

Committee Daily Bulletin

17th Congress
First Regular Session

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ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS

| COMMITTEE | SUBJECT MATTER | DISCUSSIONS |
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| Agriculture and Food | Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure | <p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jose Panganiban, Jr. (Party-List, ANAC-IP), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p> <p>The Committee, which is presently composed of 65 Members, has general jurisdiction over all matters directly and principally relating to food and agricultural production; agribusiness; agri-economics; agricultural research and technology; agricultural education including extension services; soil conservation, survey and research; irrigation; farm credit and security; animal industry and quarantine; crop and livestock production, insurance and guarantee programs; and fisheries and aquatic resources.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG), to be chaired by Rep. Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), that will be tasked to study all bills referred to the Committee which seek to establish the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Fund. The Committee also decided to use HB 6135 or the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Act, which was approved on 3rd Reading during the 16th Congress, as the reference bill.</p> |
| | <p>Briefing by the following government agencies on their respective mandates, key strategies, plans and programs, and priority legislative agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture (DA) • Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) | <p>The Committee listened to the briefing of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) on their respective mandates, key strategies, plans and programs, and priority legislative agenda.</p> <p>Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol presented the DA's programs and key strategies in order to achieve the following objectives: provide available and affordable food for the Filipinos; increase the income of farmers and fisherfolk; and increase the resiliency of the agriculture sector to climate change.</p> <p>Among the DA's priority legislative agenda are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abolition of the irrigation service fees; • Establishment of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Act; and • Promotion of the corporate farming scheme. <p>DAR Secretary Rafael Mariano highlighted the policy direction of the Department, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the security of tenure of farmers; • Promoting the farmer's rights and welfare; • Contributing to rural development; • Ensuring food security; and • Strengthening the DAR community. <p>Mariano also apprised the Committee on the status of implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), particularly the land acquisition and distribution (LAD) component. He said that as of June 2016, a total of 4,724,720 hectares of agricultural lands have been distributed to a total of 2,790,644 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs).</p> |

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| <p>Continuation... Agriculture and Food</p> | | <p>Among the proposed legislative agenda of the DAR are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condonation of unpaid amortizations and interest rates on lands awarded to ARBs; and • Passage of a law seeking the completion of the land acquisition and distribution component of CARP to cover about 621,000 hectares undistributed agricultural lands. |
| <p>Banks and Financial Intermediaries</p> | <p>Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure</p> | <p>The Committee, chaired by Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone, adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p> <p>Rep. Evardone presented the Committee's legislative priorities based on the President's pronouncements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a legal framework, particularly on micro finance development, to ensure that the banking sector will be more inclusive; • Strengthen the financial sector to prepare it against external shocks and possible challenges brought about by the ASEAN economic integration; • Develop an environment conducive to long-term investments by harmonizing the powers of the <i>Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas</i> (BSP), Insurance Commission (IC), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) with those of the international financial regulators; • Strengthen transparency and provide safety mechanisms to protect both the investors and consumers; • Review/amend the New Central Bank Act (RA 7653), Securities Regulation Code (RA 8799), Insurance Code of the Philippines (PD 1460), and CDA Charter (RA 6939) in order to strengthen their oversight and regulatory functions, as well as to keep pace with global trends; and • Amend the Bank Secrecy Law (RA 1405) and Anti-Money Laundering Act (RA 9160) to expand their scope of coverage to include casino operators and other entities. |
| | <p>Briefing by the <i>Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas</i> (BSP) on its mandate, functions, advocacies and legislative priorities</p> | <p>BSP Deputy Governor Vicente Aquino presented the BSP's mandate, functions, advocacies, and legislative priorities.</p> <p>Based on the Constitution and RA 7653, the BSP serves as the country's independent central monetary authority that provides policy direction in the areas of money, banking, and credit; and exercises supervision over the operation of banks and regulates the operations of finance companies, quasi-banks, and other institutions performing similar functions.</p> <p>Aquino said that it is the primary objective of the BSP to maintain price stability that is conducive to a balanced and sustainable growth of the economy, and to promote and maintain monetary stability and the convertibility of the peso.</p> <p>The legislative priorities of the BSP are the enactment into law of the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSP Charter Amendments Bill; • Payment Systems Bill; • Al Amanah Islamic Investment Bank of the Philippines Charter Amendments Bill; • Anti-Coin Hoarding Bill; • AMLA Amendments Bill; and • Bank Deposits Secrecy Bill; <p>Aquino made an exhaustive discussion of the BSP's proposed amendments to the BSP Charter which cover four major areas, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforcing corporate and financial viability – to include increased BSP capitalization of up to P150 billion and |

