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BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 5633 & SB 1304	Rep. Hofer and Sen. Recto	Promoting universal access to quality tertiary education by providing for free tuition and other school fees in state universities and colleges, local universities and colleges, and state-run technical-vocational institutions, establishing the tertiary education subsidy and student loan program, strengthening the unified student financial assistance system for tertiary education, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Ann Hofer (2nd District, Zamboanga Sibugay), Chair of the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education, and Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero, Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture, reconciled the disagreeing provisions of HB 5633 and SB 1304.</p> <p>Also present in the bicameral conference committee meeting were the following: Reps. Evelina Escudero (1st District, Sorsogon), Ben Evardone (Eastern Samar), Antonio Tinio (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS), and Arlene Arcillas (1st District, Laguna); on the part of the Senate, Senators Ralph Recto, Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV, and Sherwin "Win" Gatchalian.</p>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Cooperatives Development	HR 120	Rep. Bravo (A.)	Inquiry into the alleged violations in the contracts between oil palm plantation cooperatives in Southern Palawan and Agumil Phils. Inc. (AGPI) which put the cooperatives in huge debts and displaced farmers from their own lands	<p>The Committee, chaired by AGAP Party-List Rep. Rico Geron, will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 120 in its next meeting.</p> <p>COOP-NATCCO Party-List Rep. Anthony Bravo, author of HR 120, hopes that this inquiry will address the plight of farmers in Southern Palawan who were displaced from their own lands, lost their livelihood, and are in huge debts because of the one-sided contracts they entered into with AGPI, allegedly favoring the latter.</p> <p>Based on HR 120, 12 cooperatives in Southern Palawan entered into separate but uniform agreements with AGPI to engage in palm oil production within their respective landholdings in 2007, namely, Production, Technical and Marketing Agreement (PTMA) and Management Service Agreement (MSA). The cooperatives also secured a loan from the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) Puerto Princesa Lending Center for the development of the palm oil plantation, which required them to surrender their land titles to LBP.</p>

Continuation... Cooperatives Development				<p>The cooperatives and their farmer-members are now clamoring for the termination of their contracts with AGPI for being one-sided, aside from the fact that the terms of the contract were not properly explained to them, and that the management of the plantation's operations and finances were completely controlled by AGPI.</p> <p>The Committee allowed the representatives from the Department of Agrarian Reform's (DAR) provincial office in Palawan, Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), LBP, AGPI, and the affected palm oil cooperatives present in the meeting to express their views on the issues raised.</p> <p>CDA Chair Orlando Ravanera promised to submit the report on the investigation on this issue initiated by the Office of the Cabinet Secretary.</p> <p>The Committee also requested the resource persons to submit all the documents pertinent to the issues at hand, including a copy of the contracts or agreements entered into with the cooperatives.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Committee relative to HR 120 will be held in Palawan to allow other members of the aggrieved cooperatives and other persons involved to attend the meeting.</p>
	HR 323	Rep. Bravo (A.)	Investigation into the present status of Kampilan Multi-Purpose Cooperative (KMPC) and the existing policies affecting the collection of loans extended by cooperatives	<p>The Committee agreed to table HR 323.</p> <p>KMPC Chief Operating Officer Joel Canuel reported that cooperatives are now placed second in the "order of preference" in the payment of loans by government employees through automatic salary deduction, as provided for under the 2017 General Appropriations Act (GAA). Cooperatives are now in the same rank as the non-stock savings and loan associations, he added.</p> <p>Department of Budget and Management (DBM) OIC Director for Legal Service Maria Paula Domingo confirmed this development, adding that she will recommend to the DBM leadership the adoption of the same provision in the next year's GAA.</p> <p>Based on HR 323, the KMPC claims that it is losing heavily due to the difficulty in collecting loans from its borrowers, who are members of the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP). The KMPC attributed this problem mainly to the cooperatives' being placed in the lower priority among entities that can collect loan payments through salary deductions, based on the 2016 GAA.</p>
Human Rights	HB 158	Rep. Belmonte (J.C.)	Establishing the National Committee for the Prevention of Torture (NCPT), the national preventive mechanism against torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment in the	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2nd District, Zambales), will deliberate further on HBs 158 and 750 in another meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Deloso-Montalla explained that the</p>

Continuation... Human Rights			Philippines, providing a framework for implementing obligations under the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT), and appropriating funds therefor	government must establish a national preventive mechanism (NPM) against torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment in compliance with the OPCAT which obligates each State party to the Convention to maintain, designate or establish an NPM at the domestic level.
