

Committee Daily Bulletin

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ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Climate Change (Special Committee)	Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	The Committee, chaired by AKO BICOL Party-List Rep. Christopher Co, adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17 th Congress.
	Briefing by the Climate Change Commission (CCC)	<p>The Committee listened to the briefing conducted by CCC Secretary Emmanuel de Guzman on the Commission's accomplishments and plans and programs, as well as on the efforts being done towards the ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.</p> <p>De Guzman emphasized that adaptation is a must, as he warned that the loss and damage from climate change is inevitable given the increasing concentration of carbon in the atmosphere. He went on to present the mandate, functions, and accomplishments of the CCC.</p> <p>In particular, the CCC has adopted policies on climate change adaptation and mitigation; provided technical support to local government units (LGUs); contributed inputs to national climate change and disaster risk reduction policy development through the National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE); and accepted, reviewed and enhanced projects related to climate change adaptation.</p> <p>On the status of the country's ratification of the Paris Agreement, De Guzman reported that out of 33 national government agencies, nine have already submitted certificates of concurrence to the CCC. He likewise highlighted the various contributions of the Philippines to the crafting of the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>The Paris Agreement aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below two degrees Celsius and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. It has been ratified by 81 parties and will enter into force on November 4. (<i>United Nations Framework on Climate Change</i>)</p> <p>De Guzman stressed that ratifying the Agreement will safeguard the Philippines' national interest and will allow the country a degree of influence in the setting of global climate change policy; and provide greater access to financing institutions, new technologies, and capacity development opportunities, including the \$100 billion annual climate funds until 2020.</p> <p>Reps. Prospero Pichay Jr. (1st District, Surigao del Sur) and Gil "Kabarangay" Acosta (3rd District, Palawan) suggested that the CCC should explain thoroughly to the President the importance of the Paris Agreement to the country and to convince him that the said Agreement will not hamper the country's industrialization and economic development.</p> <p>The CCC was requested to submit the list of agencies that are required to submit the certificate of concurrence, list of CCC's projects and programs, and a copy of the Paris Agreement.</p>

<p>Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (Special Committee)</p>	<p>Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Tawi-Tawi Rep. Ruby Sahali, adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p> <p>The Committee, which is composed of 20 members, has jurisdiction over all matters directly and principally relating to negotiations and other policy and program initiatives in pursuit of the peace process and national reconciliation, the cessation of hostilities generated by internal armed conflicts, and the welfare of rebel-returnees.</p> <p>Rep. Sahali reported that during the second round of talks between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) held from October 6 to 9 in Oslo, Norway, both panels agreed, among others, to release political prisoners based on humanitarian grounds. They also reviewed the status of the promulgation of an amnesty proclamation as agreed upon during the first round of talks held on August 22-26, 2016. (Rep. Sahali headed the six-person delegation from the House of Representatives who observed the proceedings of the second round of the peace talks.)</p> <p>The GRP panel is chaired by Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary Silvestre Bello, while the NDFP panel is headed by Fidel Agcaoili. The peace talks with the communist rebels was facilitated by the Royal Norwegian Government (RNG).</p>
	<p>Briefing on the peace and development agenda of the Duterte administration</p>	<p>The Committee listened to the briefing of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) Director for Peace and Policy Unit Pamela Ann Padilla on the Six-Point Peace and Development Agenda of President Rodrigo Duterte, which are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaningful implementation of the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB) and the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) towards healing in the Bangsamoro; • Completion of the remaining commitments under the Government of the Philippines (GPH) - Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) Peace Agreements; • Accelerated signing and implementation of peace accords with communist insurgents; • Immediate conclusion of the peace process with the Cordillera Peoples Liberation Army (CPLA) and the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa ng Pilipinas - Revolutionary Proletarian Army - Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPMP-RPA-ABB); • Peace promoting catch-up socio-economic development in conflict- affected areas; and • Building of a culture of peace and conflict sensitivity. <p>Sought to comment on the 60-day bilateral ceasefire between the government and the National Democratic Front – Communist Party of the Philippines (NDF-CPP) which will expire on October 26, GRP panel's Ceasefire Committee Chair Francisco Lara Jr. said the ceasefire seems to be holding, with no cases of major encounters. However, he added, there is a need to finalize the bilateral ceasefire agreement not only for the cessation of hostilities but also to begin negotiations on substantive agenda, such as socio-economic reforms.</p> <p>Lara further mentioned that so far, the government has only identified 81 out of the 434 political prisoners supposed to be covered by the amnesty.</p> <p>When asked by Rep. Sahali if the Department of Justice (DOJ) already has the names of the 81 prisoners, DOJ State Counsel Dioxenes Sulit clarified that the DOJ is still in the process of identifying the political prisoners included in the list. Nevertheless, he said the Department will undertake appropriate steps to expedite the prisoners' release.</p>

