

Committee Daily Bulletin



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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Cooperatives Development	HB 2473	Rep. Geron	Strengthening the right of cooperatives to develop into viable and responsible economic enterprises, amending for the purpose RA 6938 by adding Sec. 9B on cooperative powers and capacity	<p>The Committee, presided by AASENSO Party-List Rep. Teodoro Montoro, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune HB 2473.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Gil "Kabarangay" Acosta (3rd District, Palawan).</p> <p>The TWG will include as members Party-List Reps. Anthony Bravo (COOP-NATCCO), Joseph Stephen Paduano (ABANG LINGKOD), and Orestes Salon (AGRI), and representatives from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Land Management Bureau (LMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).</p>
Economic Affairs jt. w/ Committee on Trade and Industry	Substitute Bill to HB 4106	Rep. Garcia (J.E.)	Strengthening the powers and functions of the Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan (AFAB), amending for the purpose RA 9728, otherwise known as the Freeport Area of Bataan (FAB) Act of 2009	<p>The Committee, co-presided by Rep. Edwin Ong (2nd District, Northern Samar), Vice Chair of the Committee on Economic Affairs, and Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, Vice Chair of the Committee on Trade and Industry, approved the Substitute Bill to HB 4106 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Representatives from the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), <i>Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas</i> (BSP), and Bureau of Local Employment (BLE) of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) expressed their support for the bill.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HB 4462	Rep. Garcia (J.E.)	Creating and establishing a special defense economic zone (SpeDEZ) inside the Government Arsenal Defense Industrial Estate located in Camp Gen. Antonio Luna in Limay, Bataan, and creating for this purpose the Special Defense Economic Zone Authority (SpeDEZA), appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 4462 with amendments.</p> <p>Department of National Defense (DND) Government Arsenal Director Jonathan Martir and DND Internal Audit Service Chief Ronald Patrick Rubin manifested their support for the bill.</p>
Food Security (Special Committee)	Substitute Bill to HBs 2818, 4354, 5190, 4422, 4337 & 4805	Reps. Suansing (E.), Romero, Alejano, Abayon, Salon, and Aglipay-Villar	Integrated Urban Agriculture Act	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Leo Rafael Cueva (2 nd District, Negros Occidental), approved the Substitute Bill to the six bills.

Continuation... Food Security (Special Committee)	HB 2496	Rep. Estrella	Providing for a system of redistributing and recycling food surplus to promote food security	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate HBs 2496 and 4675.
	HB 4675	Rep. Nieto	Mandating the donation of all surplus or left over but still edible foods to charitable institutions and foundations by all restaurants, hotels, supermarkets, fast food chains, and other similar food establishments and providing penalties for violations thereof	Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Nutritionist Dietician Laraine Villaver and Department of Agriculture (DA) - Agriculture Training Institute (ATI) Engineer Rex Mural both said that there is already an existing law on donating food surplus, which is RA 9803 or the Food Donation Act of 2009. Representatives from the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), National Nutrition Council (NNC), Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) and the Quezon City Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department expressed their support for the measures.
Government Enterprises and Privatization	Substitute Bill to HBs 40, 436, 2445, 3534, 3560, 4107 & 4578	Reps. Yap (A.), Bravo (A.), Vergara, Salon, and De Venecia	Amending certain provisions of PD 1467, as amended, otherwise known as the Revised Charter of the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) Act of 1995	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan (1 st District, North Cotabato), approved the Substitute Bill to the seven bills, as recommended by the technical working group (TWG) created for the purpose. The TWG was chaired by Rep. Arthur Yap (3 rd District, Bohol), who is also the author of HB 40. Among the proposed amendments to PD 1467 are the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include fisherfolk and farmers engaged in high value commercial crops, livestock, aquaculture and fisheries, and agro-forest plantations as additional clients of the PCIC; • Authorize the PCIC to provide index-based insurance to protect crops against the effect of climate change; and provide reinsurance for palay and corn crops; • Increase PCIC's authorized capital stock to P10 billion from P2 billion; and • Increase the penalty and imprisonment.
	Substitute Bill to HB 381	Rep. Mangaoang	Creating the Chico River Basin Development Authority, defining its powers, functions and responsibilities, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 381.
Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. with Public Works and Highways	HB 221	Rep. Villarica	Creating the National Water Resources Management Authority and appropriating funds therefor	The Joint Committee, co-presided by Rep. Sacdalan, Chair of the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization, and Rep. Celso Lobregat, Chair of the Committee on Public Works and Highways (1 st District, Zamboanga City), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on HBs 221, 479, 517, 2075, 5025 and HRs 240 and 930.
	HB 5025	Minority Leader Danilo Suarez	Amending RA 6234, or the law creating the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and dissolving the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority	
	HR 240	Minority Leader Danilo Suarez	Investigation into the performance of the MWSS vis-a-vis its concession	The Members of the Joint Committee noted that the seven measures have a similar intention of

