

Committee Daily Bulletin



17th Congress
First Regular Session

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Economic Affairs jt. w/ Trade and Industry	HBs 203, 359, 595, 905, 1923, 2033, 2461, 2745, 2927, 3342, 4168, & 5016	Deputy Speaker Abueg, Reps. Rodriguez (M.), Pichay, Savellano, Salimbangon, Marcos, Yap (A.), Acharon, Speaker Alvarez, Reps. Evardone, Villafuerte, and Go (M.)	Establishing special economic zones in certain parts of the country, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Joint Committee, co-presided by Rep. Arthur Yap (3rd District, Bohol), Chair of the Committee on Economic Affairs, and Rep. Maximo Rodriguez Jr. for the Committee on Trade and Industry, approved the 12 bills.</p> <p>All the authors of the bills present in the meeting underscored the importance of establishing economic zones, saying that they attract investments, generate job opportunities, and accelerate economic growth outside Metro Manila, which is one of the major thrusts of the present administration.</p> <p>The representatives of the Departments of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Agrarian Reform (DAR), Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and Science and Technology (DOST), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and the <i>Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas</i> (BSP) expressed their support for the bills.</p> <p>On the other hand, the Department of Finance (DOF) views with concern the establishment of special economic zones given its implication on the fiscal position of the government. The Department explained that locators within these ecozones are granted fiscal or tax incentives which translate to foregone revenues for the government. However, majority of the Members suggested that the DOF view the same in a holistic sense taking into consideration the benefits that the country will reap from these ecozones which outweigh whatever revenues the government may lose in the process.</p>
Globalization and WTO (Special Committee)	HR 796	Rep. Casilao	Inquiry into the effects on the local livestock and poultry industry of the implementation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade – World Trade Organization's (GATT-WTO) policies and programs in the country	<p>The Committee, chaired by ANGKLA Party-List Rep. Jesulito Manalo, will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 796 in its next meeting.</p> <p>BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate, co-author of HR 796, said that the resolution seeks to inquire, in particular, the effect of the influx of cheap imported livestock and poultry products in the domestic market on the country's local livestock and poultry raisers.</p> <p>Representatives from the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF)-Committee on Poultry, Livestock and Feed Crops, National</p>

<p>Continuation... Globalization and WTO (Special Committee)</p>			<p>Federation of Hog Farmers, <i>Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura</i> (SINAG), Pilmico Foods Corporation, <i>Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas</i> (KMP), and IBON Foundation expressed their dismay at the inability of the government to protect the local livestock and poultry industry from unfair competition from these cheap imports most of which are smuggled goods.</p> <p>Rep. Manuel "Chiquiting" Sagarbarria (2nd District, Negros Oriental) inquired if the importation of pork is encouraged by demand or price of the product.</p> <p>SINAG Executive Director Jayson Cainglet said that it must be the lower price of imported products, adding that foreign growers receive subsidies from their government which allow them to export pork at a lower price.</p> <p>Tariff Commissioner Ernesto Albano said that even with the GATT-WTO, there are safety measures in place that are designed to protect domestic producers.</p> <p>The Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS), and Federation of Poultry Raisers will be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) reported on the developments concerning the implementation of GATT-WTO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Information Technology Agreement (ITA-II), an executive order was signed on April 27, 2017 that eliminates tariffs on products covered by the ITA on a staggered basis; • On Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), the Philippines has already submitted the Instrument of Ratification last 26 October 2016. This agreement, which aims to streamline customs procedures and regulations globally, has entered into force on 22 February 2017 after two-thirds of the WTO membership completed their domestic ratification; and • On the Philippines' 5th Trade Policy Review, a review of the Philippines' trade policies, like all members of the WTO, is being undertaken by the WTO for the purpose of facilitating the smooth functioning of the multilateral trading system. <p>DTI's Bureau of International Trade Relations Assistant Director Angelo Salvador Benedictos also informed the Committee that the 11th Session of the WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11) will be scheduled in Buenos Aires, Argentina on December 10 to 13, 2017. The Philippine delegation will be headed by the DTI Secretary and will include as members the Technical Committee on WTO Matters (TCWM), House of Representatives, Senate, and designated private sector representatives.</p>