Continuation... Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (Special Committee)		Rep. Maximo Rodriguez Jr. (2 nd District, Cagayan De Oro City) requested that a copy of the document outlining the socio-economic reforms, as part of the substantive agenda of the peace talks, be submitted to the Committee.
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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Climate Change (Special Committee)	HR 103	Rep. Zarate	Expressing the concurrence of the House of Representatives with the position of President Rodrigo Duterte rejecting the Paris Climate Change accord and calling for its non-ratification	The Committee, chaired by AKO BICOL Party-List Rep. Christopher Co, deferred consideration of HR 103.
Justice	HR 105	Speaker Alvarez	Investigation into the proliferation of drug syndicates at the National Bilibid Prison (NBP)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2nd District, Oriental Mindoro), discussed the draft Committee Report on HR 105 in an executive session.</p> <p>Rep. Umali said the Committee hopes to approve the committee report within the week before the session adjourns on Thursday, October 20.</p> <p>KABAYAN Party-List Rep. Ron Salo inquired on the status of the arrest warrant against Ronnie Dayan, who was tagged as the one collecting payoffs from drug syndicates at the NBP allegedly for Senator Leila de Lima's election campaign funds.</p> <p>Rep. Umali explained that the warrant stays and all unfinished business relative to the inquiry will be taken up again by the Committee or subcommittees of the Committee on Justice, as needed.</p> <p>In its previous meeting, the Committee agreed to hold Dayan in contempt and to issue an arrest warrant against him for ignoring the summons of the Committee.</p>
Transportation	HBs 03, 38, 554, 1315, 1666, 3048, 3162, 3314, 3442, 3617, 3712, 3716 & HR 119	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.) & Deputy Speaker Abu	Traffic Crisis Act	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, will continue its deliberation on 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 concerned government agencies and constitutional bodies on the following recommendations aimed at addressing the traffic crisis in Metro Manila and other highly urbanized areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibition on the issuance of temporary restraining orders (TROs) and preliminary injunctions against projects, programs and policies to be implemented under the Traffic Crisis Bill; • Creation of dedicated courts in

