

Committee Daily Bulletin

17th Congress
First Regular Session

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ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Civil Service and Professional Regulation	Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Vilma Santos-Recto (6th District, Batangas), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p> <p>The Committee, which is presently composed of 23 members, has general jurisdiction over all matters directly and principally relating to the organization, operation, management, rules and regulations of the civil service; the status, welfare and benefits of government officers and employees; and the regulation of, admission to, and the practice of profession.</p>
	<p>Briefing on the mandates and programs and projects of the following government agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil Service Commission (CSC) 	<p>The Committee listened to the briefing conducted by the Civil Service Commission (CSC), Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and Career Service Board (CSB) on their respective mandates, programs and projects.</p> <p>CSC Assistant Commissioner Ariel Ronquillo presented the mandates of the CSC which are: to establish a career service; adopt measures to promote morale, efficiency, integrity, responsiveness, and courtesy in the civil service; strengthen the merit and rewards system; integrate all human resource development programs for all levels and ranks; and institutionalize a management climate conducive to public accountability.</p> <p>Ronquillo also apprised the Committee of the following civil service eligibilities granted to qualified individuals under special laws and CSC issuances, other than those acquired by taking the career service examinations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bar/Board Eligibility (RA 1080); Barangay Health Worker Eligibility (RA 7883); Barangay Nutrition Scholar Eligibility (PD 1569); Barangay Official Eligibility (RA 7160); Electronic Data Processing Specialist Eligibility (CSC Res. 90-083); Foreign School Honor Graduate Eligibility (CSC Res. 1302714); Honor Graduate Eligibility (PD 907); Sanggunian Member Eligibility (RA 10156); Scientific and Technological Specialist Eligibility (PD 997); Skills Eligibility - Category II (CSC MC 11, s. 1996, as amended); and Veteran Preference Rating (EO 132/790). <p>Ronquillo likewise discussed the salient features of the proposed Civil Service Reform Code that the CSC is pushing for enactment into law. According to Ronquillo, the Civil Service Reform Code will put into one comprehensive law all scattered laws, issuances, and executive orders relative to civil service, and will address the deeply-rooted problems confronting public service (e.g. graft and corruption, bureaucratic red tape, and violations of employees' rights).</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Santos-Recto on the timeline set by the CSC to finish the Code, Ronquillo said that it is still being reviewed by the Commission, adding that it was already filed during the previous Congresses but failed to get the nod of Congress.</p>

Continuation... Cooperatives Development		<p>jurisdiction on all matters directly and principally relating to cooperatives, inclusive of cooperative movements and organizations; urban and rural-based, credit, consumer, producers, marketing, service and multi-purpose cooperatives, electric cooperatives registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA); and the implementation of the Cooperative Code of the Philippines.</p> <p>Rep. Geron presented the major accomplishments of the Committee during the 16th Congress, as well as its legislative priority agenda for the 17th Congress.</p>
	Briefing by the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)	<p>CDA Chairman Orlando Ravanera briefed the Committee on the CDA's functions, goals and objectives, and legislative priorities for 2017, as well as its roadmap under the present administration.</p> <p>Pursuant to RA 6939, the CDA was created to promote the viability and growth of cooperatives as instruments of equity, social justice and economic development.</p> <p>Ravanera reported that the total registered cooperatives as of December 31, 2015 reached 25,610 with 13.7 million members.</p> <p>Among the legislative agenda of the CDA for the 17th Congress are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment of Article 137 of RA 9520 or the Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008 to grant CDA quasi-judicial power to resolve intra-cooperative conflicts involving election of officers, simplify requirements, provide automatic tax exemption, among others; and • Amendment of RA 6939 or the CDA Charter to allow the Board of Administrators the power to condone penalties. <p>Ravanera likewise discussed the CDA Roadmap 2015-2022 which involves a “paradigm shift towards transformative cooperative for people, planet, prosperity, and peace.”</p> <p>The roadmap, according to Ravanera, highlights the importance of “cooperativism” in empowering the poor and the vulnerable sectors in order to alleviate poverty and social inequity.</p>
Globalization and WTO (Special Committee)	Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	The Committee, chaired by ANGKLA Party-List Rep. Jesulito Manalo adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17 th Congress.
	Briefing by the Department of Agriculture (DA) on the country's trade agreements and ongoing negotiations with the World Trade Organization (WTO) relative to agriculture	<p>The Committee listened to the presentation of DA Undersecretary for Policy and Planning Segfredo Serrano on the country's trade agreements and ongoing negotiations with the WTO relative to agricultural trade.</p> <p>Serrano informed the Committee of the current stalemate occurring in the Doha Round where developed countries refuse to approve the proposed reforms of developing countries, particularly the reduction of tariffs. He added that the United States, Japan and countries in Europe even propose to “level the playing field” by removing the provision according “special and differential treatment” to developing countries, which the latter, including the Philippines, strongly object to.</p> <p>The Doha Round is the latest round of trade negotiations among the WTO member-countries which introduces lower trade barriers and revised trade rules. (<i>WTO Website</i>)</p> <p>Serrano reported that at present, the Philippines has not yet liberalized its rice industry due to the vulnerability of the sector and its inability to compete in the global market.</p> <p>In 1995, the Philippines retained the right to impose quantitative restrictions (QR) on rice until June 2005 through the “special and differential treatment” under Annex 5 of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA). Since 2005, the Philippines negotiated for a waiver</p>