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| <p>Continuation... Local Government</p> | <p>Briefing by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) on its plans, programs, and legislative agenda</p> | <p>Rep Salceda was designated as the officer-in-charge of the Subcommittee on Local Taxation and Fiscal Matters until its chair has been officially named.</p> <p>DILG Undersecretary Austere Panadero presented the Department's policy and program priorities which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waging a comprehensive and holistic campaign against illegal drugs; • Pushing for the transparency, accountability, and effectiveness of local government units (LGUs); • Providing for the needs of the poor and marginalized; • Helping LGUs develop their local economic potentials; and • Raising local capacities for disaster preparedness and resilience. <p>With regard to DILG's legislative agenda, Panadero conveyed the Department's proposed amendments to Republic Act 7160 or the Local Government Code (LGC), which are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a more equitable and just distribution of the internal revenue allocation (IRA) that will take into account disparities in revenue raising capacity of LGUs; • Align income requirements for the creation/conversion of highly urbanized city, province and municipality with that in RA 9009 which provides new income criteria for the creation of cities; • Require LGUs to post documents relating to income, expenditure, procurement, loans, and the like in conspicuous places for transparency; • Insert a provision that will differentiate between fully devolved functions and delegated functions; and • Assign the approval of the schedule of market value of real properties to the Department of Finance (DOF). <p>When asked by Mountain Province Rep. Maximo Dalog about the agency's programs for the indigenous peoples (IPs), Panadero said the DILG has in fact issued a circular providing guidelines on the mandatory representation of IPs in local sanggunians.</p> <p>Several Committee Members sought DILG's comment on the reported extortion activities perpetrated by individuals posing as representatives of the DILG, with incumbent LGU officials forced to pay allegedly in exchange for the grant of a hold-over capacity in the event the 2016 barangay elections will be postponed.</p> <p>DILG Assistant Secretary Ricojudge Janvier Echiverri said the issue has come to the Department's attention already and DILG Secretary Ismael Sueno has been advised to make a public announcement warning the public against such extortionists who are using the name of the Department. Likewise, the DILG secretariat has already issued a memorandum to all department personnel on the matter, Echiverri added.</p> |
| <p>Public Works and Highways</p> | <p>Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure</p> | <p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p> <p>The Committee has general jurisdiction over all matters directly and principally relating to the planning, construction, maintenance, improvement and repair of public infrastructure inclusive of buildings, highways, bridges, roads, parks, drainage, flood control and protection, water utilities, and utilization of waters of the public domain.</p> <p>Rep. Lobregat presented the major accomplishments of the Committee during the 16th Congress which include the passage of the following laws: Right-of-Way Act (RA 10752); Naming of Diversion</p> |

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| <p>Continuation... Public Works and Highways</p> | | <p>Road in Tacloban City as Governor Benjamin Cocoy T. Romualdez Diversion Road (RA 10670); Naming the National Highway along the Iloilo Diversion Road as Senator Benigno S. Aquino Jr. Avenue (RA 10662); and Naming of Circumferential Road of the Iloilo Dumangas Coastal Road in Jaro District, Iloilo City as President Corazon C. Aquino Avenue (RA 10663).</p> <p>Rep. Lobregat mentioned that there are 333 House Bills, 11 House Resolutions and one Privilege Speech so far referred to the Committee for consideration.</p> |
| | <p>Briefing by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) on the guidelines for road conversion and for the creation and classification/reclassification of district engineering offices (DEOs)</p> | <p>DPWH Planning Service Director Constante Llanes Jr. apprised the Committee of the three methods by which local roads can be converted into national roads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative procedure – through the issuance of a Department Order by the DPWH Secretary; • Legislative procedure – through an act of Congress; and • Executive procedure – through the issuance of an Executive Order by the President. <p>Llanes discussed the technical requirements for road conversion, to wit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justification for the proposed road conversion, particularly on its function in relation to the overall road network, with road map indicating the start and end limits; • Resolution from the city/municipal/provincial board favorably endorsing the proposed conversion; • Endorsement of the DPWH Regional Office; • Proof of acquisition of the required road right-of-way (ROW) and/or certifications from the concerned Provincial Registry of Deed and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR); • Certificate from the district engineer concerned that the road for conversion meets the Department's standards; • Pictures showing the present condition of the proposed road every 400-meter interval depending upon the necessity or road condition; and • Road and Bridge Information Application (RBIA) Road Inventory Form duly accomplished and signed by the district engineer and regional director. <p>Llanes also presented the guidelines for the creation or classification/reclassification of DEOs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the creation of a new DEO, the national road length should be 100 kilometers, with land area equivalent to 100 square kilometers, and with 250,000 inhabitants. • For the classification/reclassification of DEOs, road length equivalent to 250 km and above is classified as 1st class DEO; 100 km up to less than 250 km, 2nd class DEO; and less than 100 km, 3rd class DEO. <p>Rep. Gil "Kabarangay" Acosta (3rd District, Palawan) inquired on the road conversion process that will entail less time to pursue.</p> <p>DPWH Undersecretary Romeo Momo said that the fastest way to convert local roads into national roads is through the issuance of a Department Order. However, Momo clarified that the technical requirements for road conversion must still be complied with regardless of the procedure that will be adopted.</p> <p>Rep. Strike Revilla (2nd District, Cavite) raised his concern about several government projects, although funded, but were held in abeyance due to ROW issues.</p> <p>Momo emphasized that the ROW issues have to be resolved first before projects can be implemented. He added that these problems</p> |