<p>Continuation... Transportation</p>				<p>covered areas to try cases related to the implementation of the proposed law;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of additional funds to implement the projects of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and other agencies under the proposed law which were not included in the FY 2017 proposed national budget; and • Reorganization of traffic-related government agencies. <p>Sought to comment on the proposed prohibition on the issuance of TROs and injunctions, Supreme Court (SC) Deputy Court Administrator Raul Villanueva assured the Committee that the SC will not interfere in any government infrastructure project.</p> <p>Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Assistant Director (OIC) Grace delos Santos explained that the DOTr may propose a supplemental budget for its projects under the proposed Traffic Crisis Law, but it will still go through the usual budget process, thus will need the approval of the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) and Congress.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento also raised the possibility of creating a joint committee composed of representatives from the Civil Service Commission (CSC), Commission on Audit (COA), and the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB) to expeditiously resolve complaints against public officials involved with the implementation of projects covered by the proposed law.</p> <p>CSC Assistant Commissioner Ariel Ronquillo said the CSC and the OMB are already in the process of drafting a memorandum of agreement that will facilitate the identification and delineation of cases filed with them that are better handled by either the CSC or OMB, based on their respective jurisdictions.</p> <p>Rep. Edgar Sarmiento (1st District, Samar) questioned the absorptive capacity of the DOTr in relation to the additional funds it is set to receive under the proposed law, considering the huge amount of unobligated funds it had since 2015. He also asked if the Department can still procure the needed equipment and facilities for its projects in case the President is not granted the emergency powers being requested from Congress.</p> <p>DOTr Undersecretary for Legal and Procurement Raoul Creencia replied that the emergency powers, which will allow the procurement of equipment and services without having to go through the government's standard procurement process, will definitely expedite the DOTr's projects designed to solve the traffic crisis.</p>
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Continuation... Transportation				<p>Rep. Gus Tambunting (2nd District, Parañaque City) asked the DOTr to comment on the statement allegedly made by Senator Ralph Recto that the emergency powers will cover the entire country.</p> <p>Creencio clarified that the proposed traffic crisis law covers Metro Manila and other highly urbanized areas which have traffic problems on a crisis level.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the recommendations made.</p>
Women and Gender Equality	HBs 51, 267, 949, 1034, 1108, 1451, 1854, 3245, 3555 and 3701	Reps. Bag-ao, Roman, Ocampo, Castelo, Baguilat, Belaro, Aragones, Villarica, Villarin and Aglipay-Villar	Prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI) and providing penalties for violations thereof	<p>The Committee, chaired by DIWA Party-List Rep. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar, agreed to consolidate the 10 bills prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI).</p> <p>Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Assistant Secretary Joji Aragon expressed support for the bills saying that there should be no discrimination in the context of hiring, promotion, dismissal, or determination of compensation.</p> <p>Executive Director Emmeline Verzosa of the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) underscored the need to surface cases of “hate crimes” for people’s awareness and that law enforcers must be properly trained to deal with these type of crimes. (Hate crimes are those committed against persons because of their race, religion, sexuality, gender or disability, and they typically involve violence.) She also said that there should be no discrimination against students whose parents are of same sex.</p> <p>BUHAY Party-List Rep. Jose Atienza Jr. asked whether same-sex marriage is being allowed but is just being “concealed” in any of the provisions of the proposed measures.</p> <p>Dinagat Islands Rep. Kaka Bag-ao, author of HB 51, stressed that nowhere in the bills is same-sex marriage mentioned. She added that what the bills prohibit is the denial or revocation of professional licenses or similar documents, which do not pertain to marriage licenses, on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.</p> <p>On the other hand, Dr. Ryan Borja Capitulo of the Filipinos for Life opposed the passage of the anti-SOGI bill because, according to him, there are a number of laws that could already address this concern.</p> <p>Rep. Geraldine Roman (1st District, Bataan) asserted that passing a specific law does not mean affording a certain group of persons extra or special rights, reacting to another comment of Capitulo that the proposed law favors a specific group.</p>

Continuation... Women and Gender Equality				<p>Atty. Jo Imbong of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) proposed the inclusion of a provision that promotes the fundamental right of parents to raise their children in accordance with their religious beliefs, and to consider that in all matters, the best interest of the child shall be paramount.</p> <p>Imbong was requested to submit to the Committee her proposed amendments.</p> <p>The resource persons present were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Energy	<p>Briefing by the following government agencies and private businesses involved in the energy resource development and electric power generation sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) and its subsidiaries 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, listened to the briefing conducted by various government agencies and private groups involved in the energy resource development and electric power generation sectors.</p> <p>PNOC President and CEO John Jimenez Arenas presented the PNOC's officials who will be presenting the agency's mandate, key targets, and programs and projects.</p> <p>PNOC Corporate Planning Department Manager (OIC) Belinda Cubelo briefed the Committee on the mandate and on-going projects of the PNOC.</p> <p>Cubelo also highlighted PNOC's activities in relation to its forthcoming Batangas-to-Manila (BatMan1) Natural Gas Pipeline Project. While awaiting the approval of the project by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board, Cubelo said the PNOC is already conducting right of way activities such as securing the endorsements of local government units (LGUs) that will be affected by the project and coordinating with implementing agencies of road and other infrastructure projects that may interface with the gas pipelines.</p> <p>The PNOC subsidiaries – PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) and PNOC Renewables Corporation (PNOC RC) – also presented their respective mandates and programs and projects.</p> <p>PNOC-EC Vice President for Operations Raymundo Sabella said that the corporation's mandate is to take the lead in the exploration, development, and production of the country's oil, gas, and coal resources. He reported that the PNOC EC holds interest in eight service contracts (SCs) and four coal operating contracts (COCs).</p> <p>Sabella cited the following challenges being faced by the PNOC EC in its operations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government policies that impede the progress of, rather than support, exploration activities; • Boundary dispute in the West Philippine Sea; • Compliance with certain restrictions and guidelines that result in delays and adversely impact the company's operations; and • Unattractive compensation package. <p>PNOC-RC President (OIC) Pedro Lite highlighted the corporation's Maibarara Geothermal Project, Nalatang, Rizal NIA hydropower project, and Muñoz NIA hydropower project which are already in the pipeline. On</p>