<p>Continuation... Globalization and WTO (Special Committee)</p>		<p>twice which allowed it to maintain its QR on rice until June 30, 2017.</p> <p>With the exemption ending soon, and the local rice industry still not competitive enough, the DA is concerned with the implications of the impending lifting of the QR to the industry. Serrano further said the Department's policy options are to secure another waiver for a two-year extension or convert the QR to ordinary customs duty or tariff based on existing WTO guidelines.</p> <p>In the event that the waiver is disapproved, Serrano emphasized the need to identify and support key production areas and diversify income with the introduction of new livelihood opportunities for the affected farmers.</p> <p>The DA was requested to submit its plan of action in the event the application for waiver is disapproved; measures on how to uplift the standard of living of Filipino farmers; and the list of subsidies and social safety nets that will be provided to local farmers.</p> <p>In the meantime, Committee members expressed concern over the reported conflicting positions of DA and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) on the planned request for another two-year extension of the imposition of QR on rice imports, with the DA favoring this move while NEDA is supposed to be not open to the idea.</p>
<p>Health</p>	<p>Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan (4th District, Quezon), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p> <p>Rep. Tan presented the mandate and the legislative agenda of the Committee for the 17th Congress.</p>
	<p>Briefing by the following agencies on their respective mandates, accomplishments, and plans programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Health (DOH) 	<p>The Committee listened to the presentations of the Department of Health (DOH) and its attached agencies on their respective mandates, accomplishments, and plans and programs.</p> <p>Health Secretary Paulyn Jean Rosell-Ubial briefed the Committee on the government's Philippine Health Agenda 2016-2022 dubbed as "All for Health Towards Health for All."</p> <p>The Philippine Health Agenda has for its goals the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial protection - Filipinos, especially the poor, are protected from high costs of health care; • Better health outcomes - Filipinos attain the best possible health outcomes with no disparity; and • Responsiveness - Filipinos feel respected, valued, and empowered in all of their interaction with the health system. <p>Ubial presented the DOH's proposed priority health legislations which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National mental healthcare delivery system; • Additional funding for the health sector; • One hundred percent income retention for hospitals; • Price disclosure in the health care services; • Mandatory reporting of notifiable diseases and health related events; • Amendment to the laws on national health insurance, food fortification, tobacco regulation, quarantine, sanitation, generic medicines, and barangay nutrition program; • Establishing the National Center for Geriatric Health; • Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Act; • Emergency Medical Services Act; • Regulating Household Hazardous Substances Act; • Special law on counterfeit drugs; • Health Facilities Regulations Act; and • Increasing the maternity leave period to 14 weeks or 98 days for employees in the government service and in the private