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<p>Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Justice</p>	<p>HR 867</p>	<p>Speaker Alvarez</p>	<p>Inquiry into the alleged grossly disadvantageous contract entered into by the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) and the Tagum Agricultural Development Company, Inc. (TADECO)</p>	<p>The Joint Committee, co-presided by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), Chair of the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2nd District, Oriental Mindoro), Chair of the Committee on Justice, deliberated on the issues raised relative to HR 867.</p> <p>Regional Director Ruth Tawantawan of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 11 reported that about 8,948.38 hectares of land in the Davao Penal Colony remain under the authority of BuCor after a number of presidential proclamations excluded several areas from the operation of Presidential Proclamation 414 issued in 1931, which originally reserved 28,816 hectares of land in Davao del Norte for use as a government penal colony.</p> <p>Out of the total land area under BuCor's jurisdiction, 5,344.79 hectares were used by TADECO for its banana plantation and not 5,308.36 hectares as stated in their Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) signed in 2003, or a discrepancy of 36.44 hectares. Tawantawan stressed that the government has thus been deprived of the rental from the 36.44 hectares not taken into account by the JVA.</p> <p>Representatives from various farmer-associations claiming rights over portions of the Davao Penal Colony (DAPECOL) were allowed to present their views on the issue, such as the Davao Carmen Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association, Inc. (DACTARBAI), Tibal-og Balagunan Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association Inc. (TBARBAI), Davao Settlers Association Inc. (DASAI), Small Settlers Landless Association Inc. (SSLAI), and PESANTE Pilipinas.</p> <p>Rep. Umali inquired about the status of the remaining 3,603.59 hectares of land under BuCor but outside of the JVA coverage. BuCor Director General Benjamin delos Santos said that the land is under the control and supervision of DAPECOL.</p> <p>Speaker Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez (1st District, Davao del Norte) chided DAPECOL Superintendent Gerardo Padilla for saying that he does not have actual knowledge of the location and boundaries of the 3,603.59 hectares supposedly under DAPECOL's control. The Speaker instructed the prison facility and also BuCor to discuss with the DENR the proper utilization and management of the said area.</p> <p>Atty. Marilyn Balbin, supervising auditor for BuCor, said that the Commission on Audit (COA) report finds that the JVA is unconstitutional since the area of the land involved exceeded the limit set under the 1987 Constitution.</p> <p>Likewise, Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre maintained that the land, subject of the JVA between BuCor and TADECO, is "beyond the commerce of man," explaining that the land is still</p>
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<p>Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Justice</p>				<p>classified as forest land and therefore inalienable.</p> <p>TADECO President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Alexander Valoria and Atty. Gilbert Gallos, counsel for TADECO, maintained that the contract is legitimate and advantageous to the government. They support the conduct of another survey of the land under the JVA to determine its real area.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu) noted the differing figures between the income received by BuCor and the amount paid by TADECO under the JVA covering the year 2016. This prompted the Committee to require BuCor and TADECO to submit their respective reports to clarify the matter.</p> <p>COA was urged to conduct a special audit on the JVA, including the income generated by BuCor under the JVA .</p> <p>The Committee requested the submission of various documents pertinent to the inquiry.</p>
<p>Human Rights</p>	<p>Substitute Bill to HBs 61, 256, 1645 & 3938</p>	<p>Reps. Nograles (K.A), Roque (H.), Villarica, and Bag-ao</p>	<p>Providing a framework for the right to adequate food</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2nd District, Zambales), approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to HBs 61, 256, 1645 and 3938.</p> <p>Representatives from the Departments of Justice (DOJ), Agriculture (DA), the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Health (DOH), and Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), National Nutrition Council (NNC), National Food Coalition (NFC), and Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN) expressed their support for the bill.</p>
	<p>HRs 948, 960 & 976</p>	<p>Reps. Roque (H.), Baguilat, and Alejano</p>	<p>Investigation into the alleged secret detention facility at the Manila Police District - Station 1</p>	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised in the four resolutions in its next meeting.</p>
