

# Committee Daily Bulletin



17<sup>th</sup> Congress  
First Regular Session

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Government Enterprises and Privatization	HB 18 in consolidation with HBs 71, 208, 405, 414, 475, 481, 1036, 1323, 1552, 1836, 1853, 1856, 1947, 2277, 3120, 3257, 3904, 4008, 4049, 4128 & 4157	Reps. Biazon, Vargas, Violago, Abellanos, Tiangco, Zarate, Villar, Tan (A), Pimentel, Abayon, Herrera-Dy, Go (M), Aragoones, Santos-Recto, Tambunting, Fortuno, Aglipay-Villar, Velasco, Castelo, Panganiban, Batocabe & Cuaresma	Granting a P2,000.00 across-the-board increase in the monthly pension of Social Security System (SSS) Retirees	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jesus Sacdalan (1 <sup>st</sup> District, North Cotabato), approved the Committee Report on HB 18, in consolidation with the 21 bills also increasing the monthly pension of SSS retirees.
Local Government	HB 1631 in consolidation with HBs 668 & 2994	Deputy Speaker Garcia, Reps. Yap (V.) & Matugas	Amending certain provisions of RA 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, by rationalizing the income requirements for the creation of a municipality, the declaration of highly-urbanized status in the case of component cities, and the creation of a province	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Pedro Acharon Jr. (1 <sup>st</sup> District, South Cotabato), approved HB 1631 in consolidation with HBs 668 and 2994.  Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3 <sup>rd</sup> District, Cebu) said that her bill, HB 1631, which is a refiled bill, was approved on Third Reading during the past three Congresses.
	HB 29	Rep. Umali	Designating the Municipality of Pinamalayan in the Province of Oriental Mindoro as the regional center of Region IV-B or the MIMAROPA which was created under EO 103, series of 2002	The Committee approved HB 29.
	HB 2766	Rep. Teves	Amending certain sections of the Charter of the City of Bayawan for the purpose of creating the Offices of the Register of Deeds and of the Assistant City Administrator and emphasizing the prohibition of illegal gambling	The Committee approved HB 2766.  A bill with similar subject matter was approved on Third Reading during the 16 <sup>th</sup> Congress.
	HBs 1981, 3931 & 3945	Reps. Suansing, Sagarbarria & Go (M.)	Creating a Human Resource Management Office in the local government units (LGUs) and defining its functions	The Committee approved the consolidation of HBs 1981, 3931 and 3945 subject to amendments.  A bill with similar subject matter was approved on Third Reading during the 16 <sup>th</sup> Congress.  Committee Vice Chairman Rep. Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte Jr. (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Camarines Sur)