<p>Continuation... Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC) 	<p>regulatory processes at the central and regional levels; and revising the Citizen's Charter;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened enforcement - upgrading of infrastructures, increasing and enhancing laboratory capabilities, and enhancing the capacity of the inspectorate. <p>Puno said the FDA needs to create additional 302 positions, in addition to the existing 842 positions, to be able to effectively discharge its functions. Puno also reported that in addition to the amount appropriated for FDA, about P285 million coming from its income for 2017 will be used to support its Five-year Development Plan. By year 2019, Puno claimed that the FDA will turn itself into a self-sustaining agency.</p> <p>Created by virtue of Republic Act 8423, or the Traditional and Alternative Medicine Act (TAMA) of 1997, PITAHC is a government-owned and controlled corporation (GOCC) attached to the DOH, tasked to develop traditional and alternative health care and to integrate it into the national health care delivery system.</p> <p>PITAHC Director (OIC) General Francis Vicente Ras discussed the vision, mission, thrusts, and programs of the Institute. Ras also highlighted PITAHC's major accomplishments in the areas of research and development, technical advisory and advocacy, and regulation of traditional and alternative medicine practice.</p>
<p>Housing and Urban Development</p>	<p>Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure; designation of subcommittee chairpersons</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p> <p>The Committee likewise designated the respective chairpersons for the following subcommittees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee on Finance – Rep. Michael Romero Ph.D. (Party-List, 1-PACMAN); Subcommittee on Housing for the Low-Income and the Marginalized Group – Rep. Jose Christopher Belmonte (6th District, Quezon City); Subcommittee on Realty and Consumer Protection – Rep. Carlo Lopez (2nd District, Manila); Subcommittee on Urban Development – Rep. Gavini "Apo" Pancho (2nd District, Bulacan); Subcommittee on Urban Governance – Rep. Ma. Lucille Nava M.D. (Lone District, Guimaras); and Subcommittee on Housing Technology – Rep. Aileen Radaza (Lone District, Lapu-Lapu City). <p>Rep. Benitez presented the major accomplishments of the Committee during the 16th Congress. He underscored the significant contribution of the Committee in terms of passing relevant legislations, performing its oversight function to monitor compliance with existing laws, and conducting capacity building activities for its Members, as well as engaging all stakeholders in crafting viable policy proposals on housing and urban development.</p> <p>Rep. Benitez highlighted the Committee's priority measures for the 17th Congress which include the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of several measures approved in the 16th Congress; and Consideration of measures referred to the Committee that embody the policy reform proposals advanced in the unity statement of the National Housing and Urban Development Summit, without prejudice to the introduction of additional priority measures.
	<p>Briefing by the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) on its mandate and plans and programs</p>	<p>The Committee listened to the briefing conducted by HUDCC Director Paolo Salvosa on the agency's mandate and plans and programs, as well as the issues confronting the housing sector.</p>

<p>Continuation... Housing and Urban Development</p>		<p>Salvosa said that access to affordable housing remains a challenge for the Filipinos especially the poor. He cited a study conducted by the Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute (PSRTI) which showed that the housing need by the end of 2016 is 5.56 million units nationwide, of which 1.4 million units represent the housing need of informal settler families (ISFs) residing in Metro Manila.</p> <p>Among the challenges faced by the HUDCC in addressing the needs of the housing sector are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional limitations of the HUDCC; • Bureaucratic processes within the key shelter agencies (KSAs) and other offices involved in housing; • Lack of suitable lands for socialized housing; • Lack of access to affordable housing finance; • Increasing number of informal settlers in the urban centers; • Limited appropriations for the housing sector; and • Low affordability levels of housing beneficiaries. <p>Salvosa also presented the various housing programs of KSAs, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing program for ISFs living in danger areas in Metro Manila; • Resettlement program; • Settlement upgrading program; • Community mortgage program; • Housing assistance to calamity victims; • Retail development financing; and • Socialized housing loan program. <p>Asked on the low budget utilization rate of the HUDCC, National Housing Authority (NHA) Finance Manager Wilma Hernandez explained that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has only released to date P10.4 billion out of the P34.4 billion budget of the HUDCC for 2016.</p> <p>Rep. Harry Roque (Party-List, KABAYAN) informed the Committee of his proposal for a P1 billion increase in the budget of the National Housing Authority (NHA) and a P100 million increase in the budget of the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) for 2017.</p> <p>The HUDCC was requested to submit to the Committee a report on its budget utilization based on the programs implemented for 2016. The NHA was likewise asked to submit the list of developers all over the country with which the agency has entered contracts.</p>
<p>Information and Communications Technology</p>	<p>Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Victor Yap (2nd District, Tarlac), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p> <p>Rep. Yap presented the legislative agenda of the Committee for the 17th Congress, which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment of Republic Act (RA) 7925, or the Public Telecommunications Policy Act; • Amendment and/or repeal of Commonwealth Act 146, or the Public Service Act of 1936; • Enactment of several measures enhancing open access, interconnection and convergence; mandating free wi-fi in public areas; eliminating cyberbullying and cyberfraud; and improving the quality of telecommunications services and standards; and • Institutionalization of the Philippine Big Data Center and E-Government. <p>Committee Secretary Ranier Alvarado discussed the major accomplishments of the Committee during the 16th Congress, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed the Free Mobile Disaster Alerts Act (RA 10639) and the Department of Information and Communications Technology Act (RA 10844); • Acted on 34 measures of national importance, composed of 26