	HB 750	Rep. Aglipay-Villar	Establishing a national preventive mechanism (NPM) against torture in the Philippines	<p>Atty. Eunice Sta. Maria of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) averred that the CHR should be designated as the country's NPM since its mandate also involves investigation and monitoring of the treatment and condition of detainees.</p> <p>However, representatives from the Department of Justice (DOJ), Public Attorney's Office (PAO), and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) opined that the NPM must be a newly created independent body separate from the CHR.</p> <p>Almost all the provisions of HB 158 were adopted by the Committee, subject to style and amendment, except the provisions pertaining to the structure of the proposed NPM, which still need further discussion.</p> <p>The resource persons present were requested to submit their respective position papers on the proposed law.</p>
Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples	HB 4415	Rep. Baguilat	Recognizing and institutionalizing IPs' educational systems within the Philippine educational systems, promulgating the procedures for the establishment, recognition, management and evaluation of IP schools, appropriating the necessary government funds, financial assistance, incentives, and support	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Nancy Catamco (2nd District, North Cotabato), approved HB 4415 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Representatives from the Department of Education (DepEd), Legal Assistance Center for Indigenous Filipinos (PANLIPI), and the Episcopal Commission on Indigenous Peoples (ECIP) of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) expressed support for the bill.</p>
	HR 525	Rep. Catamco	Institutionalizing the Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan (ADSDPP) by mandating all government agencies and instrumentalities, including local government units (LGUs), to incorporate ADSDPP into their respective programs, services and annual budget thereto	The Committee adopted HR 525.
	HBs 391 & 4959	Reps. Panganiban and Rodriguez (M.)	Protect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples (IPs) affected by mining operations in ancestral domains, amending for the purpose RA 7942, otherwise known as the Philippine Mining Act of 1995	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on HBs 391 and 4959.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Jose Panganiban Jr. (Party-List, ANAC-IP), author of HB 391.</p> <p>Rodolfo Velasco Jr., chief of the Mine Safety, Environment and Social Development Division of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), said that while the Bureau supports the bill, it believes that the proposed 20% share of the IPs in the gross output of mining operations, representing royalty payments, are too high.</p>

Continuation... Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples				<p>This view was shared by Ronald Recidoro, vice president of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, who said that the proposed 20% royalty, under HB 391, will make mining unprofitable.</p> <p>Ifugao Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr. suggested that safeguards be put in place to ensure that royalty payments will be utilized for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the IPs.</p> <p>Kalinga Rep. Allen Jesse Mangaoang requested the MGB to submit data on the amount of royalties paid by mining companies to IPs since 2002. The MGB was also directed to submit pertinent documents that will determine whether the royalties being received by the indigenous cultural communities and IPs are sufficient.</p> <p>The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) was also instructed to submit data on complaints filed by the IPs with the NCIP against mining companies as well as all memoranda of agreement between IPs and mining companies that the agency has facilitated.</p> <p>The ECIP expressed support for the bills and requested that it be invited in the TWG meetings.</p>
Legislative Franchises	Substitute Bill to 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, chaired by Rep. Franz "Chicoy" Alvarez (1 st District, Palawan), approved the Substitute Bill to HB 3243 and its corresponding Committee Report.
	Substitute Bill to HB 4302	Rep. Salimbangon	Renewing the franchise granted to Cebu Broadcasting Company under RA 7963	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 4302 and its corresponding Committee Report.
	Substitute Bill to HB 5479	Rep. Vargas	Renewing the franchise granted to Vanguard Radio Network Company, Inc. under RA 7529	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 5479 and its corresponding Committee Report.
	HBs 4145, 4180, 4342, 4343 & 5632	Reps. Lagman, Acosta, Salimbangon, and Nograles (K.A.)	Renewing the franchises granted to Filipinas Broadcasting Network, Incorporated under RA 8168; DXRA-RMC (Rizal Memorial Colleges) under RA 8159; Pacific Broadcasting System, Inc. under RA 7967; Philippine Broadcasting Corporation under RA 7962; and University of Mindanao under RA 8170	The Committee approved the five bills subject to compliance with the Committee's template for bills on legislative franchises on broadcasting.