Continuation... Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. with Public Works and Highways			agreements with Maynilad Water Services, Inc. and Manila Water Company, Inc.	establishing a comprehensive and unified approach in the management of the country's water resources.
	HR 930	Rep. Zarate	Investigation into the irregularities of setting water rates by the MWSS-regulatory office and concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad	The TWG will be chaired by Bagong Henerasyon Party-List Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy, author of HB 517.
	HB 479	Rep. Sy-Alvarado	Instituting a national dam safety program, establishing the National Dam Safety Authority, penalizing violations thereof	The Secretariat was instructed to undertake the necessary steps to facilitate the joint deliberation of these measures by the two Committees. HBs 221 and 5025 and HRs 240 and 930 were referred solely to the Committee on Government Enterprises; while HBs 479, 517, and 2075 were jointly referred to the two Committees.
	HB 517 & 2075	Rep. Herrera-Dy and Ramirez-Sato	Rationalizing the economic regulation of water utilities, creating the Water Regulatory Commission	<p>Minority Leader Rep. Danilo Suarez (3rd District, Quezon), author of HB 5025 and HR 240, underscored the need to find an alternative water source for Metro Manila, saying that water in Angat Dam, which supplies most of Metro Manila's water requirements, is gradually dwindling.</p> <p>Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City) inquired about the difference between the current functions of the MWSS and those of the proposed Water Regulatory Commission.</p> <p>Rep. Herrera-Dy explained that the proposed Water Regulatory Commission will exercise quasi-judicial functions which are not being exercised by the MWSS. She added that the regulatory functions of the MWSS, National Water Resources Board (NWRB), and Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) will be transferred to the proposed Commission.</p> <p>MWSS Chief Administrator Reynaldo Velasco recommended that the proposed law should take into consideration the concession agreements entered into by MWSS with Maynilad and Manila Water Company Inc., explaining that it is under these agreements that the MWSS Regulatory Office was created to manage the two concessionaires.</p> <p>On the concern of the Minority Leader about the dwindling water source for Metro Manila, Velasco said that the present administration is pushing for the immediate construction of Kaliwa Dam in General Nakar, Quezon Province and Laiban Dam in Tanay, Rizal as alternative water sources.</p> <p>Responding to the issue of water rates in the Philippines being higher than its neighboring countries', MWSS Chief Regulator Joel Yu claimed that other countries subsidize the cost of water supply which accounts for the lower rates.</p>