Continuation... Information and Communications Technology		<p>House Bills and eight House Resolutions; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively participated in the deliberation of four measures which were jointly referred to the Committee on Reorganization.
	<p>Briefing by the following agencies on their respective mandates, thrusts, major accomplishments, and plans and programs for 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) National Privacy Commission (NPC) 	<p>The Committee listened to the briefing conducted by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) and National Privacy Commission (NPC) on their respective mandates, thrusts, major accomplishments, and plans and programs for 2017.</p> <p>DICT Secretary Rodolfo Salalima and Undersecretary Jorge Sarmiento presented the agency's thrusts, programs and legislative concerns.</p> <p>The DICT, which has just been created in May of this year, is mandated to be the primary policy, planning, coordinating, implementing, and administrative entity of the executive branch of the government that will plan, develop, and promote the national ICT development agenda.</p> <p>The Department's priority legislative agenda for 2017 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the provisions on technological and business developments, removal of unnecessary regulatory prohibitions, and encouraging investments while respecting the Constitutional limitations on foreign investments in certain industries (Amendments to RA 7925); Addressing the worsening traffic problems through technological solutions (Telecommuting Act); Streamlining of the NTC to cope with the evolving information and communications technology (NTC Reorganization); Improvement of public services and empowerment of citizens through the creation of an eGovernance organizational structures (eGovernment Act); and Formulation of national plans for cybersecurity and issuance of guidelines for the creation of Cybersecurity Incident Response Team in government agencies (Amendments to RA 10175). <p>Of the 10-point socio-economic agenda of the present administration, Sarmiento said that five are directly addressed by the DICT's programs and projects, such as 1) building ICT infrastructure and systems; 2) providing nationwide connectivity through public and private partnerships; 3) developing ICT-related skills and expertise that is at par with global standards; 4) conceptualizing and developing ICT solutions in response to the changing needs of the country; and 5) establishing access centers that will provide digital opportunities in the countryside.</p> <p>NTC Commissioner Gamaliel Cordoba enumerated the proposed programs of the NTC for 2017, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISO 9001:2015 Certification of front-line services; Procurement of equipment for the measurement of fixed line and mobile internet; Continuous roll-out of digital television; and Provision of support to Congress for the passage of legislative measures for the protection of the consumers. <p>Cordoba presented NTC's major accomplishments, underscoring that the 2011 to 2016 Philippine Digital Strategy (PDS) of "providing basic broadband access and internet opportunities for all by 2016" was achieved in terms of wider coverage and increased access of households, government, and schools to internet services.</p> <p>Citing the 2016 United Nations E-Government Survey, Cordoba said the Philippines was listed as one of the 10 countries with improved E-government performance, making a leap from the country's rank of 95 to 71.</p> <p>Deputy Commissioner Dondi Mapa of the National Privacy Commission (NPC) gave a brief background of RA 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012.</p>

