Fernando Gonzalez (3rd District, Albay) to include the Libmanan-Pulantuna River and Bicol River among DPWH's priority areas for coverage under its flood management program in the region.

Likewise, Versola acceded to the request of the Committee to direct all district engineers in Region V to inform their respective Congressmen about the program of works in their districts.

 Land Transportation Regulatory and Franchising Board (LTFRB) LTFRB Region V Transportation Development Officer Gerard Del Rio presented the agency's efforts towards ensuring the safety of the riding public, among which are:

- Conduct investigation and recommend suspension/cancellation of franchises of buses involved in accidents, especially those with violations;
- Strictly enforce franchise regulations;
- Ensure road worthiness and compliance of public utility vehicles (PUVs) with the LTFRB's regulations; and

Continuation	Establish a driver's academy.
Bicol Recovery and Economic Development (Special Committee)	On the query of Rep. Escudero if the LTFRB exercises police powers, Del Rio answered that the LTFRB, as deputized by the Department of Transportation (DOTr), conducts enforcement operations with the assistance of the Philippine National Police (PNP).
	The LTFRB was instructed to require the PUVs of franchise applicants to go through the motor vehicle inspection system (MVIS) being conducted by the LTFRB Central Office.

OTHER MATTERS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development	Discussion on the "Kapatid Mentor ME (micro entrepreneurs) Program"	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Peter "Sr. Pedro" Unabia (1st District, Misamis Oriental), listened to the report of Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Assistant Secretary Blesila Lantayona on the "Kapatid Mentor ME (KMME) Program" being implemented by the DTI in partnership with the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship (PCE).
		Lantayona informed the Committee that the KMME Program, which provides technical know-how in the field of entrepreneurship, has been accepted well in the provinces.
		For 2017, Lantayona said that there are 89 batches scheduled for coaching sessions under the KMME Program in various parts of the country. The coaching sessions provide a step by step procedure in starting a micro enterprise.
		KMME is a coaching and mentoring approach where large corporations teach micro and small enterprises (MSEs) about the different aspects of business operations.
		The House Members present requested that their districts be included in the list of areas where the KMME coaching sessions will be conducted.