Health	Substitute Bill to HBs 225, 1975, 5120 & 5560	Reps. Roque (H.), Santos-Recto, Salo, and Tan (A.)	Providing universal health care for all Filipinos and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HBs 225, 1975, 5120, and 5560.
	HB 3142	Rep. Suansing (E.)	Increasing the bed capacity of Dr. Paulino J. Garcia (PJG) Memorial Research and Medical Center Extension Hospital in the Municipality of Talavera, Province of Nueva Ecija from 50 beds to 100 beds and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved HB 3142 subject to style.</p> <p>Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija), author of HB 3142, underscored the need to increase the bed capacity of PJG to accommodate the increasing number of persons seeking medical care, adding that the population of Talavera has grown dramatically but the bed capacity of the hospital remained at 50.</p> <p>Dr. Madelene Gabrielle Doromal of the Health Facilities Development Bureau, Department of Health (DOH), lauded the intent of the bill, explaining that the PJG's bed-patient ratio of 1:1149 already exceeds the standard set by the DOH of 1:800. However, she said that the problem of whether there is enough space to accommodate the proposed expansion needs to be resolved first.</p>
	HB 3361 in consolidation with HB 3750	Reps. Dalipe and Lobregat	Increasing the bed capacity of the Zamboanga City Medical Center (ZCMC) from 500 to 800, upgrading its general service facilities, authorizing the increase of its medical personnel and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved HB 3361 in consolidation with HB 3750.</p> <p>Rep. Manuel Jose "Mannix" Dalipe (2nd District, Zamboanga City), author of HB 3361, emphasized the need to increase the bed capacity of ZCMC to cater to the increasing population of the region.</p> <p>Doromal likewise cited land limitation as the primary concern of the DOH relative to the proposed expansion of the ZCMC.</p>
	HB 4824	Rep. Abellanosa	Increasing the bed capacity of St. Anthony Mother and Child Hospital (SAMCH) in Cebu City, from 25 to 100 beds and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved HB 4824 subject to style.</p> <p>Rep. Rodrigo Abellanosa (2nd District, Cebu City), author of HB 4824, said that SAMCH started operations in 1991 as a 25-bed capacity hospital and to date has remained as such, despite the rapid growth of population in Cebu and considering that the hospital also caters to residents of nearby areas such as the City of Talisay and the Municipality of Minglanilla.</p>
	HB 5442	Rep. Go (M.)	Increasing the bed capacity of Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC) from 500 to 800 and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved HB 5442 subject to style.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, author of HB 5442, said that the BGHMC, for 115 years, has committed itself to provide exceptional health care services to patients from Baguio City, the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), and Regions I and II. He sought for the passage of his bill that will enhance the capability of BGHMC to deliver better public health services.</p> <p>Doromal said that the upgrading of BGHMC is</p>

Continuation... Health				justified because of the increasing number of its patients.
	HB 4323	Rep. Olivarez	Establishing a maternal and child health care program and appropriating funds therefor to protect Filipino mothers and children from undernutrition	The Committee agreed to include HBs 4323 and 4365 in the substitute bill seeking to strengthen the national and local health and nutrition programs for pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls, infants and young children in the first 1,000 days.
	HB 4365	Rep. Zarate	Protecting Filipino mothers and children from malnutrition by establishing a maternal and child health care program and appropriating funds therefor	
Labor and Employment	HBs 55, 76, 170, 341, 556, 563, 709, 712, 895, 916, 1045, 1208, 1351, 1563, 1837, 1857, 1910, 2389, 3556, 3769, 3802, 4443, 4444, 5130 & 5264	Reps. Bag-ao, Aglipay-Villar, Nograles, (K.A.), Villarin, Casilao, Castelo, Angara-Castillo, Tan (A.), Roque (H.), De Jesus, Zarate, Bertiz, Herrera-Dy, Aragones, Villarica, Paduano, Go (M.), Yap (A.), Zubiri, Nieto, Mendoza, Tugna, and Bravo (A.)	Strengthening the security of tenure of workers in the private sector	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Randolph Ting (3rd District, Cagayan), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to draft a substitute bill to the 25 bills.</p> <p>Rep. Ting explained the importance of enacting a law that would strengthen the security of tenure of workers in the private sector and, at the same time, consider the interest of the employers, which would result in an inclusive sustainable growth of the country's labor sector.</p> <p>Rep. Edcel Lagman (1st District, Albay) and Rep. Mark Go (Baguio City), author of HB 3556, asserted that the bills' main intent is to strengthen the security of tenure of workers, adding that employees who successfully complete a six-month probationary period should be hired as regular employees.</p> <p>Rep. Raymond Democrito Mendoza (Party-List, TUCP), author of HB 4444, informed the Committee that several consultative meetings with the labor groups have been conducted by the Committee relative to the proposed law.</p> <p>Representatives from the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) and the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII) objected to the complete prohibition of all forms of contractualization, as what HB 4444 proposes. They argued that prohibiting subcontracting, which is a form of contractualization, is not feasible especially for industries that hire employees on a seasonal basis to meet the demands of a particular season.</p> <p>Several Members of the Committee suggested the inclusion of a provision in the proposed law that would define and set the parameters for "seasonal employment" so as to curtail possible abuses.</p> <p>The stakeholders present were requested to submit their position papers on the bills for consideration by the TWG.</p>
Legislative Franchises	Substitute Bill to HB 4169	Rep. Villafuerte	Granting the Bicol Light and Power Corporation a franchise to construct, install, establish, operate, own, manage and maintain distribution systems for the conveyance of electric power to the end-	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Franz "Chicoy" Alvarez (1st District, Palawan), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 4169.