Continuation... Information and Communications Technology		<p>Signed into law on August 15, 2012, the Data Privacy Act aims to ensure that personal information in the database of the government and the private sector are secured and protected. The NPC, as the primary implementing agency, is tasked to formulate and implement plans and policies to strengthen the protection of personal information and to receive and dispose of complaints on any violation of the law.</p> <p>Pursuant to its rule-making function, the Commission is set to release this October 2016 issuances on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security of personal data in government agencies; • Data sharing agreements among government agencies; • Personal data breach management; and • Rules of procedure of the NPC.
Mindanao Affairs	Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Maximo Rodriguez Jr. (2 nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17 th Congress.
	Briefing by the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA)	<p>The Committee listened to the briefing conducted by the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) officials on the agency's plans and programs for Mindanao.</p> <p>MinDA Secretary Datu Abul Khayr Dangcal Alonto expressed optimism on the success of various development projects for Mindanao now that the leaders of the House of Representatives and the Senate are both Mindanaoans.</p> <p>The following programs will be pursued by MinDA in an effort to make Mindanao an economic gateway of the Philippines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to open up Halal industry in the Philippines; • Provide increased access to financial institutions; • Create additional power generation plants; • Implement the Mindanao railway system which will connect the whole island of Mindanao; and • Rehabilitate, protect and preserve Lake Lanao. <p>Development Manager Officer Abubakar Sedik Amino of MinDA's Planning and Research Division presented the importance of the three Mindanao Development Corridors - Northern, Western, and South Central Mindanao – in achieving the development goals for Mindanao.</p> <p>Rep. Rodriguez pointed out the need to increase the annual budget allocations for Mindanao, citing a study conducted by the House of Representatives' Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department (CPBRD) which showed that Mindanao will only get a meager 13.8% of the national budget in 2017.</p> <p>Alonto confirmed that for the longest time, Mindanao would only get a share of 9-11% of the national budget. He stressed that Mindanao deserves to receive up to 32% of the national budget to support and facilitate the immediate implementation of development projects in Mindanao.</p> <p>With regard to Rep. Manuel Zubiri's (3rd District, Bukidnon) comment on the need to provide livelihood programs for the indigenous peoples (IPs) living in Mindanao, Alonto said that MinDA is already working on the creation of agro-industrial economic zones in strategic areas that would provide jobs and bring progress to IP communities in the region.</p> <p>When asked how MinDA plans to utilize the assets of the Southern Philippines Development Authority (SPDA) when the latter is absorbed by MinDA, Alonto said he will submit to the Committee the list of programs that will be implemented using the resources of SPDA.</p> <p>Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte) asked</p>

Continuation... Mindanao Affairs		<p>MinDA to integrate its projects and programs with the programs identified by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) to come up with a comprehensive plan for Mindanao.</p> <p>In its next meeting, the Committee agreed to invite NEDA, Department of Tourism (DOT), and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to respond to the issues and concerns raised by the Committee Members.</p>
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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Constitutional Amendments	Resolutions of Both Houses (RBHs) 1, 3, 5, 6 & 7, House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 1, HBs 81, 312, 486, 1241, 1463, 1838 & 3026, & HR 26	Speaker Alvarez, Rep. Biazon, Deputy Speaker Abu, Reps. Defensor, Fortuno, Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, Rep. Rodriguez (M.), Deputy Speaker Garcia, Reps. Villafuerte, Sarmiento (E.), Leachon, Velarde & Canama	Calling for a constitutional convention to propose revisions to the 1987 Philippine Constitution	<p>The Committee, chaired by Southern Leyte Rep. Roger "Oging" Mercado, decided to deliberate further on the measures seeking to amend or revise the 1987 Philippine Constitution.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu) and Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1st District, Samar) withdrew their bills (HBs 312 and 1463, respectively) in favor of the measures calling for a constituent assembly as a mode to amend the Constitution. Both legislators explained that a constituent assembly is the fastest mode to amend the Constitution and will entail a much lesser cost compared to a constitutional convention.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Eric Singson (2nd District, Ilocos Sur), Rep. Henry Oaminal (2nd District, Misamis Occidental), and Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2nd District, Oriental Mindoro) also manifested their support for convening Congress into a constituent assembly for the purpose of amending the Constitution.</p> <p>On the other hand, BUHAY Party-List Rep. Jose Atienza Jr. pushed for constitutional convention while KABAYAN Party-List Rep. Harry Roque suggested that the people must first be consulted on what mode should be used in amending the Constitution.</p> <p>Another KABAYAN Party-List Rep. Ron Salo warned that any decision of the Committee to already vote on the mode of amending the Constitution might be challenged in the Supreme Court, because it is not clear yet whether the House and the Senate should vote on the matter jointly or separately.</p> <p>Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. (1st District, Surigao del Sur) also insisted that Congress is composed of the House and the Senate, thus should vote jointly.</p> <p>However, Rep. Robert "Ace" Barbers (2nd District, Surigao del Norte) argued that the Committee can already vote now on the matter as the proposed measures will still be discussed with the Senate during a bicameral conference committee meeting.</p>
	RBH 2	Rep. Belmonte (F.)	Proposing amendments to certain economic provisions of the 1987 Constitution, particularly on Articles XII, XIV & XVI by liberalizing the exploration, development and utilization of the country's natural resources, operation of public utilities, and the ownership of lands, educational institutions and the mass media, among others	
	House Joint Resolutions (HJR) 1, 2, 5, 6 & 7, HCRs 4 & 5, and RBHs 8 & 9	Reps. Violago, Benitez, Oaminal & Gomez, Deputy Speakers Singson & Macapagal-Arroyo, Reps. Almario, Gonzales (A.) & Floreindo	Convening the Congress into a constituent assembly to introduce revisions and/or amendments to the 1987 Constitution	
	HB 3182	Rep. Roque	Providing for people's initiative to amend the Constitution	
	HR 32	Rep. Tambunting	Calling on the Committee on Constitutional Amendments to study how the 1987 Constitution can best be revised considering the clamor for a shift to federalism and possible amendments to the Constitution's economic provisions	