Continuation... Local Government				<p>pointed out that 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class municipalities should have the option to create HRM offices and HRM officer position due to budgetary constraints.</p> <p>Rep. Villafuerte likewise argued that LGUs have the power and prerogative to create positions as the need arises based on the Local Government Code of 1991 (RA 7160).</p> <p>Rep. Manuel “Chiquiting” Sagarbarria (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Negros Oriental) explained that under HB 3931, which he authors, the creation of HRM Office in the province, city and in the 1st to 3<sup>rd</sup> class municipalities is mandatory. For the fourth to sixth class municipalities, he said that the creation of the office is optional, but the creation of the HRM officer position shall be mandatory.</p>
Public Order and Safety	HB 2993	Rep. Matugas	Amending RA 6975, as amended, by authorizing the PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) to issue subpoena/subpoena duces tecum	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Antipolo City), approved HB 2993.
	HBs 1115, 1306 & 2426	Reps. Alejano, Bataoil & Deputy Speaker Abu	Providing for the reorganization and modernization of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to come up with a Substitute Bill to HBs 1115, 1306 and 2426.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Abra Rep. Joseph Sto. Niño Bernos.</p> <p>The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), PNP, National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM), and Civil Service Commission (CSC) were requested to submit to the Committee their position papers on the bills.</p>
	HB 1506	Rep. Alejano	Amending the educational requirement for police applicants, amending for the purpose Sections 14 and 15 of RA 8551, otherwise known as the PNP Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998	<p>The Committee agreed to incorporate the provisions of HB 1506 in the proposed PNP Reorganization and Modernization Act.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Cebu) questioned the rationale of the proposal to lower the minimum educational requirement to at least second year college or the equivalent of 72 collegiate units for aspiring members of the PNP. Deputy Speaker Garcia also asked the PNP to conduct a study in order to determine the reason why a large number of applicants fail the PNP recruitment process despite being baccalaureate degree holders, which is the existing minimum educational requirement for police applicants.</p>
	HB 1508	Rep. Alejano	Modifying the role of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) in the appointment of uniformed personnel in the PNP, amending Sections 31 and 91 of RA 6975	<p>The Committee agreed to incorporate the provisions of HB 1508 in the proposed PNP Reorganization and Modernization Act.</p> <p>NAPOLCOM Vice Chair and Executive Officer Rogelio Casurao argued that the PNP is more capable than the CSC of determining the merit and fitness of its uniformed personnel, citing the police’s unique nature.</p>
	HB 2952	Rep. Santos-Recto	Establishing lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) help and protection desks in all PNP stations nationwide, amending for the purpose Title VII of RA	The Committee, convinced that a law is not necessary for the PNP to establish a help desk for the LGBT community, agreed to craft a resolution urging the NAPOLCOM to issue a memorandum

Continuation... Public Order and Safety			8551, as amended, otherwise known as the PNP Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998	circular establishing LGBT help and protection desks in all PNP stations nationwide.
Women and Gender Equality	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 51, 267, 949,1034, 1108, 1451, 1854, 3245, 3555 & 3701	Reps. Bag-ao, Roman, Ocampo, Castelo, Baguilat, Belaro, Aragones, Villarica, Villarin & Aglipay-Villar	Prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression (SOGIE) and providing penalties for violations thereof	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar (Party-List, DIWA), will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>Among the agreements reached in the review of the draft substitute bill are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change the short title (Section 1) of the proposed law from “Anti-SOGIE Discrimination Act” to “SOGIE Equality Act;”</li> <li>• Adopt Sections 2 (Declaration of Policy), 3 (Definition of Terms), and 4 (Discriminatory Practices); and</li> <li>• Delete Sections 5 (Free Exercise of Religious Belief) and 6 (Employers).</li> </ul> <p>Dinagat Islands Rep. Kaka Bag-ao, author of HB 51, urged the immediate passage of the bill, saying that the proposed law has been “languishing in Congress” for so many years now, and the discrimination against the members of the LGBT community has not waned.</p> <p>Rep. Rosanna “Ria” Vergara (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Nueva Ecija) agreed that the passage of the proposed measure will ensure the protection of the LGBT against discrimination.</p>

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Constitutional Amendments	Presentation by resource persons of their views on proposals to amend the Philippine Constitution	<p>The Committee, chaired by Southern Leyte Rep. Roger “Oging” Mercado, listened to the presentations of the resource persons from the Foundation for Economic Freedom (FEF), Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Board of Investments (BOI), and Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) on their views on the proposed amendment of the Constitution, particularly its implications on the business and financial sectors.</p> <p>Former representative and FEF fellow Margarito Teves expressed his support for the amendment of the economic provisions of the Constitution, specifically those which impose limits to foreign ownership of public utilities, land, mass media and advertising, and educational institutions; and impose limits to foreign participation in the exploitation of natural resources.</p> <p>Similarly, MAP President Perry Pe favors the amendment of the Constitution, particularly Article 12 (National Economy and Patrimony), as he presented his recommendations removing restrictions to foreign corporations or foreigners in the utilization of natural resources (Section 2); lease and ownership of lands (Section 3); ownership and operation of enterprises or corporations (Section 10); participation in public utility enterprises (Section 11); and in the practice of profession (Section 14).</p> <p>Representatives from government agencies present in the meeting also conveyed their support to the move to amend the Constitution.</p> <p>BSP Managing Director Restituto Cruz said amending the economic provisions of the Constitution will be good for the country’s financial stability</p>