Continuation... Legislative Franchises			users in the towns of Baao, Balatan, Bato, Buhi, Bula, Nabua, and in the City of Iriga, all in the Province of Camarines Sur	
	Substitute Bill to HB 4380	Rep. Almonte	Granting the Malindang Broadcasting Network Corporation a franchise to construct, install, establish, operate and maintain radio and television broadcasting stations throughout the Philippines	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 4380.
	HB 3243	Rep. Salceda	Extending the franchise granted to Jorge Bayona under RA 8158, assigning it in favor of PBN Broadcasting Inc. and renewing the term for another 25 years from the date of the effectivity of this Act	The Committee approved HB 3243 subject to compliance with the Committee's template for legislative franchises on broadcasting.
	HB 4302	Rep. Salimbangon	Renewing the franchise granted to Cebu Broadcasting Company under RA 7963, or the law granting the Cebu Broadcasting Company a franchise to construct, install, operate and maintain radio and television broadcasting stations within the Philippines for another 25 years from the effectivity of this Act	The Committee approved HB 4302 subject to compliance with the Committee's template for legislative franchises on broadcasting.
	HB 5479	Rep. Vargas	Renewing the franchise granted to Vanguard Radio Network Company, Inc. under RA 7529	The Committee approved HB 5479 subject to the submission of the position paper of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) specifically on the status of the company's registration with SEC.
	HB 4342	Rep. Salimbangon	Renewing the franchise granted to Pacific Broadcasting System, Inc. under RA 7967	The Committee deferred the consideration of HB 4342.
	HB 4343	Rep. Salimbangon	Renewing the franchise granted to Philippine Broadcasting Corporation under RA 7962	The Committee deferred the consideration of HB 4343.
Tourism	Substitute Bill to HB 614	Rep. Roman	Declaring Pilis Falls in Barangay Palili, Municipality of Samal, Province of Bataan an ecotourism site and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee chaired by Rep. Lucy Gomez (4 th District, Leyte), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 614.
	Substitute Bill to HB 623	Rep. Gonzalez	Declaring the stretch of beaches that line the Albay West Coast in the Third District of the Province of Albay as tourist spots and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 623.
	Substitute Bill to HB 625	Rep. Gonzalez	Declaring the Municipality of Jovellar in the Province of Albay an ecotourism zone and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 625.
	Substitute Bills to HB 1014 & HB 1015	Deputy Speaker Abueg	Declaring Kapangyan Falls and the Gangub Cave both in the Municipality of Bataraza, Province of Palawan as tourist destinations, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Committee Reports on the Substitute Bill to HB 1014 and the Substitute Bill to HB 1015.
	HBs 2010, 2014 & 2015	Rep. Deloso-Montalla	Declaring the Sagrada Familia caves and Mts. Tapulao and Pinatubo in Zambales as ecotourism zones, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HBs 2010, 2014 and 2015. Department of Tourism (DOT) Undersecretary Falconi Millar expressed support for the bills.