Continuation... Constitutional Amendments	HR 52	Rep. Barbers	Calling upon the Members of Congress to convene for the purpose of considering proposals to amend/or revise the Constitution, upon a vote of three-fourth of all Members of Congress	
	HR 126	Rep. Roque	Submitting to the electorate the question of calling for a constitutional convention	
	HR 129	Rep. Espino	Urging the Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate to convene for the purpose of amending or revising the 1987 Constitution to establish a shift from the presidential form to federal system of government	
Information and Communications Technology	HBs 846 & 3437	Reps. Villarica & Arenas	Providing for an on-line network establishment policy for the Philippines or the One Philippines Act	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Victor Yap (2 nd District, Tarlac), agreed to consolidate the two bills, using HB 3437 as the working draft.
	HB 929	Rep. Abaya	Providing for the establishment of the "no calls and no text" registration system	The Committee approved HB 929 with amendments and subject to style.
	HB 671	Rep. Yap (V.)	Providing for penalties or fines against erring public telecommunications entities for violation of the terms or conditions of any certificate, authority, order, decision, resolution or regulation of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), amending for the purpose Sections 21 and 23 of Commonwealth Act (CA) 146, otherwise known as the Public Service Act of 1936	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 671 in its next meeting.</p> <p>In filing HB 671, Rep. Yap underscored the need to amend this antiquated law (CA 146) by imposing higher penalties against erring public telecommunications entities to ensure their compliance with the law and with NTC's rules and regulations.</p> <p>Representatives from telecommunications companies - Smart and Globe – were against the proposed exorbitant penalties that will be imposed for failure to comply with the provisions of the law. Section 21 of the bill imposes fines ranging from P300 thousand up to P5 million, subject to increase every five years. On the other hand, Section 23 imposes a fine not exceeding P300 million.</p> <p>Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Secretary Rodolfo Salalima said that the penalties contemplated under the bill will depend on the gravity of offense committed.</p> <p>Department of Justice (DOJ) State Counsel Lourdes Mendoza underscored the need to clarify the scope of coverage of Sections 1 and 2 of the bill as she opined that these provisions may violate the equal protection clause of the Constitution.</p> <p>NTC Commissioner Gamaliel Cordoba promised to provide the Committee with a copy of the National Economic and Development Authority's (NEDA) proposed formula for the computation of penalties espoused in the bill.</p> <p>The resource persons present were requested to submit to the Committee their respective position papers on the bill.</p>