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| Continuation... Public Works and Highways | | <p>are being addressed by the district offices and the legal department of the DPWH.</p> <p>The DPWH agreed to provide the Committee with a copy of the list of projects with ROW problems per district as required by the Members present.</p> |
| Poverty Alleviation | Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure | <p>The Committee, chaired by GABRIELA Party-List Rep. Emmi de Jesus, adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair Rep. Salvio Fortuno (5th District, Camarines Sur) presented the Committee's accomplishments during the 16th Congress, which include valuable efforts that led to the approval on third reading of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB 4629 or Magna Carta of the Poor; and • HB 6393 or Institutionalizing the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). |
| | <p>Briefing by the following government agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), on its social protection services • Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP), on the urban poor situation | <p>The Committee listened to the presentations of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP), and the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC).</p> <p>Social Welfare Secretary Judy Taguiwalo discussed the various social protection services that the DSWD provides, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino Program (4Ps) – provides poor families with school-age children and pregnant mothers access to basic education and health services; • Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) - offers skills training, seed capital fund, pre-employment assistance fund, and the cash for building livelihood assets; • Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan – Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (Kalahi-CIDS) – empowers communities of targeted municipalities through improved access to services and participation in local planning, budgeting and implementation; and • Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens Program – provides a monthly pension of P5,000 to poor senior citizens to augment their daily subsistence and other medical needs. <p>Taguiwalo further said the DSWD provides medical, educational, burial and transportation assistance; conducts relief operations during disasters; and undertakes various activities to help street children, street families and indigenous peoples (IPs).</p> <p>For the 17th Congress, the DSWD is pushing for the passage of the following proposed laws:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to the Solo Parent's Welfare Act of 2000; • Elderly Abuse Bill; • Establishment of the National Council for the Welfare of Senior Citizens Bill; • International Social Services Bill; • Social Welfare Development Agencies (SWDAs) Bill; and • Public Solicitation (PubSol) Bill. <p>Vincent Eugenio, Chief of Staff, Office of the PCUP Chair, pointed out that with its 5.1% annual urban population growth as of year 2000, the Philippines recorded the second highest urbanization rate among the ASEAN countries, next to Malaysia. This means that there is a rapid increase in the number of Filipinos moving to urban areas during the said period.</p> <p>However, compared to other countries, the Philippines has not benefited from the gains of urbanization in terms of economic growth, employment creation, and poverty reduction. Instead, the influx of</p> |

