

Committee Daily Bulletin

17th Congress
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ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Basic Education and Culture	Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Evelina Escudero (1st District, Sorsogon), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p> <p>The Committee likewise adopted the standard format, criteria, and list of documentary requirements for the legislative proposals creating, converting and renaming elementary and secondary public schools.</p>
	Approval of the Committee Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Gus Tambunting (2nd District, Parañaque City), adopted its Rules of Procedures for the 17th Congress.</p>
Games and Amusements	Briefing by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) on its accomplishments, contributions to nation-building, and plans and programs for 2017	<p>PAGCOR President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) Alfredo Lim presented the agency's accomplishments, major thrusts, plans and programs for 2017.</p> <p>Lim reported that PAGCOR's revenue for the year (as of August 31, 2016), has already reached P35.22 billion, which is 9.81% higher than last year's P32.07 billion. With the increased revenue, PAGCOR was also able to increase its "contribution to nation-building" to P22.70 billion, and has settled all its tax liabilities.</p> <p>As part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR), Lim reported that PAGCOR has turned-over school building projects to various schools nationwide; conducted relief operations in the provinces which were affected by southwest monsoon rains; and provided financial assistance to the victims of the Davao bombing and their families.</p> <p>For 2017, Lim said PAGCOR intends to increase more the revenues of the whole gaming industry to also increase its contributions to the government coffers, focus on supporting government health programs, create new products that will cater to foreign players, and open additional integrated resorts.</p> <p>PAGCOR Chair and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Andrea Domingo informed the Committee that the agency has allocated P2 million monthly for medical assistance which the lawmakers could tap for the medical needs of their constituents.</p> <p>COOP-NATCCO Party-List Rep. Anthony Bravo and Sarangani Rep. Rogelio Pacquiao called the attention of PAGCOR with regard to its obligation to remit 5% of its gross income to the Philippines Sports Commission (PSC) under Republic Act 6847 or the Philippine Sports Commission Act.</p> <p>Domingo explained that right now, there are differences in opinion regarding the computation of the amount to be remitted to PSC. Nevertheless, PAGCOR is remitting to PSC an average of P100 million monthly or a total of P1.2 billion a year, Domingo added.</p>

<p>Continuation... Games and Amusements</p>	<p>Briefing by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on its operations and financial performance, contribution to the government social program and plans for 2016 to 2018</p>	<p>PCSO General Manager Alexander Balutan presented the PCSO's accomplishments, plans and programs for 2016 to 2018.</p> <p>Balutan presented that PCSO's net receipts are allocated in the following manner: 55% for the payment of prizes (Prize Fund); 30% for charity and social programs (Charity Fund); and 15% for operating expenses and capital expenditures (Operating Fund).</p> <p>Discussing its financial accomplishments, Balutan said the PCSO has earned P205.65 billion in gross sales from the operation of lotto, lotto express (Keno) and Sweepstakes from 2010 to August 2016; and P3.31 billion in gross sales from the small-town lottery (STL) operations from January to August 2016. PCSO has also paid P31.55 billion in taxes from 2010 to August of this year.</p> <p>Minority Leader Danilo Suarez (3rd District, Quezon) and Rep. Noel Villanueva (3rd District, Tarlac) inquired about the measures that the PCSO is undertaking to eradicate illegal gambling in the country.</p> <p>PCSO Chairman Jose Jorge Corpuz replied that PCSO plans to expand the STL market, which currently has 18 operators nationwide, as a means to counter illegal gambling. He further said that talks with Philippine National Police (PNP) officials are being conducted to effectively enforce anti-gambling laws.</p> <p>Sought to comment on why the PCSO is hiring foreign companies to run the Philippine lotto games, Corpuz answered that there is no local company equipped to run the lotto as of now.</p>
<p>Higher and Technical Education</p>	<p>Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ann Hofer (2nd District, Zamboanga Sibugay), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p> <p>The Committee, presently composed of 56 Members, has general jurisdiction over all matters directly and principally relating to post-secondary and tertiary education, technical education, distance education, students and teachers' welfare, and centers of excellence.</p> <p>The designation of chairpersons for the subcommittees was deferred until all the Committee's vice chairpersons are elected in the plenary.</p> <p>Rep. Hofer informed the Committee Members that as of October 6, there are already 187 measures referred to the Committee this 17th Congress.</p>
	<p>Briefing by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) on its mandate, major accomplishments, and plans and programs</p>	<p>TESDA Executive Director for Planning Marissa Legaspi presented the agency's mandate, major accomplishments, and plans and programs for FY 2017.</p> <p>Legaspi said that TESDA is mandated to provide "relevant, efficient, accessible and high-quality technical education and skills development to develop middle-level manpower responsive to the Philippine development goals and priorities."</p> <p>Toward this end, TESDA has adopted a reform and development agenda which includes the implementation of the following programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barangay Scholarship Program; • Technical audit of technical vocational education and training (TVET) schools and programs; • Skills training programs for drug dependents, entrepreneurs and family enterprises, and for inmates and their families; • Inclusive training program for women; • Continuing program for TESDA alumni; • Global access to on-line database of TVET graduates and certified workers; and • Linkages with agro-industry, SUCs and local universities and