	<p>HR 950</p>	<p>Rep. Rocamora</p>	<p>Urging the Oversight Committee provided under RA 9745 or the Anti-Torture Act of 2009 to convene in order to investigate the alleged violations by some members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) of the Anti-Torture Law and to determine whether such practices are widespread among law enforcement agencies</p>	<p>Reps. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr., (Ifugao) and Harry Roque Jr. (Party-List, KABAYAN), authors of HRs 960 and 948, respectively, clarified that the purpose of the investigation is first and foremost to determine whether there are loopholes in the law, particularly RA 9745 or the Anti-Torture Law, which will necessitate the enactment of a remedial or amendatory law to ensure better protection of human rights.</p> <p>Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Commissioner Karen Dumpit presented a video of the actual operation of the CHR team that discovered a secret detention cell at the Tondo Police Station 1 in Manila on April 27, 2017.</p> <p>Dumpit reported the findings of the CHR, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The detainees were kept in a hidden room with no ventilation and using a bookshelf to conceal the door to the cell; • There were 12 detainees in the cell, three of whom were females;

Continuation... Human Rights				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the detainees alleged that they were beaten and electrocuted by the police and were being asked to pay up in exchange for their release; and • The police could not provide the CHR with a blotter report containing the names of the detainees. <p>PNP Station 1 Chief Superintendent Robert Domingo belied the findings of the CHR. Domingo claimed that the detention cell was not hidden and that the bookshelf was used to seal off the entrance to the cell. He claimed that the room had ventilation, but that he was surprised that the electric fan and exhaust fan were not in it when the CHR came to investigate. He also reasoned out that the detainees were kept inside the detention cell pending investigation and processing, which explains why the detainees' names were not yet recorded in the police blotter at that time.</p> <p>The PNP Internal Affairs Service (IAS) was asked by the Committee to submit the result of its investigation of the CHR findings, which purportedly supports the Station 1 Commander's contention that there was "nothing wrong" with the detention cell being questioned by the CHR.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to send an invitation to the 12 detainees to testify in the next Committee meeting.</p> <p>Dumpit requested that the CHR be allowed to put the detainees under its Witness Protection Program.</p>
Veterans Affairs and Welfare	HB 5514	Rep. Acop	Declaring the Board of Trustees of the Veterans of World War II (BTVWWII) as a public office and the funds entrusted to it as public funds, amending for the purpose RA 3518	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2nd District, Pangasinan), will deliberate further on HB 5514 in its next meeting.</p> <p>HB 5514, authored by Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), seeks to define clearly the character of the BTVWWII as a public office and the nature of its funds as public funds subject to audit by the Commission on Audit (COA) and utilized for the promotion of the welfare and interest of Filipino veterans, their spouses and children.</p> <p>COA Cluster 4 Adjudication Office Chief Marlyn Barbin said that BTVWWII is considered a public entity having been created by law. Barbin said she already recommended to the Commission the filing of an administrative case before the Office of the Ombudsman against the BTVWWII for its refusal to submit its financial documents for audit.</p> <p>Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) Government Corporate Atty. Joey Dolores Pontejos promised to submit the Commission's position paper on the matter.</p> <p>TUCP Party-List Rep. Raymond Democrito Mendoza agreed with Rep. Acop that COA should enforce its constitutional mandate or file a petition</p>

Continuation... Veterans Affairs and Welfare				for writ of mandamus to compel the BTVWWII to submit its financial documents for audit.
Ways and Means	Substitute Bill to HBs 731, 2436, 3456 & 4283	Reps. Nograles (K.A.), Collantes, Oaminal, and Evardone	Amending RA 7653, also known as the New Central Bank Act	<p>The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, approved with amendment the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to HBs 731, 2436, 3456 and 4283.</p> <p>Rep. Henry Oaminal (2nd District, Misamis Occidental), author of HB 3456, recommended the deletion of the provision in the bill that exempts the <i>Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas</i> (BSP) from the payment of all national, provincial, municipal and city taxes, fees, charges and assessments for five years.</p> <p>Likewise, Department of Finance (DOF) Assistant Secretary Ma. Teresa Habitan said that the DOF does not support said tax exemption of the BSP.</p> <p>However, BSP General Counsel Elmore Capule contended that since the BSP performs governmental functions, by jurisprudence and international practice, it should be exempt from taxation.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that BSP's governmental functions shall be exempt from taxation, but its proprietary functions shall be subject to tax.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HB 4106	Rep. Garcia (J.E.)	Further strengthening the powers and functions of the Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan (AFAB), amending for this purpose RA 9728, otherwise known as the Freeport Area of Bataan (FAB) Act of 2009	The Committee approved the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to HB 4106.