	HB 4600	Rep. Treñas	Granting the Deus Amor Est. Broadcasting, Inc. a franchise to construct, establish, install, maintain and operate for commercial purposes and in the public interest, radio and television broadcast stations in the Philippines	<p>The Committee approved HB 4600 subject to compliance with the Committee's template for legislative franchises on broadcasting.</p> <p>Before the bill's approval, Rep. Arthur Defensor Jr. (3rd District, Iloilo) sponsored HB 4600 in behalf of the author, Iloilo City Rep. Jerry Treñas.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur) if the company is asking for any tax exemption, in relation to Section 9 (Tax Provisions) of the bill, Rep. Defensor said that it is not asking for such privilege, adding that</p>

Continuation... Legislative Franchises				<p>broadcasting stations pay all the taxes due to the government.</p> <p>Upon the suggestion of Rep. Defensor, the Committee agreed to delete Section 9 of the bill. Likewise, Section 1 (Nature and Scope of Franchise) of the bill and other pertinent provisions will be amended to indicate that Deus Amor Est. Broadcasting, Inc. shall operate radio and television broadcast stations for "non-commercial purposes."</p>
Muslim Affairs	HB 2953	Rep. Papandayan	Prohibiting the detention of and mandating the immediate release of cadavers of Muslims from government hospitals, morgues and other offices with facilities for deceased bodies on grounds of nonpayment of hospital bills or medical expenses	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Mauyag "Jun" Papandayan Jr. (2nd District, Lanao del Sur), instructed the Secretariat to prepare a Substitute Bill to HB 2953, taking into consideration the recommendations of the resource persons.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Bai Sandra Sema (1st District, Maguindanao) presided over the meeting to allow Rep. Papandayan to sponsor his bill.</p> <p>Rep. Papandayan said that HB 2953 requires the immediate release of bodies of dead Muslims from government or private hospitals, morgues and other similar establishments to allow their family to bury the dead within 24 hours after death.</p> <p>This is in accordance with the Islamic belief that the soul of the deceased is disturbed if his/her body is not laid to rest in the ground before the next call to prayer or within a 24-hour period after death.</p> <p>Rodel Flores, chief of the Department of Health's (DOH) Regulatory Compliance Division, said that RA 9439 already prohibits the detention of patients in hospitals and medical clinics on grounds of nonpayment of hospital bills or medical expenses. He said that this law may be amended to clearly indicate the immediate release of cadavers of dead Muslims.</p> <p>Representatives from the DOH and the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) expressed support for the bill.</p> <p>The Philippine Hospital Association (PHA) also supports the bill, but requested that a provision be included in the proposed law providing tax credit to hospitals or morgues to cover uncollected billings from the relatives of deceased patients.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to include in the bill a provision amending Section 2 of RA 9439 which will require hospitals, morgues and similar establishments to release the cadaver of deceased patient within a maximum of 24 hours from the time of death.</p>
Natural Resources	HB 133	Rep. Batocabe	Enhancing the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), providing for its management, and repealing for the purpose RA 7586, as amended, otherwise known as the NIPAS Act of 1992	The Committee, chaired by LPGMA Party-List Rep. Arnel Ty, agreed to consolidate HBs 133 and 177.