Metro Manila Development	HB 3460	Rep. Castelo	Requiring all new subdivisions, condominiums, malls, government institutions, central business districts, and information technology parks in Metro Manila to construct rain harvesting facility	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), approved HB 3460, as amended.
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 & 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, will continue its deliberation of measures granting the President emergency powers to address the traffic crisis in the country in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento sought the comments of the aviation and maritime sectors to the following recommendations aimed at easing up traffic in Metro Manila:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of holding/waiting areas for trucks transporting cargoes to and from seaports and airports; • Strict enforcement of traffic rules and regulations; • Untangling of the gridlock on roads leading to and around seaports and airports; and • Use of Clark International Airport and Subic Port as alternate gateways. <p>Representatives from the aviation sector favor the proposal making Clark International Airport as alternate gateway, but said that an express rail transit will be helpful in attracting passengers to use the airport.</p> <p>DOTr Assistant Secretary Leah Quiambao said that the establishment of a one-stop-shop for the processing of documents needed by overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) at the Clark Freeport Zone near the Clark International Airport will attract more OFWs in the North to leave through this airport as they will no longer have to travel to Manila for these requirements. She also mentioned that the construction of the Clark Rail Transit System will further ease traffic on Metro Manila roads. [The Clark Rail Transit System is an 85-kilometer project of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) and Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport and Urban Development (JOIN) that will traverse from Malolos, Bulacan to Clark Green City line.]</p> <p>Representatives from the maritime sector mentioned the narrow road network that affect the movement of cargo trucks. They also cited Manila as the hub of economic activities and thus the Manila ports are the importers' choice of destination for their cargoes.</p> <p>Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) General Manager Jay Daniel Santiago underscored the importance of utilizing the Subic and Batangas ports as a way to address the port congestion problem in the ports of Manila. Although efforts are being made to encourage importers to ship their goods directly to these seaports, Santiago</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	

Continuation... Transportation				said that they remain reluctant to do so. Santiago suggested that the government provide incentives to those who use Subic and Batangas ports as their shipping entry points and for shipowners to relocate to these seaports.
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FORUM		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Human Rights	Forum on the efforts of the Philippine legislature and the German parliament to promote and uphold human rights	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2nd District, Zambales), conducted a forum on the efforts of the Philippine legislature and the German parliament to promote and uphold human rights on October 12, 2016 at the Ramon V. Mitra Building of the House of Representatives (HRep).</p> <p>In her welcome remarks, Rep. Deloso-Montalla explained that the forum serves as an informative political discourse to apprise the legislators of the Philippines and Germany of their respective legislative tasks relative to human rights, and to forge stronger ties between the two countries.</p> <p>Rep. Deloso-Montalla informed the forum participants of the mandate of the Committee on Human Rights, which deals with all matters relating to the protection and enhancement of human rights, assistance to victims of human rights violations and their families, the prevention of violations of human rights and the punishment of perpetrators of such violations.</p> <p>Similarly, Martin Patzelt, Member of the Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid of Germany's Parliament, the Bundestag, said that his Committee scrutinizes the bills filed pertaining to human rights and ensures their compliance with the German and European Constitution, as well as with the human rights treaties initiated by the United Nations (UN). He added that his country is engaging other countries and closely cooperating with the UN to promote human rights around the world.</p> <p>German Ambassador to the Philippines Michael Hasper gave assurance that the Philippines and Germany are enjoying close ties politically and economically. He thanked the Committee for inviting him to the forum and appreciated the exchange of ideas between the two countries on the human rights-related efforts.</p> <p>On the query of German human rights advocate Dominic Hammann on the Committee's initiatives to support human rights defenders in the Philippines, Rep. Deloso-Montalla answered that there are several bills referred to the Committee on the matter, one of which is HB 1617, which defines the rights of human rights defenders and providing penalties for violations thereof. She further informed the Committee that just last month, she attended a summit for human rights defenders to show the support of the Committee.</p> <p>When asked by Rep. Salvador Belaro Jr. (Party-List, 1-ANG EDUKASYON) on how human rights are promoted in the education sector in Germany, Ambassador Hasser said that the subject of human rights is incorporated in the schools' history class considering the massive human rights abuses that occurred in Germany in the past.</p>

OTHER MATTERS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Cooperatives Development	Roundtable discussion on RA 9510 or the Cooperative Information System Act	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rico Geron (Party-List, AGAP), conducted a roundtable discussion on the status of implementation of RA