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education		<p>colleges (LUCs), and foreign skills training institutions.</p> <p>Rep. Aniceto “John” Bertiz III (Party-List, ACTS-OFW) pointed out that there are only a few assessors and trainers who are accredited to assess and issue a National Certificate (NC) II to students who complete TESDA courses on domestic work. He said a significant number of domestic workers applying for employment abroad could not leave the country because they lack the required NC II.</p> <p>TESDA Deputy Director General Alvin Feliciano said a dialogue with the affected sectors has already been scheduled which should address the concern of Rep. Bertiz.</p>
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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Basic Education and Culture	HB 139	Rep. Noel	Mandating the conservation of Gabaldon and other heritage school buildings nationwide, providing penalties for violations, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Evelina Escudero (1 st District, Sorsogon), approved the 12 bills and the corresponding Committee Reports.
	HB 416	Rep. Escudero	Allowing home economics graduates to teach home economics subjects and home economics-related technical-vocational subjects in all public and private elementary and secondary educational institutions, respectively, consistent with Section 8 of Republic Act 10533 or the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013	
	HB 2576	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Strengthening the rules on the proper use and display of our national symbols and the rendition of the national anthem, amending for the purpose Republic Act No. 8491, otherwise known as the “Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines”	
	HBs 400, 425, 624, 1211, 1380, 1383 & 1385	Rep. Belmonte (J.C.), Deputy Speaker Quimbo, Reps. Gonzalez, Yu and Vargas	Establishing national high schools in various parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 940	Rep. Tiangco	Converting the San Rafael National High School in the City of Navotas into a technological high school to be known as the San Rafael Technological and Vocational High School, and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 1095	Rep. Cosalan	Separating the Tublay School of Home Industries Extension in the Municipality of Tublay, Province of Benguet from the Tublay School of Home Industries Main, converting it into an independent national high school to be known as the Tublay National Trade High School, and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 1177	Deputy Speaker	Amending certain provisions of Republic	

Continuation... Basic Education and Culture		Cayetano	Act No. 8492, otherwise known as the "National Museum Act of 1998," by, among others, allowing it to retain its income to augment its budget for operational expenditures and capital outlay, making regular admission to any of its public facilities free of charge, and exempting the Museum's procurement of materials which will form part of its collections from the procurement laws	working group (TWG) to consolidate the six bills. Rep. Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1 st District, Ilocos Sur) was designated to chair the TWG. National Museum Director Jeremy Barns expressed support for the bills saying that it is high time that the Museum's Charter be amended considering that most of its provisions are already outdated.
	HBs 1502 & 1727	Reps. Alejano and Biazon	Amending certain provisions of RA 8492, by authorizing the National Museum to retain and use its income for the purpose of meeting its operational requirements	
	HBs 1813 & 3333	Reps. Vargas and Noel	Granting public elementary school students free admission to all public museums and national historical shrines and landmarks	
	HB 3201	Rep. Savellano	Strengthening the National Museum of the Philippines, repealing for the purpose Republic Act No. 8492, otherwise known as the "National Museum Act of 1998," and appropriating funds therefor	
Higher and Technical Education	HBs 572 & 2314	Reps. Angara-Castillo and Escudero	Mandating higher education institutions and technical-vocational institutions to ensure the safety and security of the academic community from internal and external threats, thereby creating a Crime Prevention Committee	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ann Hofer (2 nd District, Zamboanga Sibugay), approved the substitute bill to HBs 572 and 2314 subject to style and amendment, as well as the corresponding Committee Report. A similar bill was approved by the House on third reading during the 16 th Congress. Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Chairperson Patricia Licuanan expressed the Commission's full support for the bills saying that they have the same intent as the CHED-issued Memorandum Order No. 42, series 2005, which provides for the guidelines in the creation of a student crime prevention council in every college and university in the country. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), University of the Philippines (UP) System, and various organizations of higher education institutions (HEIs) gave their support for the bills.
Justice	HR 105	Speaker Alvarez	Investigation into the proliferation of drug syndicates at the National Bilibid Prison (NBP)	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2 nd District, Oriental Mindoro), decided to suspend its investigation pursuant to HR 105 until Ronnie Dayan, driver of Senator Leila de Lima, appears before the Committee to shed light on the issues raised in the resolution. Rep. Umali requested the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), Department of Justice (DOJ), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA),