	Substitute Bill to 4462	Rep. Garcia (J.E.)	Establishing a special defense economic zone (SpeDEZ) inside the government arsenal defense industrial estate located in Camp. Gen. Antonio Luna in Limay, Bataan, creating for this purpose the Special Defense Economic Zone Authority (SpeDEZA) and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to HB 4462.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 31, 232, 478, 1122 & 1895	Reps. Del Mar, Marcoleta, Sy- Alvarado, Alejano, and Fortuno	Providing for a Magna Carta of the Poor	The Committee approved the tax provision of the substitute bill to the five bills.
	Substitute Bill to HB 2311	Rep. Escudero	Converting the Sorsogon State College in the Province of Sorsogon into a state university to be known as the Sorsogon State University and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved the tax provisions of the Substitute Bills to HB 2311, HB 655 and HB 367 subject to style.</p> <p>Habitan recommended the deletion of the tax provision in the three bills, saying that the tax exemption of educational institutions is already provided for in the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) and in the Tariff and Customs Code.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HB 655	Rep. Oaminal	Converting the Northwestern Mindanao State College of Science and Technology (NMSCST) in the City of Tangub, Province of Misamis Occidental into a state university to be known as the University of Northwestern Mindanao (UNM), and appropriating funds therefor	<p>However, Reps. Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte (2nd District, Camarines Sur), Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), Manuel Zubiri (3rd District,</p>

Continuation... Ways and Means	Substitute Bill to HB 367	Deputy Speaker Hernandez	Establishing the South Cotabato State College in the Municipality of Surallah, Province of South Cotabato, integrating therewith the Surallah National Agricultural School located in the Municipality of Surallah, and appropriating funds therefor	Bukidnon), and Evelina Escudero (1st District, Sorsogon) agreed to retain the tax exemption provisions in order to avoid ambiguity and confusion in the implementation of the law.
	Substitute Bill to HB 2986	Rep. Mellana	Establishing the Agusan Marsh situated in the Municipalities of Talacogon, San Francisco, Rosario, Bunawan, Loreto and La Paz all in the Province of Agusan del Sur as protected area under the category of wildlife sanctuary, providing for its management	The Committee approved the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to HB 2986.
	Substitute Bill to HB 3167	Rep. Gonzalez	Declaring the Mayon Volcano Natural Park in the Province of Albay as a protected area and providing funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to HB 3167.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 69 & 2510	Reps. Salceda and Cua	Collective Investment Schemes Law (CISL)	The Committee agreed to refer back the Substitute Bill to the Committee on Economic Affairs, the originating committee, for further study and refinement of its tax provision, upon the suggestion of Rep. Salceda, author of HB 69. Thereafter, the bill will be referred again to the Committee on Ways and Means.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Energy (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 1223, 1224 & 3351	Reps. Umali and Uybarreta	Ensuring the continuous and uninterrupted transmission and distribution of electricity, protecting the integrity and reliability of the transmission and distribution systems, promoting public safety, and providing penalties in violation thereof	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Carlos Roman Uybarreta (Party-List, 1-CARE), approved the draft substitute bill to HBs 1223, 1224, and 3351 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>The bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Commenting on Section 7 (Authority to Remove Electric Power Lines Disturbance) of the bill, Police Chief Superintendent Emmanuel Licup suggested that the Philippine National Police (PNP) may no longer be deputized to assist the personnel of the National Transmission Corporation (Transco), National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), distribution utilities, and electric cooperatives in removing obstructions within the right-of-way corridors of electric power lines. Licup explained that it is the duty of the PNP to respond to such requests for assistance.</p> <p>Engr. Edgardo Kempis of the Manila Electric Company (MERALCO) proposed the revision of the definition of "right-of-way corridor" to be written as: "refers to easement on lands and airspaces traversed by the electric power lines with the width and clearance requirements dependent on the electric power line voltage as prescribed under the</p>

Continuation... Energy (Technical Working Group)				<p>Philippine Electrical Code and/or International Standards.”</p> <p>The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) urged the distribution and transmission utilities to put up signage in areas where the power lines are located warning the people of the danger the power lines pose and warning against any intrusions.</p>