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| <p>Continuation... Poverty Alleviation</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), on social reforms and poverty alleviation | <p>people from the provinces to highly urbanized areas, like Metro Manila, contributed to the increasing number of informal settler families (ISFs) which deepens urban poverty in the country.</p> <p>Eugenio went on to say that in a report of the National Housing Authority (NHA), 39% of ISFs in the country is living in Metro Manila with a great number of them living in dangerous areas; having limited access to employment, health education, and housing services; and having limited participation in governance.</p> <p>Eugenio said empowering urban poor organizations through capacity building activities can help address the problems of the urban poor.</p> <p>NAPC Undersecretary Marion Tan reported the highlights of the National Anti-Poverty Sectoral Summit organized by NAPC in accordance with the administration's thrusts of adopting a holistic, convergent, and participatory approach to leadership and governance.</p> <p>During the Summit, the participants discussed the "Ambisyon Natin 2040," a long term vision (25 years) initially created by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) in early 2015, which aims to ensure continuity of development in the entire Philippines and serves as a guide in the development planning across administrations.</p> <p>Likewise, Tan explained the role of NAPC in the formulation of the National Anti-Poverty Framework for the Basic Sectors.</p> <p>SAGIP Party-List Rep. Rodante Marcoleta suggested that government agencies mandated to address poverty alleviation and institute social reforms must coordinate closely among themselves. He further stressed the need to revisit RA 8425 or the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act, which created the People's Development Trust Fund (PDTF), a funding facility for microfinance entities that could help address the poor's lack of access to capital.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to invite again the DSWD, PCUP, and NAPC and the concerned people's organizations to discuss poverty alleviation in the country more comprehensively and present their views on the various measures referred to the Committee.</p> |
| <p>Rural Development</p> | <p>Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure</p> <p>Briefing on the National Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development (NCI-SRD)</p> | <p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Deogracias Ramos Jr. (2nd District, Sorsogon), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p> <p>The Committee has general jurisdiction over all measures, issues and interests directly and principally relating to the development of rural areas and islands through policies, programs, support services and other interventions, to include livelihood and enterprise development, micro financing, community mobilization and development, area development planning, and access to rural project funding and financing.</p> <p>As chair of the Committee, Rep. Ramos said he will make sure that his Committee will act on measures that will refocus government's efforts towards alleviating poverty and promoting economic growth and development in the rural areas. Rep. Ramos likewise acknowledged the various government agencies that the Committee will be working with to pursue its mandate.</p> <p>The Committee listened to the presentation of NCI-SRD Project Officer III Clare Fevidal on the convergence program involving the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).</p> <p>Fevidal presented the goals, guiding principles and implementing strategy of the NCI-SRD. She explained that the NCI-SRD is a means</p> |

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| <p>Continuation... Rural Development</p> | | <p>for the four core agencies (DA, DAR, DENR, and DILG) to complement their efforts to promote inclusive growth and reduce poverty particularly in the countryside. NCI-SRD is in response to the fragmented delivery of rural development services towards improved governance and maximized use of resources.</p> <p>Fevidal also presented the NCI-SRD's organizational structure, showing the National Steering Committee, composed of the Secretaries of the four Departments, as the policy-making body. She likewise showed several maps detailing the convergence areas and convergence projects across the country. She also discussed NCI-SRD's ongoing support programs for rural development, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Greening Program; • Coffee Plantation Pilot Project; • DAR-Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) Partnership; • Cistern Project; • Balik Probinsya Program; and • Bamboo Plantation Project. |
| | <p>Briefing by the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department (CPBRD) on the "Convergence Strategy: The Way Forward for Rural Development"</p> | <p>The Committee listened to the presentation of the CPBRD on its study on the convergence program of the government dubbed "Convergence Strategy: The Way Forward for Rural Development." CPBRD is a department in the House of Representatives which conducts policy research and analysis in support of the formulation of socio-economic laws, among other functions.</p> <p>Director Novel Bangsal of the CPBRD Special Projects Service defines convergence strategy as "the adoption and implementation of joint and complementary initiatives within a defined area under a common intervention strategy." He underscored the importance of adopting the convergence strategy in the pursuit of legislative measures and banner programs that will spur rural growth and development.</p> <p>Among the possible banner programs that government must consider to develop the countryside are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated and coordinated technical assistance to the rural folks; • Coordinated and managed spatial planning and integrated area development; and • Convergent plans and budgets for rural development agencies and strengthen local government units' (LGUs) planning, budgeting and implementation capacities. <p>The Committee agreed to invite the DA, DAR, DENR, and DILG in its next meeting to present their respective plans and projects for rural development.</p> |
| <p>Science and Technology</p> | <p>Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure</p> <p>Briefing by the following government agencies on their respective mandates, plans and programs, and disaster risk reduction strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Science and Technology (DOST) | <p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Erico Aristotle Aumentado (2nd District, Bohol), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p> <p>The Committee listened to the briefing conducted by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), and Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) on their mandates, plans and programs, and disaster risk reduction strategies.</p> <p>DOST Secretary Fortunato dela Peña discussed the Department's contribution to the national socio-economic agenda in terms of :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting science and technology in the areas of health, and agriculture, and process industries; • Increasing competitiveness by reducing risks brought about by climate change and environmental degradation; • Promoting rural and value chain development by maximizing the utilization of research and development |