Continuation... Tourism	HBs 2111, 2488, 2489 & 2490	Deputy Speaker Abueg and Rep. Suansing (E.)	Declaring certain areas in the Provinces of Palawan and Nueva Ecija as tourist destinations, providing for their development and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HBs 2111, 2488, 2489 and 2490.
	HBs 2128 & 2468	Reps. Uy (J.) and Dimaporo (M.K.)	Declaring the Province of Misamis Oriental and the Province of Lanao del Norte as tourism development areas, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HBs 2128 and 2468.
	HB 2525	Rep. Mercado	Creating the Limasawa Tourism Development Authority	The Committee approved HB 2525.
	HB 2527	Rep. Mercado	Declaring Guinsaugon eco-adventure park in Southern Leyte as the Guinsaugon Eco-Adventure National Park	The Committee approved HB 2527 in principle. The DOT was requested to submit its position paper on the bill.
Transportation	Substitute Bill to HBs 1029 & 1288	Reps. Manalo and Baguilat	Establishing the Philippine Ship Registry Act	The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 1029 and 1288 subject to style.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 593, 755, 2305, 2742, 5104 & 5363	Reps. Velarde, Aglipay-Villar, Castelo, Biazon, and Olivarez	Mandating the installation of monitoring devices in public utility vehicles (PUVs), providing penalties for violations thereof	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill, adopting the recommendations of the technical working group (TWG) that discussed the bill comprehensively. The TWG was chaired by BUHAY Party-List Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr.
	HB 4102	Rep. Tambunting	Providing for the development and upgrading of the Clark International Airport (CRK) in Pampanga to accommodate more international and domestic flights and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to deliberate further on the four measures. The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Noel Villanueva (3rd District, Tarlac). Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC) Assistant Vice President Darwin Cunanan apprised the Committee of the current status and future developments of CRK.
	HR 174	Rep. Villanueva	Urging the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to implement a dual Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA)-Clark International Airport system for greater efficiency in Philippine air transportation	Cunanan said that the airport accommodates domestic flights to Cebu, Kalibo, Davao, Caticlan, Puerto Princesa, Busuanga, and El Nido, as well as chartered flights to Balesin Island in Quezon Province and international flights to Incheon, Hongkong, Singapore, Macau, Dubai, Busan, and Doha. He added that there are ongoing negotiations to make available more flights to other destinations.
	HR 327	Rep. Gonzales (A.D.)	Calling for the development of CRK	Cunanan likewise discussed the proposed passenger terminal building in Clark which will expand its existing terminal capacity and taxiways to accommodate more passengers and air carriers. The terminal building project consists of three phases, with the first phase targeted to be completed by 2020 and the rest by 2032.
	HR 391	Re. Lazatin	Urging the DOTr to fast-track the development and upgrading of the CRK to provide better alternative to decongest the NAIA and for the greater efficiency of the air and land transport industry in the Philippines	
	HR 267	Rep. Biron	Inquiry into the prohibitive, unconscionable, deceptive, unfair and opportunistic pricing of domestic air carriers specifically on the purchase of tickets that would fly on the same day	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to deliberate further on the issues raised in HRs 267 and 723 in its next meeting. The TWG will be chaired by the Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Edgar Sarmiento (1st District, Samar).