<p>Continuation... Justice</p>				<p>Philippine National Police (PNP), and Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) to submit their recommendations that will guide the Committee in crafting either a remedial or amendatory law that will plug the loopholes in the existing criminal justice system.</p> <p>Five more witnesses brought in by the DOJ gave their respective testimonies regarding the illegal drug trade inside the NBP and the alleged involvement of Senator de Lima in this illicit activity when she was still the DOJ secretary. They all requested that they be given immunity from any lawsuit in connection with their testimonies, which was granted by Speaker Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez (1st District, Davao del Norte).</p> <p>BNP inmate Jaybee Sebastian, who is tagged as Sen. De Lima's fundraiser inside the prison facility through the illegal drug trade, revealed that former PNP chief inspector Clarence Dongail was responsible for plotting to kill him and three other inmates who are also involved in the drug trade in the NBP - Vicente Sy, Peter Co and Tony Co - during the recent riot that occurred inside the Bilibid. Sebastian claimed that the reason Dongail wanted to kill them is because he and the three inmates discovered that the raid in a shabu laboratory in Meycauayan, Bulacan was just a ploy by Dongail together with his connections in the PNP in order to seize for themselves the bulk of the confiscated drugs.</p> <p>On the testimonies against him made by the witnesses during the previous hearings of the Committee, Sebastian claimed that they made those claims because they believed he was responsible for their transfer to the custody of the NBI after the raid in the NBP in 2014. He specifically denied the witnesses' allegations that he monopolized the drug trade inside the NBP saying that there are some 150 Chinese and 200 to 300 Filipinos who are also involved in the illegal drug trade inside the national penitentiary.</p> <p>Sebastian slammed Sen. De Lima for putting his life in danger when she announced in public that he is a "government asset." He also admitted being responsible for raising money amounting to P10 million in 2015 to contribute to De Lima's senatorial campaign kitty but denied that he required the inmates to remit a certain amount to him a monthly remittance.</p> <p>Peter Co, a high-profile NBP inmate, recounted remitting P5 million on two occasions upon the instruction of a certain Hans Tan also to raise funds for De Lima's senatorial campaign. Co claimed that his refusal to engage in the drug trade with Sebastian caused his transfer to other prison facilities, the latest of which was in 2014 when he was moved to the NBI along with other</p>
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<p>Continuation... Justice</p>				<p>high-profile NBP inmates.</p> <p>Renante Diaz, liaison officer of NBP inmate Herbert Colanggo, corroborated the latter's testimonies about the widespread entry of goods, gadgets and drugs in the NBP in the past and the alleged regular payoff to Sen. De Lima of P3 million monthly and an additional P1 million on big and special events, which were coursed through Dayan and Jeonel Sanchez, a former close-in aide of Sen. De Lima and current member of the Presidential Security Group (PSG).</p> <p>Vicente Sy, another NBP inmate, attested to the power and influence of Sebastian within the NBP because of his direct link to the former DOJ secretary. Sy also confirmed paying P2.6 million to then DOJ Undersecretary Francisco Baraan, through a certain Julius Rejuso, to facilitate his transfer from Sablayan Prison Penal Farm in Occidental Mindoro to the NBP. He further claimed to have made monthly payments to former BuCor director Franklin Jesus Bucayu when he assumed office in order to continue the privileges he enjoyed in the NBP and to allow the entry of his contrabands.</p> <p>Romel Falcasantos, a member of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) and former security detail of Sen. De Lima, testified that he was authorized by De Lima on five occasions to encash checks, with amounts ranging from P100,000 up to P300,000, during the start of the 2016 presidential election period.</p> <p>In his supplemental affidavit, former BuCor Officer-in-Charge Rafael Ragos admitted to having remitted a total of P4.3 million to Dayan in compliance with his instruction to raise funds for Sen. De Lima.</p> <p>Rep. Rodrigo Abellanosa (2nd District, Cebu City) believed that there are already enough testimonies from witnesses against Sen. De Lima linking her to the illegal drug trade inside the NBP when the latter was the DOJ secretary. He said the Committee can now determine what remedial legislation can be crafted to address the issues raised.</p> <p>Siquijor Rep. Ramon Rocamora challenged Sebastian to submit himself to a lie detector test to prove that his testimonies were true. Sebastian said he was willing to do this test.</p> <p>On motion of Majority Floor Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1st District, Ilocos Norte), the Committee agreed to hold Ronnie Dayan in contempt for ignoring the summons of the Committee and to issue an arrest warrant against Dayan.</p>
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Transportation	HBs 3, 38, 554, 1315, 1666, 3048, 3162, 3314, 3442, 3617, 3712 & 3716	Majority Leader Fariñas, Rep. Yap (A.), Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, Reps. Castelo, Revilla, Deputy Speaker Cayetano, Reps. Tambunting, Primicias-Agabas, Escudero, Belmonte (J.C.), Salceda and Gonzales (A.)	Granting the President emergency powers to address the massive traffic congestion in the country	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, agreed to conduct daily meetings to fast-track the deliberation of measures granting the President emergency powers to address the traffic crisis in the country.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento reported that based on the results of the consultative meetings with the maritime, land and rail transportation sectors, the Committee was able to validate that the traffic crisis affects only the land transportation in Metro Manila, Metro Cebu and Metro Davao.</p> <p>While the process of enacting the legislative measure on the grant of emergency powers is ongoing, Rep. Sarmiento emphasized that the Department of Transportation (DOTr) can already accomplish various tasks that are well within its powers and mandate, such as the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issuance of vehicle license plates and driver's license cards; • Acquisition of right-of-way for LRT Line 1 Cavite Extension (Package I); • Improvement of the Southwest Interim Provincial Terminal; and • Rationalization of traffic routes. <p>DOTr Senior Adviser Vicente Siy presented the Department's bus rapid transit (BRT) project which is a "high-quality bus-based transit system that delivers fast, comfortable, and cost-effective transportation services at metro-level capacities." Siy disclosed that the BRT Central Corridor (EDSA), one of the four corridors to be constructed in Metro Manila, worth P37.7 billion was already approved by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board on September 14.</p> <p>Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Thomas Orbos informed the Committee of several interim policies that will be implemented to ease the traffic congestion in Metro Manila especially during the Christmas season, namely :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban on holding mall sales during weekdays from October 21 to December 25; • Removal of the "window period" (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) in the number coding scheme, which is designed to reduce vehicles on the road, specifically on EDSA and C-5 starting October 17; and • Moratorium on diggings and excavations by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and utility service providers from November 8 to January 2017. <p>Philippine Bus Operators Association of the Philippines (PBOAP) President Alexander Yague and UBER Transport representative</p>
	HR 119	Deputy Speaker Abu	Resolving the serious nationwide traffic problems by urgently granting the power of traffic management and control of national roads in the provinces to the Office of the Provincial Governors	