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| <p>Continuation... Science and Technology</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) • Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) | <p>(R&D) results and science and technology (S&T) innovations; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing in human capital development to ensure availability of highly trained S&T professionals and state-of-the-art and world-class infrastructures. <p>Dela Peña presented the DOST's R&D and S&T programs and innovations and likewise presented the outline of the DOST's Plan for 2017-2022.</p> <p>Executive Director Alfredo Mahar Francisco Lagmay reported on the accomplishments of Project NOAH or Project Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards. Project NOAH was established as a disaster risk reduction program, specifically to mitigate flooding through an early warning system and to enhance geohazard maps and storm surge vulnerability maps.</p> <p>LiDAR Program Leader Ariel Blanco presented the projects lined up for sustaining the LiDAR capacity in the Philippines. Blanco pointed out that the LiDAR map generation system is seen as a cost-effective means of acquiring accurate data in determining elevation and depth which are two things necessary to address the risks of flooding. (LiDAR or Light Detection and Ranging is a remote sensing technology that measures distance by illuminating a target with a laser and analyzing the reflected light.)</p> <p>PAGASA Acting Director Vicente Malano said his agency's mandate is to provide protection against natural calamities and utilize scientific knowledge as an effective instrument to ensure the safety, well-being, and economic security of the people. He highlighted the strategies being employed by the agency in pursuit of its mandate, as follows :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved forecasting system; • Development and implementation of field maintenance and calibration procedures for basic and other instruments; • Advancement of scientific research and application and linkages; • Enhancement of human resource and organization development (HROD) systems; and • Promotion of PAGASA brand as the preferred provider of weather and other related services. <p>PHIVOLCS Director Renato Solidum Jr. said that the Philippines is prone to many natural hazards due to its geologic and geographic setting. He underscored the importance of proper education, awareness and preparedness in order to reduce the loss of lives and damage to properties during disasters and calamities.</p> <p>Solidum highlighted PHIVOLCS' programs aimed at providing timely and quality information and services for warning and disaster preparedness and mitigation through the development and application of technologies for the monitoring and accurate prediction of and determination of areas prone to volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, and other related hazards.</p> <p>BUHAY Party-List Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr. expressed his support for legislative measures that will strengthen the disaster risk reduction programs of the DOST and the agencies under it. He suggested that the Committee visit DOST's main office in Taguig City to see some of its ongoing programs and projects.</p> <p>Kalinga Rep. Allen Jesse Mangaoang recommended that all local government units (LGUs) be given a copy of the DOST's presentation which is a good information material outlining what people must do in times of calamities.</p> |
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| Overseas Workers Affairs | Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure | <p>The Committee, chaired by BUHAY Party-List Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr. adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p> <p>The Committee, which is presently composed of 22 members, has general jurisdiction over all matters directly and principally relating to policies and programs on the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their families.</p> <p>The Committee's major accomplishments during the 16th Congress include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enactment of RA 10801, or the law governing the operations and administration of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA); • Approval on third reading of the Credit Assistance Bill on October 29, 2014 which was also transmitted to the Senate on November 3, 2014; and • Approval of the Committee Report on the Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers Bill in December 2015. <p>For the 17th Congress, Rep. Velarde mentioned that as of October 10, there are already 28 house bills, 12 house resolutions, and 1 privilege speech referred to the Committee for its consideration.</p> |
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| COMMITTEE MEETINGS | | | | |
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| COMMITTEE | MEASURES | | SUBJECT MATTER | ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION |
| | NO. | PRINCIPAL AUTHOR | | |
| Basic Education and Culture | HB 1890 | Rep. Defensor | Establishing a Career Guidance and Counseling Program for national high schools | The Committee, chaired by Rep. Evelina Escudero (1 st District, Sorsogon), agreed to consolidate the two bills, with HB 2867 as the lead bill. |
| | HB 2867 | Rep. Escudero | Institutionalizing the National Career Assessment Examination (NCAE) to provide a career direction program for secondary school students, providing penalties for violations thereof, and appropriating funds therefor | The consolidated version of the bill will be presented and deliberated on in the Committee's next meeting. |
| Dangerous Drugs | HBs 860 & 2568 | Reps. Yap (V.) & Rodriguez (M.) | Adopting the higher prescribed penalty, including death, of the national law of an alien found guilty of trafficking dangerous drugs and other similar substances, amending for the purpose RA 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 | <p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Robert "Ace" Barbers (2nd District, Surigao del Norte), created a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate HBs 860 and 2568.</p> <p>The TWG will include representatives from the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and Philippine National Police (PNP).</p> <p>NBI Western Mindanao Director Ferdinand Lavin expressed support for the bills and promised to submit NBI's position paper on the matter.</p> <p>However, Atty. Jorge Yarte of the Department of Justice (DOJ) expressed reservation on the imposition of death penalty to foreign nationals because at present, the highest prescribed penalty in the country is life imprisonment.</p> |
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| Continuation... Dangerous Drugs | | | amending for the purpose RA 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 | The TWG will include representatives from the DDB, PDEA, PNP and NBI. |
| | HB 1257 | Rep. Biazon | Amending certain provisions of RA 9165, by adding certain chemicals and drugs to the list of controlled precursors and dangerous drugs, respectively; penalizing the possession of controlled precursors and essential chemicals as well as laboratory equipment for the illicit manufacture of the said illegal substances; and mandating local government units (LGUs) to undertake local drug and chemical prevention and control programs, among others | Rep. Christopher "Toff" Vera Perez de Venecia (4 th District, Pangasinan) suggested the inclusion of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) in the TWG. |
| | HB 1413 | Rep. Castelo | Amending Sections 23 & 24 of RA 9165, by restoring plea bargaining and probation laws | When asked by AKO BICOL Party-List Rep. Rodel Batocabe on the plan of the law enforcement agencies with regard to the illegal drug users and pushers who have surrendered in the past months, PDEA Deputy Director General for Administration (OIC) Roselyn Borja answered that the DDB has formulated a National Anti-Drug Plan of Action which provides a comprehensive, unified, integrated and balanced national drug abuse prevention and control strategy that should be adopted and implemented by all government offices. |
| | HB 3403 | Rep. Batocabe | Providing for the legal procedure in the disposition and rehabilitation of drug dependents and/or drug pushers or dealers who voluntarily surrender, amending for the purpose RA 9165 | |
| | HB 3609 | Rep. De Venecia | Amending the composition of the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) to further strengthen the anti-drug campaign of the government, amending for the purpose RA 9165 | |
| | HB 3809 | Rep. Barbers | Strengthening and intensifying the campaign against illegal drug trafficking, amending for this purpose Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 20, 29, 33, 78, 84 and 92 of RA 9165 | |
| | HB 3406 | Rep. Barbers | Exempting drug trafficking and other drug-related offenses from the prohibition of RA 4200, otherwise known as the Anti-Wiretapping Law | The Committee created a TWG to consolidate HBs 3406, 3733 and 3809. |
| | HB 3733 | Rep. Bagatsing | Authorizing wiretapping in cases involving violations of RA 9165, amending for the purpose Section 3 of RA 4200, or the law prohibiting and penalizing wiretapping and other related violations of the privacy of communication | The TWG will include representatives from the DDB, PDEA, PNP and NBI. |
| | HB 3809 | Rep. Barbers | Strengthening and intensifying the campaign against illegal drug trafficking, amending for this purpose Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 20, 29, 33, 78, 84 and 92 of RA 9165 | Lavin admitted that the NBI has no wiretapping capability at present. He suggested the inclusion of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) as member of the TWG. |
| Foreign Affairs | HBs 487, 1894, 1922, 1953, 1967, 1995, 2063, 2153, 2191, | Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, Reps. Montoro, Salimbangon, Santos-Recto, Suansing (E), Tan (A.), Villar, Pineda, | Extending the validity period of the Philippine passport to 10 years, amending Section 10 of RA 8239, otherwise known as the Philippine Passport Act of 1996 | The Committee, chaired by Rep. Linabelle Ruth Villarica (4 th District, Bulacan), approved in principle the 22 bills extending the validity of the Philippine passport to 10 years. A technical working group (TWG) was created to be chaired by Deputy Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2 nd District, Pampanga) to discuss specific conditions for extending the |