Continuation... Transportation	HR 723	Rep. Veloso	Inquiry into the excessive airfares being collected by the Philippine Airlines (PAL) and Cebu-Pacific Air for their Manila-Tacloban/Tacloban- Manila routes during peak season	<p>Reps. Ferjanel Biron M.D. (4th District, Iloilo) and Vicente "Ching" Veloso (3rd District, Leyte), respective authors of HRs 267 and 723, sought an explanation from the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) on the exorbitant airfares being charged to passengers by domestic air carriers. CAB Executive Director Carmelo Arcilla explained that the airline industry is a "highly market-driven industry" such that airfare rates depend on market forces.</p> <p>Arcilla said that while CAB has already ceased regulating airfare rates pursuant to EO 219 series of 1995, it still exercises its oversight functions to ensure that fares are reasonable and nondiscriminatory following the provisions of RA 776.</p> <p>Rep. Veloso argued that EO 219 may have liberalized the air transportation industry but this does not diminish the power of CAB under RA 776 to fix and determine the rates, charges, or fees charged by air carriers.</p>
Veterans Affairs and Welfare	Substitute Resolution to HR 53	Rep. Alejano	Calling for a review of RA 8220 in order to resolve the alleged discrepancies in the interpretation of the computation of the pension of retired chief master sergeants (CMS) and senior master sergeants (SMS)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2nd District, Pangasinan), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Resolution to HR 53, based on the recommendations of the technical working group (TWG) that was created to study the resolution.</p> <p>Department of National Defense (DND) Undersecretary Eduardo Del Rosario gave assurance to the crafting of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA 8220 to have a clear basis for the computation of the pension due to retired CMS and SMS.</p> <p>RA 8220, that was enacted in 1996, created the ranks of chief master sergeant/master chief petty officer and senior master sergeant/senior chief petty officer in the enlisted ranks of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 1128 & 1262	Reps. Alejano and Biazon	Providing for the payment of veterans' pensions and other benefits pursuant to RA 6948, as amended, or the law standardizing and upgrading the benefits for military veterans and their dependents and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the Substitute Bill to HBs 1128 and 1262 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Philippine Veterans Administration Office (PVAO) Administrator Ernesto Carolina made the following recommendations on the bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt the title of HB 1262, which reads as "Mandating the use of proceeds from the development, lease, or use of certain government properties for payment of pensions and other benefits of the veterans;" • Delete the proviso in Sec. 4 (Funding Source) which provides that "any shortfall in the payment of pensions and benefits to veterans and military retirees shall be settled by the national government from other sources;" and • Specify in the bill the following

<p>Continuation... Veterans Affairs and Welfare</p>				<p>additional benefits for veterans and their dependents: hospitalization, health care, education, and death and burial assistance.</p> <p>Del Rosario recommended that a separate board, to be headed by the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) and with members mostly coming from among the veterans, must be created to manage the lease, development or use of the VFP properties.</p> <p>In the case of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC), Del Rosario suggested that it be not included within the scope of the bill since there is another bill pending with this Committee which seeks to grant juridical personality to VMMC.</p> <p>VMMC Director Dominador Chiong agreed with Del Rosario.</p> <p>Rep. Raymond Democrito Mendoza (Party-List, TUCP) supported the position of Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP) President Bonifacio de Gracia who objected to the provision in the bill that allows the proceeds from the lease of the VFP industrial complex to be used for paying the pension and other benefits of veterans, military retirees and their dependents and for preserving and developing military shrines. They both said that the proceeds from such lease are used to fund the operations of the VFP.</p> <p>BCDA Executive Vice President Aileen Zosa stated that there is no problem with BCDA managing the VFP properties, but she suggested to the Committee that the bill should carry provisions identifying the covered properties and the nature and use of the property, as well as allocating funds for property development.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Housing and Urban Development (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 449, 1518, 1721, 3375, 3639 & 5114	Reps. Belmonte (J.C.), Macapagal-Arroyo, Biazon, Castelo, Romero, and Bagatsing	Creating the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHUD), defining its mandate, powers and functions, providing funds therefor	<p>The joint technical working group (TWG), co-chaired by Rep. Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN) of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Jose Christopher Belmonte (6th District, Quezon City), Vice Chair of the Committee on Housing and Urban Development, will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>The TWG agreed on the following points, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redefine "informal settler families" as those households living in a lot, whether private or public, without

Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ Housing and Urban Development (Technical Working Group)				<p>consent of the property owner; those without legal claim over the land being occupied; those living in danger areas such as esteros, railroad tracks, garbage dumps, riverbanks, shorelines and waterways; and those living in other government or public lands or facilities not intended for habitation (Section 3); and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exclude the properties of the Social Security System (SSS) from the lands to be designated for housing and urban and rural development (Section 26). <p>The TWG agreed to discuss the structure and powers and functions of the proposed DHUD in its next meeting.</p>
Human Rights (Technical Working Group)	HBs 491, 576, 3468 & 3895	Reps. Turabin-Hataman, Panganiban, Tan (S.), and Escudero	Prohibiting racial, ethnic and religious discrimination	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by AMIN Party-List Rep. Sitti Djalia Turabin-Hataman, agreed to draft a substitute bill to HBs 491, 576, 3468, and 3895 in its next meeting.</p> <p>The TWG agreed to use HB 491, authored by Rep. Turabin-Hataman, as its working draft.</p> <p>The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) were requested to submit their comments on Sections 7 (Duty of the CHR) and 11 (Administrative Proceedings and Sanctions) for the TWG's consideration.</p>
People's Participation (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 249 and 568	Reps. Bordado and Canama	Creating a system of partnership between local governments and civil society organizations through the establishment of a people's council in every local government unit (LGU), prescribing its powers and functions	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by San Jose del Monte City Rep. Florida "Rida" Robes, approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 249 and 568 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>The substitute bill will be submitted to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p>

AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Food Security (Special Committee)	Briefing by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) on the FAO global initiatives to raise public awareness on food losses and waste and on the relevant sustainable development goals (SDGs)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Leo Rafael Cueva (2nd District, Negros Occidental), listened to the briefing conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on the global initiatives to raise public awareness on food losses and waste, and on the relevant SDGs.</p> <p>Tamara Palis-Duran, FAO programme assistant, discussed the impact of food loss and waste (FLW), the strategies to reduce FLW, and the holistic and environmentally sustainable approach in addressing the problem.</p> <p>Palis-Duran said that the FLW issue is relevant to three of the 17 SDGs that the UN-FAO intends to attain:</p>

<p>Continuation... Food Security (Special Committee)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns; • Goal 1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere; and • Goal 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. <p>She also presented the recommendations of the UN's Committee on World Food Security on reducing food loss and wastage, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve data collection and knowledge sharing; • Develop effective strategies; • Create an enabling environment through responsive policies, investments, and incentives; and • Improve the coordination of policies, strategies and actions. <p>The UN Committee on World Food Security was set up in 1974 as an intergovernmental body to serve as a forum to the UN system for review and follow up of food security policies. (Source: UNSCN website)</p>
<p>Veterans Affairs and Welfare</p>	<p>Briefing by the Philippine Veterans Bank (PVB) on its latest operational and financial report and its plans, programs and activities for the welfare of the veterans, their surviving spouses and dependents</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2nd District, Pangasinan) listened to the briefing conducted by the PVB.</p> <p>PVB Chair and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Roberto de Ocampo informed the Committee that the bank, including its 60 branches nationwide, is currently undergoing rehabilitation and modernization for the purpose of upgrading its rating and financial status, increasing its portfolio, and professionalizing its management team.</p> <p>PVB President Nonilo Cruz said that the Bank was created in 1963 pursuant to RA 3518. As of December 2016, Cruz reported that PVB's total assets reached P51.2 billion and total liabilities reached P46.6 billion, or a total net worth of P4.6 billion.</p> <p>Cruz added that the PVB currently signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) for a pension loan program for veterans and retirees. The PVB likewise grants salary loans to local government units (LGUs), and corporate loans to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).</p> <p>Replying to the question of several Members regarding the alleged non-issuance of dividends and stock certificates by the PVB since 2009, De Ocampo said that it could be attributed to the ongoing rehabilitation of the bank. He promised to provide the Committee with the names of the stockholders who have already received their stocks certificates.</p>