<p>Continuation... Cooperatives Development</p>		<p>9510 with representatives from concerned government agencies and various cooperatives.</p> <p>The roundtable discussion aims to better understand the reasons behind the strong opposition of several cooperatives against the continued implementation of RA 9510.</p> <p>Among those who participated in the roundtable discussion were representatives from the government agencies such as the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Philippine Competition Commission (PCC), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and Credit Information Corporation (CIC); and from various cooperatives which include, Baguio Benguet Community Credit Cooperative (BBCCC), Tabuk City Cooperative Development Council (CCDC), Federation of Peoples' Sustainable Development Cooperative (FPSDC), and Sta. Cruz Savings and Development Cooperative (SCSDC).</p> <p>RA 9510 aims to establish a comprehensive and centralized credit information system for the collection and dissemination of fair and accurate information in relation to credit and credit-related activities of all entities participating in the financial system. The law covers all entities that provide credit facilities, including cooperatives.</p> <p>Representatives from the various cooperatives present argued that cooperatives should be excluded from the scope of RA 9510 and that a separate CIC functioning under the CDA should handle the unique concerns of the cooperatives. They likewise cited the following reasons for their strong opposition to the continued implementation of RA 9510:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The law is unconstitutional and violative of RA 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012 and RA 9520 or the Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008; • There was no proper consultation made with concerned stakeholders prior to the promulgation of the law's implementing rules and regulations (IRR); • Cooperatives find the law's requirements too complicated to comply; and • The law's penalty provision is not acceptable to cooperatives. <p>CIC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jaime Garchitorena said that he is not in a position to interpret the constitutionality and legality of RA 9510. But he noted that most of the points presented by cooperatives against the law are just misconceptions as he explained that both RA 9520 and RA 9510 were enacted during the same Congress, making it unlikely that contradictions between these two laws would have gone unnoticed.</p> <p>Garchitorena said that the CIC is willing to assist the cooperatives in complying with the requirements under RA 9510. He added that the CIC has not sanctioned any violator at this point in time, with CIC being more inclined towards assisting cooperatives than penalizing them.</p> <p>SEC Chairperson Teresita Herbosa clarified that the IRR of RA 9510 was promulgated by the Joint Oversight Committee created for the purpose, composed of seven Senators and seven House Members. Thus, Herbosa opined, amending the IRR will require an act of Congress to revive the oversight committee.</p> <p>Rep. Anthony Bravo (Party-List, COOP-NATCO) recommended the filing of a resolution that will revive the said oversight committee that will amend the IRR of RA 9510.</p>
<p>Metro Manila Development</p>	<p>Discussion on the planning and management of various utility infrastructures in Metro Manila</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), will continue its discussion of issues surrounding the planning and management of various utility infrastructures in Metro Manila.</p> <p>In the Committee's previous meeting, the Committee agreed to invite utility companies to discuss with them utility infrastructures that obstruct road</p>

<p>Continuation... Metro Manila Development</p>	<p>construction and other infrastructure projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in Metro Manila.</p> <p>Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista suggested the use of underground electric cables, which according to him is much safer than the existing overhead cables.</p> <p>Manila Electric Company (MERALCO) First Vice Presidents Ronnie Aperocho and William Pamintuan argued that the installation of underground electric cables would be 10 times more expensive than the overhead cables and might also affect the drainage system.</p> <p>AKO BICOL Party-List Rep. Rodel Batocabe asked the MERALCO officials to furnish the Committee pertinent studies that would support their claim.</p> <p>Rep. Bayani Fernando (1st District, Marikina City) requested the regulatory agencies to provide the Committee information on policies governing the installation and maintenance of electric meters, cables and posts. He also asked for a report on instances when utility companies were reprimanded or penalized for violations of these policies.</p> <p>Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) Customer Affairs Service Director Ma. Corazon Gines said that under the Magna Carta for Residential Electricity Consumers, an electric meter should be installed outside the wall of the house or on a private pole. However, if it is not feasible, electric meters may be installed on concrete poles.</p> <p>Pasay City Rep. Emi Calixto-Rubiano called the attention of MERALCO for its delayed response to emergency calls (such as in cases of felled/damaged poles or dangling live wires) stressing that the power firm should respond within 15 minutes after the call to ensure the safety of the people.</p> <p>Aperocho explained that factors such as proximity of the affected area and the traffic condition need to be considered in determining how quick MERALCO can respond to the emergency calls it receives.</p> <p>Sought to comment on the charging of sewerage fees by water utility providers, Jeric Sevilla, head of the Corporate Strategic Affairs of Manila Water Company, Inc., explained that the sewerage fee is charged only to commercial and industrial consumers, while the environmental fee is charged to all.</p> <p>Rep. Fernando stressed that water concessionaires should not charge sewerage fee at all because they have not constructed any sewer line to connect the commercial and industrial buildings to any of their sewerage treatment plants.</p> <p>In reaction, Rep. Castelo proposed a refund of the payment for sewerage fee collected from the consumers.</p>
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