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| Continuation... Foreign Affairs | 2296, 2330, 2340, 2432, 2499, 2682, 2791, 2827, 2970, 3262, 3506, 3669 & 3940 | Aragones, Acop, Bertiz, Salceda, Oaminal, Dalipe, Deputy Speaker Abu, Reprs. Ferriol-Pascual, Andaya, Ermita- Buhain, Aglipay- Villar, Primicias- Agabas, Tambunting, and Castelo | | <p>passport's validity.</p> <p>The officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) interposed no objection to the bill.</p> <p>DFA Undersecretary for Civilian Security and Consular Concerns Ariel Abadilla said the Department will look into the technical aspects of the new passport, which would require more pages and entail improved materials to withstand wear and tear considering its long validity period.</p> <p>Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City) supported the suggestion of DFA to limit the validity period of passports issued to minors to five years, and even less for young children and infants because of their fast changing facial features.</p> |
| | Substitute Resolution to HR 76 | Rep. Olivarez | Expressing gratitude to the United Nations Arbitral Tribunal for the efficient handling and favorable award in the arbitration case against China over the conflicting claims in the West Philippine Sea | The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Resolution to HR 76. |
| | Substitute Resolution to HRs 78, 79, 159 & 185 | Reps. Biazon, Villafuerte, Alejano, & Gatchalian | Expressing gratitude to former President Benigno Aquino III and commending the Philippine delegation who defended the Philippine position in the West Philippine Sea arbitration | The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Resolution to HRs 78, 79, 159 and 185. |
| | HR 251 | Rep. Turabian-Hataman | Commending Architect Bartholome Vista and Ambassador J. Eduardo Malaya for the P11 million renovation of the Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia at no cost to the Philippine government | The Committee approved the Committee Report on HR 251. |
| | HR 276 | Rep. Villarica | Urging the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to reopen the Philippine Consulate General in Barcelona, Spain | <p>The Committee approved the Committee Report on HR 276.</p> <p>DFA Assistant Secretary of the Office of Consular Affairs Frank Cimafranca explained that the DFA was inclined to close 10 foreign service posts, including the one in Barcelona, due to budget constraints. He added that the opening and closing of foreign service posts is generally based on the decision of the DFA's Policy Advisory Board.</p> <p>Rep. Henry Oaminal (2nd District, Misamis Occidental) asked if the reopening of the Philippine Consulate General in Barcelona is included in the DFA's 2017 proposed budget. Abadilla replied that it is not included.</p> <p>Rep. Oaminal further asked about the cost of reopening the foreign post, as the funds needed may still be inserted in the DFA's 2017 budget.</p> <p>However, DFA Assistant Secretary Grace Princesa of the Department Legislative Liaison Unit (DLLU) said that she does not have the cost estimate, but promised to submit it to the Committee as soon as possible.</p> |