<p>Continuation... Transportation</p>				<p>Atty. Yves Gonzales gave their comments and suggestions to solve the traffic problem in Metro Manila.</p> <p>Likewise, Miguel Angelo Dayrit, representative of the residents of Wack Wack Village in Mandaluyong City, suggested the holding of a consultative meeting between the DOTr technical people and the residents association's board regarding the proposal to open some of its roads to non-residents as an alternative route to decongest EDSA.</p> <p>Rep. Bayani Fernando (1st District, Marikina City) stressed that the lack of discipline among motorists is a major factor causing road traffic. He talked of the need to strengthen the traffic enforcement agencies to effectively solve the traffic problem.</p> <p>For Rep. Jesulito Manalo (Party-List, ANGKLA), it is the continued operation of "colorum" public utility vehicles that is causing the traffic congestion on EDSA. He urged the Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to immediately stop this illegal practice.</p> <p>The DOTr was requested to submit several documents, among which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of agencies involved in the land transportation sector that will be reorganized; • List of projects that the DOTr wants to be protected from court injunctions and temporary restraining orders (TROs); • List of private subdivisions which roads will be opened for public use; and • Proposed procurement method and procedure that will govern the purchase of transportation equipment and facilities. <p>All the stakeholders present in the meeting were asked to submit their respective position papers on the legislative proposal to grant the President emergency powers.</p>
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