Continuation... Natural Resources	HB 177	Rep. Ramirez-Sato	Ensuring the preservation and management of protected areas, amending for the purpose RA 7586	<p>The Committee agreed to consolidate the eight bills with the proposed ENIPAS law.</p> <p>It also created a technical working group (TWG) to be chaired by Occidental Mindoro Rep. Josephine Ramirez-Sato to fine-tune the bills, particularly their technical descriptions, before incorporating the same into the ENIPAS bill.</p> <p>Rijaldia Santos, director of the Resource Data Analysis Branch of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), and Theresa Mundita Lim, director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) expressed support for the bills.</p> <p>The resource persons present were requested to submit their position paper for reference by the TWG.</p>
	HB 3679	Rep. Cueva	Declaring the area covered by the Northern Negros forest reserve situated in Negros Occidental, as a protected area under the category of natural park and providing for its management	
	HB 3870	Rep. Escudero	Declaring the Taal Volcano Island National Park in Batangas, and its watershed areas, a protected area under the category of protected landscape and providing for its management	
	HB 4058	Rep. Aumentado	Declaring the Chocolate Hills as national patrimony natural heritage park and geological monuments penalizing their pillage, destruction and defacement	
	HB 4126	Rep. Sahali	Declaring the Turtle Islands located in Tawi-Tawi, as a protected area	
	HB 4186	Rep. Ramos	Declaring the Bulusan Volcano located in Sorsogon, as a protected area under the category of natural park and providing funds for its management	
	HB 4284	Rep. Evardone	Declaring the Samar Island Natural Park, situated in Northern Samar and Eastern Samar, as a protected area and its peripheral areas as buffer zones, providing for its management	
	HB 4698	Rep. Bordado	Declaring the Mt. Isarog Natural Park in Camarines Sur, as a protected area, providing for its management	
	HB 5107	Rep. Marquez	Declaring the Northwest Panay Peninsula located in Aklan and Antique as a protected area under the category of natural park, providing for its management	
Population and Family Relations	Substitute Bill to HBs 865, 2989, 4708 & 4980	Reps. Yap (V.), Gatchalian, Antonino, and Batocabe	Protecting senior citizens from violence, defining elder abuse, and prescribing penalties therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sol Aragon (3rd District, Laguna), approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 865, 2989, 4708 and 4980 and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>The bill will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for review of its funding provision.</p>
	HBs 2157, 2653, 2775, 3934 & 5038	Reps. Pineda, Campos, Gonzaga, Zarate, and Batocabe	Amending RA 7432, as amended by RA 9994, otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the five bills.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Ma. Lourdes Aggabao (4th District, Isabela).</p> <p>BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate, author of HB 3934, said that his bill grants additional and better benefits to senior citizens than what are presently provided for under existing laws. For his part, AKO BICOL Party-List Rep. Rodel Batocabe, author of HB 5038, explained that his bill seeks to grant a P500 monthly social pension</p>

Continuation... Population and Family Relations				<p>to senior citizens, whether or not they are indigent. The bill likewise creates a Joint Oversight Committee that will conduct a periodic review of the implementation of the law the results of which will serve as basis for any increase in the amount of pension.</p> <p>Coalition of Services of the Elderly, Inc. (COSE) Project Coordinator Aura Sevilla presented a study entitled: "The feasibility of a Universal Social Pension in the Philippines" conducted by COSE and HelpAge International. She emphasized that an effective pension system is critical not only to support the dignity of senior citizens in their later life, but also as part of a broader strategy to tackle poverty and inequality.</p> <p>Sevilla also mentioned that a universal social pension will close the pension coverage gap and provide a strong foundation for the development of a better pension system.</p> <p>Representatives from the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), COSE, Confederation of Older Persons Association of the Philippines (COPAP), and Federation of Senior Citizens Association of the Philippines (FSCAP) expressed their full support for the bills.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to be part of the TWG and to submit their position papers for its consideration.</p>
Public Works and Highways	HB 845	Rep. Villarica	Providing for safety measures for culverts or other similar flood or drainage systems maintained by government entities	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on HB 845.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales Jr. (3rd District, Pampanga).</p>
	HR 10	Rep. Lobregat	Urging the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) to support the proposed Zamboanga City Impounding Dam Project and to include it in the priority project listing of the national government	<p>The Committee, presided by Rep. Gonzales, adopted HR 10. It also agreed to create a TWG to discuss which government agency should implement such a large-scale project as the proposed Zamboanga City Impounding Dam Project.</p> <p>Rep. Lobregat, author of HR 10, emphasized that the proposed impounding dam project will address the water shortage and mitigate the effects of climate change in the City of Zamboanga and will also provide other benefits such as year-round irrigation and hydroelectric power to the city. He mentioned that his city has been suffering from scarce potable water supply especially during the dry season and El Niño phenomenon, and intense flooding during the rainy season.</p> <p>Engr. Demosthenes Redoble, technical specialist for water infrastructure of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Be Secure Project, presented to the Committee the results of a pre-feasibility study on the construction of the impounding dam in Zamboanga City.</p>

Continuation... Public Works and Highways				Redoble said that the best site for the project will be along the Tumaga River, south of Zamboanga City. He said the project is estimated to cost about US\$600 million that will provide the much needed potable water, hydroelectric power, and irrigation for the City of Zamboanga.