Special Committee on Food Security (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 247, 3419, 3937 & 767	Reps. Bordado, Banal, Bag-ao, and Aglipay- Villar	Creating a system of food distribution for addressing the nutritional needs of the people, providing for its procurement process and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Gil “Kabarangay” Acosta (3rd District, Palawan), terminated its deliberations on the draft Substitute Bill to HBs 247, 3419, 3937, and 767.</p> <p>The bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Representatives from the Departments of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and Trade and Industry (DTI), and the National Nutrition Council (NNC) presented additional recommendations to the bill.</p> <p>Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Bureau-B Assistant Director Jane Abella commented that most of the feeding programs identified in the proposed law are already being implemented by certain government agencies.</p>
Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. w/ Transportation (Technical Working Group)	HBs 687 & 4105	Reps. Del Mar and Radaza	Amending certain provisions of RA 6958, otherwise known as the Charter of the Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority (MCIAA)	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte), will deliberate further on HBs 687 and 4105 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Raul del Mar (1st District, Cebu City), author of HB 687, said that his bill seeks to shorten the term of office of the MCIAA Board of Directors from four to three years and require all members of the Board to be residents of the Province of Cebu for at least three years preceding the day of their appointment.</p> <p>Lapu-Lapu City Rep. Aileen Radaza, author of HB 4105, explained that her bill provides additional seats in the MCIAA Board for the City Mayor of Lapu-Lapu or his/her authorized representative and one from the private sector.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu) suggested that the governor of Cebu and the mayor of Lapu-Lapu City be made <i>ex officio</i> members of the Board instead, in line with the Constitution and the Local Government Code.</p> <p>During the 16th Congress, a similar bill was vetoed by then President Benigno Aquino based on provisions in the Constitution and the Local Government Code which prohibit elective officials from being appointed or designated to any public office or position during their tenure.</p> <p>Secretary Adelino Sitoy, presidential adviser on legislative affairs, Lapu-Lapu City Mayor Paz Radaza, MCIAA General Manager Steve Dicdican, and Eulogio Amado Sabban, director of the Legislative Office under the Office of the</p>

Continuation... Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. w/ Transportation (Technical Working Group)				Executive Secretary expressed support for the bills. The Secretariat was directed to prepare a matrix on the two bills which will be used as reference in the next TWG meeting.
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Science and Technology (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 3637, 4275, 4367 & 4623	Reps. Aumentado, Nieto, Salceda and Rodriguez (M.)	Establishing the Philippine Space Development and Utilization Policy and creating the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) and defining the purpose and scope of its activities	The joint technical working group (TWG), co-chaired by Rep. Christopher V.P. de Venecia (4th District, Pangasinan), for the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. John Marvin 'Yul Servo' Nieto (3 rd District, Manila), for the Committee on Science and Technology, approved the substitute bill subject to style and amendment. The substitute bill will be submitted to the Joint Committee for consideration and approval. Among the agreements reached by the TWG are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhilSA shall be under the Office of the President (OP) instead of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) (Sec. 6); • The position of the Director General of PhilSA, having the rank and compensation of an undersecretary, shall not be subject to confirmation by the Commission on Appointments (Sec. 10); • The structure and staffing pattern of PhilSA shall be approved by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and subject to civil service laws, rules and regulations (Section 15); • PhilSA's head office shall be in Quezon City and its main research facility shall be located in Clark Green City in Capas, Tarlac; and an office either in Laguna or Batangas, which will link PhilSA to aerospace and semiconductor industries (Sec. 16) • Two percent of the budget of PhilSA shall be used to fund the scholarship and training of young Filipino scientists and poor but deserving students who will enroll or are enrolled in science and technology courses (Sec. 20); and • The Department of National Defense (DND) shall be involved in the promulgation of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the proposed law (Sec. 23). Rep. De Venecia announced that both Committees agreed to conduct an ocular inspection of the proposed site of PhilSA's research facility in Clark, Pampanga.