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| Government Enterprises and Privatization | HBs 2158 & 2776 | Reps. Pineda & Escudero | Rationalizing and expanding the powers and duties of the Social Security Commission (SSC) to ease the fiscal impact of the pension increase | The Committee, chaired by Jesus Nonato Sacdalan (1st District, North Cotabato), approved the Committee Report on HBs 2158 and 2776, after agreeing that HB 3550 will be incorporated in the report. |
| | HB 3550 | Rep. Relampagos | Authorizing the SSC to condone penalties on delinquent contributions and to determine the monthly salary credits, the schedule and rate of contributions, and the rate of penalty on delinquent contributions and unpaid loan amortizations, thereby further amending RA 1161, as amended | |
| | HBs 18, 71, 208, 405, 414, 475, 481, 1036, 1323, 1552, 1836, 1853, 1856, 1947, 2277 & 3120 | Reps. Biazon, Vargas, Violago, Abellanosa, Tiangco, Zarate, Villar, Tan (A.), Pimentel, Abayon, Herrera-Dy, Go (M.), Aragonas, Santos-Recto, Tambunting & Fortuno | Granting a P2,000.00 across-the-board increase in the monthly pension of Social Security System (SSS) retirees | The Committee agreed to incorporate HB 3257 into the Committee Report earlier drafted covering the 16 House Bills. The approval of the Committee Report was deferred. |
| | HB 3257 | Rep. Aglipay-Villar | Mandating a P2,000 across-the-board increase in the monthly pension with corresponding adjustment of the minimum monthly pension under the SSS, amending for this purpose Section 12 of RA 1161, as amended, otherwise known as the Social Security Act of 1997 | |
| Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. w/ Public Information | HBs 2143, 2631 & 3064 | Reps. Vargas, Atienza & Almonte | Establishing the People's Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) and abolishing the People's Television Network, Inc. (PTNI) | <p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan (1st District, North Cotabato), Chair of the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization, and Rep. Antonio Tinio (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS), Chair of the Committee on Public Information, deferred the consolidation of the three bills pending the submission of the recommendations from the stakeholders present and until the issues raised by People's Television (PTV) Union President Benjamin Ortiguero Jr. have been resolved.</p> <p>PTV General Manager Dino Apolonio, Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Assistant Secretary Kris Ablan, and Philippine Broadcasting Service - Bureau of Broadcast Service (PBS-BBS) Director General Bong Aportadera expressed their support to the merging of <i>Radyo ng Bayan</i> and PTV 4 in order to create the PBC. The creation of the PBC will address the overlapping functions of these two agencies, increase effectiveness in fulfilling its mandate, and generate additional revenues.</p> |
| Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. w/ Transportation | HB 687 | Rep. Del Mar | Amending certain provisions of RA 6958, otherwise known as the Charter of the Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority | The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan (1 st District, North Cotabato), Chair of the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization, and Rep. Raul del Mar (1 st District, Cebu City), representing the Committee on Transportation, approved HB 687. |