Tourism	HB 283	Rep. Dalog	Declaring the Municipality of Barlig in Mountain Province as a tourism development area and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Rep. Franz 'Chicoy' Alvarez (1 st District, Palawan), approved the Committee Reports on HBs 283, 615, 981, 1063, 1064 and 1065.
	HB 615	Rep. Roman	Declaring Barangay Tala in the Municipality of Orani, Province of Bataan as an ecotourism zone and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 981	Rep. Fortun	Declaring the City of Butuan a heritage tourism zone and appropriating funds therefor	
	HBs 1063, 1064 & 1065	Rep. Lanete	Declaring Porta Vega Beach, Kalanay Falls, and Manok Manok Island all located in the Province of Masbate as ecotourism sites, providing funds therefor	
	HBs 2734, 2735, 3175, 3412 & 4131	Deputy Speaker Eric Singson and Reps. Ortega (V.) and Bataoil	Declaring certain areas in the Provinces of Ilocos Sur, La Union, and Pangasinan as tourist destinations, providing for their development and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the five bills.
	HBs 3233, 3385 & 3634	Reps. Marquez, Mercado, and Bernos	Declaring certain areas in the Provinces of Aklan, Southern Leyte, Palawan, and Abra as ecotourism zones, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HBs 3233, 3385 and 3634.
	HB 4273	Rep. Acosta	Declaring the Province of Palawan as the Ecological Tourism Capital of the Philippines	The Committee approved HB 4273.
	HB 623	Rep. Gonzalez	Declaring the stretch of beaches that line the Albay West Coast in the 3 rd District of the Province of Albay as tourist spots and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee reconsidered its previous approval of HB 623 to allow the author, Rep. Fernando Gonzalez (3 rd District, Albay), to introduce an amendment to his bill, which is the inclusion of a technical description of the subject area.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Subcommittee on Judicial Reforms (Justice)	HBs 2746, 3464, 3608 & 4644	Reps. Alonte, Aragonese, Arcillas, and Malapitan	Creating additional branches of the Regional Trial Court (RTC), City Trial Court, and Municipal Trial Court (MTC) in certain cities and municipalities in the Province of Laguna and in Caloocan City, amending for this purpose Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980, as amended, and appropriating funds therefor	The Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso (3rd District, Leyte), approved HBs 2746, 3464, 3608 and 4644 subject to style.

Continuation... Subcommittee on Judicial Reforms (Justice)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 350, 547, 3275, 4748, 5216, 5233 & 5320	Deputy Speaker Quimbo, Reps. Escudero, Roque (H), Alejano, Chipeco, Speaker Alvarez, and Rep. Sy-Alvarado	Further strengthening the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) by providing for its powers and functions, and redefining, expanding, and rationalizing its organization, repealing for the purpose RAs 9417 and 2327 and Executive Order Nos. 1 and 2, series of 1986, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Subcommittee approved the draft Substitute Bill with amendments.</p> <p>Department of Justice (DOJ) Undersecretary Ricardo Paras III objected to the abolition of the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) and the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), as proposed in the bill. Paras argued that aside from the fact that abolishing these two agencies will not necessarily strengthen the OSG, the bill also violates the "one subject rule," which provides that a bill should embrace only one subject matter which shall be expressed in the title thereof.</p> <p>Rep. Veloso clarified that the intent of the bill is to "rightsize the bureaucracy" in line with the thrust of the national government. He claimed that these offices have overlapping functions with that of the OSG. He gave assurance that no one will be left out once the bill is passed into law.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agrarian Reform (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 5501 & 1396	Speaker Alvarez and Rep. Amante	Providing for a moratorium on/prohibition of the acceptance, processing, and approval of applications for land use conversion of irrigated lands, and irrigable lands with firm funding from the government to non-agricultural purposes	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu), approved the draft substitute bill subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>The bill will be reported out to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p>