Metro Manila Development (Technical Working Group)	HB 4642	Rep. Castelo	Granting the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) additional powers and functions, amending for the purpose RA 7924	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Malabon City Rep. Federico "Ricky" Sandoval II, will deliberate further on HBs 4642 and 5057 in its next meeting.

Continuation... Metro Manila Development (Technical Working Group)	HB 5057	Rep. Fernando	Amending RA 7924, strengthening the MMDA and providing funds therefor	<p>Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), author of HB 4642, said that his bill aims to strengthen the MMDA, particularly the Metro Manila Council (MMC), to effectively fulfill its mandate.</p> <p>RA 7924, the law which created the MMDA, provides that the MMDA's scope of services are those which have metro-wide impact and transcend local political boundaries or entail huge expenditures such that it would not be viable for said services to be provided individually by local government units (LGUs) comprising Metro Manila. Some of these services are transport and traffic management, solid waste disposal and management, and flood control and sewerage management.</p> <p>Newly-appointed MMDA Chair Danilo Lim expressed support for the bills.</p> <p>On the other hand, Quezon City officials, Mayor Herbert Bautista and Councilor Anthony Peter Crisologo, Las Piñas City Vice Mayor Luis Bustamante, and Pasig City Administrator Reynaldo Dionisio invoked the local autonomy of the LGUs, as enshrined in the 1987 Constitution and the Local Government Code of 1991, in opposing the additional powers being proposed to be granted to the MMDA.</p> <p>Reps. Castelo and Bayani Fernando (1st District, Marikina City), author of HB 5057, explained that all ordinances and resolutions that will be issued by the MMC will be subject to a series of consultations with and ratification by each LGU in Metro Manila before they are finally implemented.</p> <p>The TWG will invite the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to attend its next meeting.</p>
Public Works and Highways (Technical Working Group)	HBs 163, 348 & 1346	Rep. Belmonte (F.), Deputy Speaker Quimbo, and Rep. Acop	Institutionalizing and strengthening public-private partnerships (PPP)	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), will deliberate further on the six bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Salceda explained that his bill, HB 778, seeks to create and establish a Public-Private Partnership Authority which will be in-charge of projects under a build-operate and transfer (BOT) scheme, private sector participation (PSP) or public-private partnership (PPP). The proposed PPP Authority will be attached to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).</p> <p>Sought to comment on the bills, Planning Division Chief Lourdes Agnes Roncesvalles of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) said that the NEDA and the PPP Center are preparing a consolidated report containing their recommendations for the institutionalization of the PPP.</p> <p>PPP Center Executive Director Ferdinand Pecson</p>
	HB 778	Rep. Salceda	Creating the Public-Private Partnership Authority, further amending RA 6957, as amended by RA 7718, or the law authorizing the financing, construction, operation and maintenance of infrastructure projects by the private sector	
	HB 1944	Rep. Santos-Recto	Authorizing PPP	
	HB 2727	Rep. Alejano	Encouraging more PPP projects, creating the PPP Guaranty Fund, thereby amending RA 6957, as amended by RA 7718	

Continuation... Public Works and Highways (Technical Working Group)				<p>said that the proposed law should clearly define the projects that will be allowed under the PPP scheme.</p> <p>Representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Transportation (DOTr), and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) expressed support for the proposed law.</p> <p>The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) will submit its position paper to the TWG at a later date.</p> <p>The representative of the Manila North Tollways Corporation (MNTC) expressed the hope that the proposed law will not create additional layers in the approval process for PPP projects so as not to cause any delay.</p> <p>All resource persons present were requested to submit their respective position papers on the proposed law within two weeks.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Foreign Affairs jt. w/ Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Diplomacy, and West Philippine Sea (Special Committee)	Briefing by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on the Philippine chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2017 and on the ASEAN Vision 2025	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Linabelle Ruth Villarica (4th District, Bulacan), Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Rep. Rose Marie “Baby” Arenas (3rd District, Pangasinan), Chair of the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Diplomacy, and Rep. Feliciano Belmonte Jr. (4th District, Quezon City), Chair of the Special Committee on West Philippine Sea, listened to the briefing conducted by the DFA.