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| Continuation... Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. w/ Transportation | HB 2002 | Rep. Garcia- Albano | Creating the Davao International Airport Authority to administer and operate the Francisco Bangoy International Airport, and appropriating funds therefor | The Joint Committee approved HB 2002. |
| | HB 2024 | Rep. Marcos | Creating the Laoag International Airport Authority, transferring existing assets of the Laoag International Airport to the Authority, vesting the Authority with power to administer and operate the Laoag International Airport | The Joint Committee deferred the approval of HB 2024 pending the submission of a feasibility study by the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP). |
| Local Government | HB 257 | Rep. Loyola | Exempting from the population and the land area requirements the conversion of a municipality into a component city if the former has a locally-generated annual income of at least P250 million, amending for the purpose Section 450 of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 | The Committee, chaired by Rep. Pedro Acharon Jr. (1 st District, South Cotabato and General Santos City), approved HB 257. |
| | HBs 214, 284, 309, 310, 383, 384, 867, 937, 938, 939, 1109, 1321, 1327, 1516, 1926, 1927, 2003, 2500, 2501, 2924, 3424, 3839, 3841, 3842, 3843, 3844, 3845, 3848, 3849, 3850 & 3940 | Reps. Matugas, Dalog, Mangaoang, Yap (V.), Tiangco, Baguilat, Pimentel, Gatchalian, Adiong, Uy (J.), Garcia-Albano, Hofer, Villanueva, Campos, & Deputy Speaker Cayetano | Creation of barangays in certain parts of the provinces of Surigao del Norte, Mountain Province, Kalinga, Tarlac, Ifugao, Surigao del Sur, Lanao del Sur, Misamis Oriental, Davao and Zamboanga Sibugay, and in the cities of Navotas, Valenzuela, Makati and Taguig | The Committee approved the 31 bills. |
| Science and Technology | HBs 1204 & 2900 | Reps. Yu & Aumentado | Strengthening the Balik Scientist Program and appropriating funds therefor | The Committee, chaired by Rep. Erico Aristotle Aumentado (2 nd District, Bohol), agreed to consolidate the two bills and subsequently approved the same. Reps. Aumentado and Divina Grace Yu (1 st District, Zamboanga del Sur), author of HBs 1204 and 2900, respectively, explained that the proposed measures seek to “encourage Filipino scientists and technology experts from abroad to return back to the Philippines and share their knowledge and expertise to help the country attain its objective of accelerating economic and social development.” |

| AGENCY BRIEFING | | |
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| COMMITTEE | SUBJECT MATTER | DISCUSSIONS |
| Basic Education and Culture | Briefing by the Department of Education (DepEd) | <p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Evelina Escudero (1st District, Sorsogon), listened to the briefing conducted by DepEd Undersecretary for Planning Service and Field Operations Jesus Lorenzo Mateo on the Department's mandate and emerging thrusts, as well as on the implementation of the Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (GASTPE).</p> <p>DepEd is mandated to formulate, implement, and coordinate policies, plans, programs and projects in the areas of formal and non-formal basic education. DepEd is committed to raise the quality of education in the country, make it accessible to all and relevant to the nation's urgent needs and opportunities.</p> <p>Toward this end, the DepEd will pursue its 10-point agenda which include: the full implementation of K to 12; strengthening and enrichment of curricular reforms on anti-illegal drugs, reproductive health and disaster preparedness; continued efforts to help school-age children complete their basic education; and expansion of the Alternative Learning System (ALS) programs.</p> <p>DepEd Director for Finance Service Therese Ann Menardo discussed the two major programs under GASTPE which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Service Contracting (ESC), which extends financial assistance in the form of tuition subsidies to qualified elementary school graduates who wish to pursue junior high school education in private schools; and • Senior High School (SHS) Voucher Program, which provides financial aid to Grade 10 completers who wish to enroll in private schools, private or public colleges and universities, and technical vocational institutions for SHS. <p>DepEd was requested to submit to the Committee a list of all the schools that have partnered with DepEd in implementing GASTPE.</p> |