Public Order and Security (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 1059, 1115, 1306, 1506, 1508, 1778, 2155, 2426, 2952 & 2993	Reps. Antonino, Alejano, Bataoil, Catamco, Pineda, Deputy Speaker Abu, Reps. Santos-Recto, and Matugas	Providing for the reorganization and modernization of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Abra Rep. Joseph Sto. Niño Bernos, will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>PNP Directorate for Plans (DPL) Senior Superintendent Crispulo Casilanan and Internal Affairs Service (IAS) Acting Legal Assistant Michael Darwin Bayotas presented the draft substitute bill which incorporates the unified amendments proposed by the PNP, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM).</p> <p>Rep. Arnolfo "Arnie" Teves Jr. (3rd District, Negros Oriental) commented that the Internal Affairs (IA) should not be placed directly under the Office of the PNP Chief, as proposed in Section 30 of the bill, in order to truly fulfill its mandate as "guardian of police integrity" with independence and impartiality.</p> <p>Rep. Bernos said that the proposed amendments submitted by the PNP, NAPOLCOM, and DILG will be discussed with the other authors of the bills.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p>People's Participation (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>Proposed policy dialogues and town hall meetings in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Committee Secretary Rolando Cronico, discussed the Committee's plan to conduct a series of policy dialogues and town hall meetings in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.</p> <p>The proposed activity, with the theme "Strengthening social protection, resilience, and inclusive development for marginalized people through citizens and civil society engagement," will include a discussion of the features of HB 1166 (in consolidation with HB 1615) or the People's Participation in Industry Cluster-based Programs and Projects Act. The proposed law was approved by the House on third reading in February of this year.</p> <p>Cronico said that the TWG plans to hold the first leg of the policy dialogues and town hall meetings in the Visayas during the first week of July 2017. The second and third leg to be held in Luzon and Mindanao are tentatively scheduled for August and September 2017, respectively. He added that the series of dialogues will be undertaken in close coordination with the International Center for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Governance (INCITEGov), which is committed to developing and operationalizing a policy agenda that links democratic politics, good governance, and development outcomes in critical reform areas within the country.</p> <p>The TWG will report to the mother Committee the preparations for the planned dialogues and town hall meetings.</p>
<p>Transportation (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>Status of operation and maintenance of the country's railway systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro Rail Transit 3 (MRT3) 	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, discussed the status of operation and maintenance of the railway systems in the country, specifically the Metro Rail Transit 3 (MRT3), Light Rail Transit 1 (LRT1), and LRT2.</p> <p>Rep Sarmiento said that the TWG's task is to determine the appropriate policy that will guide the present and future operations and maintenance of the country's railway systems.</p> <p>Busan Universal Rail, Inc. (BURI) legal counsel Charles Mercado presented the details of its P3.8 billion contract with the Department of Transportation (DOTr) signed in January 2016 for the maintenance of the MRT3, including the following components: maintenance of the rolling stock and depot equipment; total replacement of the signaling system; general overhaul of 43 coaches; and other maintenance works.</p> <p>BURI is a joint venture between South Korea's Busan Transportation Corporation (BTC) and four local partners namely: Edison Development and Construction (EDC), Tramarc Mercantile, Inc., TMICorp., and Castan Corporation.</p> <p>Defending BURI from accusations that it has not met its obligations under the contract, Mercado asserted that the company has complied with the terms of the contract and has even performed beyond what is required of it.</p> <p>With regard to the glitches in the MRT-3 operations such as train derailments and breakdowns, Mercado claimed that under the contract, BURI shall not be penalized for glitches attributed to the condition of the rails prior to the completion of the rail replacement program. He added that the factors that cause such glitches are design flaws, loading capacity, and the poor condition of the tracks.</p>

<p>Continuation... Transportation (Technical Working Group)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light Rail Transit Line 1 (LRT1) and Line 2 (LRT2) 	<p>Several House Members chided BURI for presenting questionable facts and figures which they believe is an attempt to mislead the Committee.</p> <p>PBA Party-List Rep. Jericho Jonas Nograles brought to the attention of the body the alleged violations committed during the procurement process, including the advance procurement of spare parts by the contractor even prior to the signing of the maintenance contract for the MRT3.</p> <p>DOTr Undersecretary Cesar Chavez opined that the Department has sufficient grounds to terminate the maintenance contract with BURI. He disclosed that the DOTr has already required BURI to explain why the contract should not be terminated, but it will still accept BURI's "catch-up plan" as part of the dispute resolution process.