<p>Continuation... Energy</p>		<p>generated from this project. They noted that Shell and Chevron, the two other consortium partners, get 45% share each from the project's income.</p> <p>Sabella said that the profit sharing agreement is stipulated in the service contract entered into by the PNOC with Shell and Chevron which will end in 2024. He said, though, that the proposal to increase the 10% share can be made part of the negotiations should the service contract be renewed.</p> <p>On the query of Reps. Rosenda Ann Ocampo (6th District, Manila) and Gil "Kabarangay" Acosta (3rd District, Palawan) regarding the conversion of waste materials into energy, Sabella said that this undertaking is currently on its conceptual stage and that the PNOC has ongoing talks with concerned LGUs on the volume of waste generated in their localities in order to determine the appropriate facility that will be constructed.</p> <p>Rep. Lianda Bolilia (4th District, Batangas) inquired on the status of utilization of the P183 billion Malampaya Funds which represents the government's share and which is intended to finance energy resource development and exploration programs of the government. Sabella said that the President determines the utilization of such funds, but the PNOC-EC submits its recommendations to the President, through the Department of Energy (DOE), on possible energy-related projects which can be funded out of the Malampaya funds.</p> <p>The government agencies present were asked to submit data and status reports relative to the issues and concerns raised by the individual members of the Committee.</p>
<p>Veterans Affairs</p>	<p>Briefing on the mandate, plans and programs and legislative priorities of the following government agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2nd District, Pangasinan), listened to the briefing conducted by the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) and the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) on their mandates, plans and programs, and legislative priorities.</p> <p>PVAO Administrator Lt. General Ernesto Carolina apprised the Committee of PVAO's legislative agenda for 2017, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the pension granted to senior veterans and to widows/heirs of soldiers killed in action; granting employment preference to child of veterans, and establishing additional veterans hospitals; • Propagating the heroism of veterans, by establishing additional <i>Libingan ng mga Bayani</i> and military shrines in Davao, Bukidnon and Cagayan de Oro City; • Managing the veterans affairs, by amending the Philippine Veterans Bank (PVB) Law and amending/repealing the Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP) Charter (RA 2640); • Reorganizing the PVAO, by creating the Philippine Veterans Authority (PVA) and establishing the Office of Veterans Affairs (OVA); and • Enacting into law the Pension Reform Bill; restoring the mandatory Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) for students; and granting educational assistance and benefits to dependents of all members of uniformed services. <p>Carolina presented the 2017 budget of PVAO amounting to P10.38 billion, which is 31.48% lower than its current budget of P15.15 billion. He also mentioned the unfunded projects of PVAO meant mainly to pay the pension and other benefits of veterans amounting to P1.22 billion. But Carolina also reported that P4.77 million intended to pay for the total administrative disability arrears (TAD) for living as well as deceased veterans of WWII was released this September 2016, to benefit 25,791 beneficiaries.</p>