</p> <p>DFA Assistant Secretary Ma. Hellen De La Vega presented an overview of the ASEAN Community which was formally established on December 31, 2015 following the Leaders’ decision at the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She also discussed the three pillars of the ASEAN Community which aims to narrow the development gap initiative for ASEAN integration, namely, ASEAN Political Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), and ASEAN Socio Cultural Community (ASCC).</p> <p>De La Vega likewise apprised the Committees of the Philippines’ chairmanship of the ASEAN which was launched on January 15, 2017 at the SMX Convention Center in Davao City. President Rodrigo Duterte delivered his speech during the launching ceremony with the theme “Partnering for change, engaging the world.”</p> <p>De La Vega highlighted the expected gains of the Philippines’ ASEAN chairmanship, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the awareness on how ASEAN benefits its citizens; • Promote the tourism industry; • Stimulate local economies; • Advance the interests of the Philippines in the region; and • Enhance regional cooperation on the fight against illicit drugs, human trafficking, violent extremism, and other non-traditional security issues. <p>De La Vega said that the ASEAN VISION 2025 “envisions a peaceful, stable and resilient community with enhanced capacity to respond effectively to challenges, and ASEAN as an outward-looking region</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Foreign Affairs jt. w/ Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Diplomacy, and West Philippine Sea (Special Committee)</p>		<p>within a global community of nations, while maintaining ASEAN centrality.”</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Manuel “Chiquiting” Sagarbarria (2nd District, Negros Oriental) on the stand of the Philippines in the West Philippine Sea dispute, De La Vega said that cooperation between the Philippines and China has improved and a hotline was established to immediately thresh out issues that may arise to avoid possible conflict in the area. She informed the Committee that DFA Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano will conduct a briefing to better apprise Congress of the issues on the West Philippine Sea.</p> <p>Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba (1st District, Bukidnon) inquired if the Philippines has a timeline to complete the Code of Conduct (COC) in the West Philippine Sea/South China Sea. De La Vega said that she is hopeful that the COC will be tackled in the upcoming ASEAN meeting this August 2017.</p>
<p>Metro Manila Development</p>	<p>Briefing by the Philippine National Police (PNP) - National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) on the security situation in Metro Manila amidst the Marawi City siege which led to the declaration of martial law in Mindanao</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), listened to the briefing by the PNP-NCRPO on the security situation in Metro Manila amidst the Marawi City siege.</p> <p>NCRPO Regional Director Oscar Albayalde and Senior Superintendent Nicolas Salvador reported that there is no direct security threat in Metro Manila but the police are on heightened security alert and are closely monitoring the movements of the Maute group who may escape Mindanao and hide in Metro Manila.</p> <p>With regard to the bombing incidents in Quiapo last April and May of this year, Salvador averred that these could not be linked to terrorism as these were motivated by personal feud. On the other hand, Salvador disclosed that some members of the Maute group were arrested by the PNP in connection with the failed bombing near the United States Embassy in November 2016.</p> <p>When asked by Rep. Castelo about the security plans for the upcoming concerts of foreign singers Britney Spears and Ariana Grande, Albayalde said that security measures will be in place and the concert-goers are assured of their safety. He recommended that prior to the issuance of permits by any local government unit to this kind of event, police clearance must first be secured to avoid untoward incidents in the venue. He cited the peaceful holding of the recent Miss Universe and the Black Nazarene procession in Quiapo due to proper coordination among entities and groups concerned.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, Albayalde said that the PNP, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), National Intelligence and Coordinating Agency (NICA), and all other law enforcement agencies share intelligence information to ensure the country's security.</p> <p>Malabon City Rep. Federico "Ricky" Sandoval II brought to the attention of PNP the poor security measures in roll-on/roll-off ports. Albayalde said that the PNP has already coordinated with concerned maritime agencies to address the matter.</p>