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu) acknowledged the intricacies of the government procurement process under RA 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act. The Deputy Speaker advised DOTr to carefully assess issues involving the procurement of services in the case of MRT3, as she also pointed out possible legal consequences in its move to terminate the contract with BURI.</p> <p>Atty. Hernando Cabrera, corporate secretary of the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA), presented the status of operation and maintenance of LRT 1 and 2.</p> <p>He reported that LRT1 is being operated and maintained by the Light Rail Manila Corporation (LRMC), a joint venture company of Metro Pacific Light Rail Corporation, AC Infrastructure Holdings Corporation (AC Infra), and Philippine Investment Alliance for Infrastructure.</p> <p>LRMC's legal counsel Philip Rañada disclosed that the LRMC is set to implement a P980 million LRT1 structural restoration project, which is expected to be completed in two years. Rañada explained that aside from enhancing passenger safety and overall riding experience, the restoration project complements LRMC's ongoing overhaul of LRT1 trains and upgrading of 20 stations.</p> <p>In the case of LRT2, Cabrera said the existing maintenance contract is renewed on a monthly basis after the one year extension of the five-year maintenance contract expired in 2013. Because of failed biddings, the maintenance contract with the TSPA Joint Venture (Telefonica Inc., Societe des Transports Intercommunaux de Bruxelles, Pacific Consultants International Inc., and APT Global Inc.) has been extended monthly for the last 42 months.</p> <p>Cabrera mentioned that the bidding of the LRT2 maintenance contract is being undertaken by the Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM) based on a memorandum of agreement between the PS-DBM and LRTA entered into during the previous administration.</p> <p>Chavez informed the Committee of the DOTr's move to privatize the LRT2's operation and maintenance. However, LRTA Administrator Reynaldo Berroya prefers the status quo. The LRTA, which operates LRT2, is a wholly-owned government corporation.</p>
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OTHER MATTERS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples	Request for an investigation filed by Danilo Mangahas on the alleged discrimination and humiliation against an indigenous person	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Nancy Catamco (2nd District, North Cotabato), discussed the request of Danilo Mangahas for an investigation of an incident involving an indigenous person who was allegedly not allowed to board a bus owned by Solid North Transit Inc.</p> <p>Mangahas is the founder and president of the Gawad Sulo Foundation, a non-profit organization which aims to empower deserving individuals in the field of politics, social welfare, entertainment, business, media, arts and other fields to promote nation-building by strengthening righteous leadership, helping poor communities, and promoting collaborative social and civic welfare activities.</p> <p>According to Mangahas, an Igorot was refused entry to a bus of Solid North Transit Inc. because he was wearing a <i>bahag</i>, the native garment worn by male members of the Igorots and other tribes. This incident was captured by a video camera and made its way to the internet which drew flak from a lot of netizens. There were also negative comments directed at the hapless Igorot, one of which purportedly came from a teacher who said that the Igorot should have known how to dress appropriately when making trips to the lowlands.</p> <p>Mangahas said that he brought this incident to the attention of the Committee to find out what actions have been taken by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to hold the Solid North Transit Inc. accountable for this blatantly discriminatory act. He also wants to know the actions taken by the Department of Education against the teacher who criticized the Igorot for wearing the <i>bahag</i>.</p> <p>Ian Buenafe, senior transportation development officer at the LTFRB, informed the Committee that a complaint against Solid North Transit was already filed with the agency and that a hearing on the matter is scheduled on June 14.</p> <p>Rozanno Rufino, coordinator of DepEd-Indigenous Peoples Education Office, requested the name of the said teacher and promised to look into the matter.</p>
Natural Resources	Election of subcommittee chairpersons	<p>The Committee, chaired by LPGMA Party-List Rep. Arnel Ty, elected the following subcommittee chairpersons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kalinga Rep. Allen Jesse Mangaoang - Subcommittee on Forestry; • Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo (2nd District, Lanao del Norte) - Subcommittee on Protected Areas; • Rep. Francisco Jose "Bingo" Matugas II (1st District, Surigao del Norte) - Subcommittee on Mining; • BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate - Subcommittee on Land Management; and • ABANG LINGKOD Party-List Rep. Joseph Stephen Paduano - Subcommittee on Water.