<p>Continuation... Veterans Affairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) 	<p>Carolina requested that the income generated from the lease of the 50-hectare Veterans Center in Taguig City be utilized to fund the services and benefits due to the veterans. He likewise urged the Commission on Audit (COA) to conduct an audit of the Board of Trustees of Veterans of World War II (BTVWWII) in view of the Department of Justice's (DOJ) opinion that it is a public corporation.</p> <p>Majority of the Members of the Committee present manifested their support for the establishment of veterans' hospitals in Visayas and Mindanao. They likewise agreed on the creation of the PVA that will integrate the powers and functions of all agencies and offices administering veterans' welfare and benefits into a single authority.</p> <p>VMMC Director Nona Legaspi highlighted the four-fold mission of the Center, focusing on the following areas: patient care, education and training, research, and civic action and outreach programs.</p> <p>Legaspi likewise apprised the Committee of the two major programs of the VMMC, the PVAO-VMMC Hospitalization Program and the VMMC Wellness Program. He also mentioned the completed, on-going, and future projects of the VMMC.</p> <p>For 2017, Legaspi said that the VMMC stands to receive a budget of P1.18 billion, which is 5% higher compared to its current budget of P1.06 billion. The increase in budget of the VMMC will cover funds for the hiring of additional workforce to support its expansion, for the establishment of prostate and stone center, and for the repair of water lines.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Bataoil with regard to the \$500,000 aid from the US intended for the VMMC, Legaspi explained that it was already terminated in 2015. Legaspi promised to provide the Committee with a copy of the letter containing the said termination.</p>
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FORUM		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p>Higher and Technical Education</p>	<p>Forum for legislators on the programs being implemented by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED)</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ann Hofer (2nd District, Zamboanga Sibugay), sponsored a forum for legislators on the programs being implemented by the CHED on October 17, 2016 at Speaker Belmonte Hall, House of Representatives.</p> <p>Rep. Hofer acknowledged the visitors and guests, led by the legislators and CHED officials, who attended the forum. She said that the purpose of the forum is to clarify issues and concerns relative to the implementation of the various policies and programs and projects of CHED.</p> <p>CHED Chair Patricia Licuanan presented the country's higher education landscape and the Philippine Higher Education Reform Agenda that is geared towards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding access to quality education and training; • Enhancing the capacity or competencies of the graduates and the faculty; • Developing and fostering excellence in colleges and universities; and • Enshrining ethical and innovative governance in higher education system and institutions. <p>After Licuanan's presentation, CHED officials took turns presenting their respective topics, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Ronaldo Liveta of the Office of Student Development and Services - discussed the Student Financial Assistance Programs (StuFAPs) and other

<p>Continuation... Higher and Technical Education</p>		<p>financial assistance programs to students being administered by CHED;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHED Deputy Executive Director Napoleon Imperial – discussed the scope, objectives, and modalities of the Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education or the UniFAST Law (RA 10687); • Director Amelia Biglete of the Office of Programs and Standards Development – discussed CHED’s regulatory measures governing higher education institutions (HEIs) and several developmental and non-conventional programs; • Director Carmelita Yadao-Sison, Officer-in-Charge of the Office of Institutional Quality Assurance and Governance – discussed the components of institutionalizing quality assurance and governance and the policies and programs relative to gender and development in CHED and HEIs; • K to 12 Program Director Karol Mark Yee – discussed CHED’s comprehensive range of developmental programs that mitigate the impact on labor and upgrade the quality of Philippine higher education to ensure the smooth and successful transition to K to 12 as mandated under the law (RA 10533); • Dr. Maria Cynthia Rose Bautista, Chair of CHED Task Force on Institutionalization of Maritime Higher Education Reforms – discussed the international maritime scenario and CHED’s efforts in restructuring the maritime education programs in response to persistent non-conformances with the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) external audits, which might cost the Philippines’ exclusion from the European list of port states that are eligible to supply officers to the international maritime fleet; • Dr. Wiliam Padolina, Executive Director of the Philippine-California Advanced Research Institutes (PCARI) Project – discussed the PCARI Project, which is designed to enhance the capacity of HEIs for research and development through scholarships and training and research partnerships with highly-ranked research universities in California, USA; • Dr. Napoleon Juanillo Jr., Director of the Office of Planning, Research and Knowledge Management – discussed the principles of CHED’s support for research and innovation in higher education : Equity, Relevance and Advancement; and • CHED Commissioner Alex Brillantes - discussed the governance reforms in SUCs: professionalizing recruitment; selection and appointment; continuous capacity building for SUC leaders; improving financial management; and strengthening academe-community linkages. <p>In his closing remarks, Rep. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” Sy-Alvarado (1st District, Bulacan) commended the CHED delegation for giving an exhaustive briefing on the CHED’s programs and projects, and likewise thanked the House Members who attended the forum.</p>
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