<p>Veterans Affairs and Welfare</p>	<p>Update on the operation and performance of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC)</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2nd District, Pangasinan), listened to the presentation of VMMC Director Dominador Chiong on the status of operation and performance of the VMMC.</p> <p>Chiong said that the VMMC is envisioned to be the medical center to render premium medical services to the veterans and their dependents through a comprehensive health care system characterized by excellence, dedication and commitment.</p>

<p>Continuation... Veterans Affairs and Welfare</p>		<p>Chiong highlighted the programs and services of the VMMC, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing medical care to the veterans and their dependents; • Promoting basic and clinical research; • Providing education and training programs to ensure an adequate supply of clinical care providers for the veterans; and • Conducting civic and outreach programs in depressed/calamity-stricken areas and medical missions/socio-civic activities. <p>Chiong also reported on the completed projects as well as future projects of the VMMC. He also discussed the concerns of the VMMC in terms of additional manpower requirement, additional drugs and medicines, and additional medical equipment such as mechanical ventilators. Chiong appealed to the Committee to support VMMC's request to increase its budget to P150 million starting 2018 to fully implement its programs, projects and services.</p> <p>Rep. Bataoil asked the Secretariat to prepare a letter to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and to the Committee on Appropriations requesting for additional funds for the VMMC for 2018.</p>
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PUBLIC HEARING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Housing and Urban Development	House Joint Resolution (HJR) 11	Rep. Benitez	Authorizing the National Housing Authority (NHA) to award the unoccupied and unawarded housing units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), and Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) to other qualified beneficiaries	<p>The House Committee on Housing and Urban Development and the Senate Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement, co-chaired by Rep. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental) and Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito, held a joint public hearing at the Senate in Pasay City in relation to HJR 11.</p> <p>NHA General Manager Marcelino Escalada Jr. reported that of the 63,499 housing units in 71 sites that were constructed and allocated for the AFP and PNP qualified beneficiaries, only 8,888 housing units have actually been occupied since 2012, leaving 54,611 housing units still unoccupied. Escalada explained that the low occupancy rate is due to alleged defects in the housing units.</p> <p>Representatives from the AFP and PNP added that other reasons for their personnel's withdrawal from the housing loan agreement with the NHA are the location of the site which is far from their workplace, markets, schools and hospitals; the size of the unit; and the lack of access roads, among others.</p> <p>On the NHA housing projects in Pandi, Bulacan forcibly occupied by the members of the <i>Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap</i> or "<i>Kadamay</i>," Escalada said that five of the 11 housing projects are reserved for informal settler families who have been living along danger areas and therefore cannot be given away to <i>Kadamay</i>. He also said that <i>Kadamay</i> members have yet to undergo profiling and validation by the NHA to determine whether they are eligible to acquire housing units under NHA rules.</p> <p>Escalada said that the NHA has convened a fact-finding committee that will evaluate the implementation of the</p>

<p>Continuation... Housing and Urban Development</p>				<p>government's housing projects and determine why some of them have failed.</p> <p>Rep. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL) recommended the enactment of a law that will institutionalize the process of relocating ISFs, including the obligations of local government units (LGUs) which are conducting the relocation and the recipient LGUs. This following the report of Pandi, Bulacan Mayor Celestino Marquez that the provincial government of Bulacan and the Quezon City government recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) covering the obligations between the two LGUs on the matter of relocating ISFs, with Quezon City committing to provide assistance and other services to ISFs who were relocated to Bulacan in March 2017.</p> <p>The two Housing Committees agreed to establish a better system of redistributing various unoccupied government housing projects to other qualified beneficiaries as well as offer decent and more appropriate housing provision to qualified AFP and PNP beneficiaries to ensure high availment rate and therefore avoid wastage of government funds.</p> <p>Other House Members who attended the public hearing were Party-List Reps. Aniceto "John" Bertiz III (ACTS-OFW), Arlene Brosas (GABRIELA), and Julieta Cortuna (A TEACHER), Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II (1st District, Zamboanga Sibugay), and Gavini "Apol" Pancho (2nd District, Bulacan). Sen. Riza Hontiveros likewise attended the public hearing.</p>
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