Continuation... Constitutional Amendments		<p>as more foreign direct investments are expected to come in. However, Cruz asserted that the independence of the BSP should be maintained.</p> <p>BOI Legal and Compliance Service head Elyjean Portoza likewise said that amending the economic provisions of the Constitution will encourage the flow of foreign direct investments into the country.</p> <p>PEZA legal counsel Joseph Aquende also said that PEZA should be retained as a national agency if the country shifts to federalism.</p> <p>Rep. Mercado requested the resource persons to submit to the Committee their respective position papers relative to the proposed amendment of the Constitution.</p>
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SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Subcommittee on Judicial Reforms (Justice)	HBs 1, 16, 513, 3237, 3239, 3240 & 3418	Deputy Speaker Castro, Reps. Biazon, Barbers & Pacquiao	Imposing the death penalty on certain heinous crimes, amending/repealing for the purpose RA 9346, or the law prohibiting the imposition of death penalty in the Philippines, and other related laws	<p>The Subcommittee on Judicial Reforms, chaired by Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Leyte), will deliberate further on the seven bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Officials from the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) expressed their support for the bills seeking the restoration of death penalty for certain heinous crimes.</p> <p>Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II argued that the death penalty, administered to cause instantaneous death, cannot be considered inhumane or cruel as it does not involve torture. He added that the imposition of death penalty will instill the fear of death in the minds of would-be criminals and thus deter the commission of crimes and save the lives of potential victims.</p> <p>However, Rep. Edcel Lagman (1<sup>st</sup> District, Albay) maintained that death penalty failed to curtail crimes. He stressed that the 1987 Philippine Constitution abolished the death penalty, contradicting Aguirre's view that the Constitution merely suspended this capital punishment.</p> <p>Dinagat Islands Rep. Kaka Bag-ao reminded Aguirre of the Philippines' international commitment against death penalty being a signatory of the 1989 Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which aims to abolish death penalty in the jurisdiction of the state parties.</p> <p>Aguirre countered that all international protocols and treaties are considered as ordinary laws and therefore subservient to the Constitution.</p> <p>The Department of Justice (DOJ) was requested to submit studies on the following:</p>

Continuation... Subcommittee on Judicial Reforms (Justice)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data on the number of federal states in the United States of America that still impose death penalty, and their reason for continuing to impose the same; and</li> <li>• Impact of having a death penalty law from 1972 up to 2006, and after 2006 when it was abolished.</li> </ul> <p>Chief Superintendent Edwin Roque, acting legal director of the Philippine National Police (PNP), said the imposition of death penalty would help deter the commission of crimes; wipe out hardened criminals from society; and reduce the amount of money spent by the government on feeding certain criminals who are beyond reformation.</p> <p>On the contrary, Rep. Vincent "Bingbong" Crisologo (1<sup>st</sup> District, Quezon City) emphasized that the certainty of being apprehended once a crime is committed is an effective crime deterrent. He added that PNP's claim that death penalty will deter the commission of crimes is an admission of its failure to effectively administer its duty.</p> <p>PNP Chief Superintendent Ericson Velasquez views the imposition of death penalty as a form of retributive justice, which imposes proportionate punishment on the offender. Rep. Lagman made it known that the trend in penology today is towards rehabilitative justice which aims to reform the offender, giving primacy to every person's right to life.</p> <p>The PNP was requested to submit the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crime statistics from 1972-2006, the time when death penalty was imposed, and after 2006;</li> <li>• Data on the number of surrenderees who went back to illegal drug trade and drug use; and</li> <li>• Comparative data on the number of drug pushers and users who have stopped illegal drug trade and use from July to October 2016 and during the same period last year.</li> </ul>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Dangerous Drugs (Technical Working Group)	HB 588	Rep. Bataoil	Strengthening the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and providing supplemental duties thereof, amending for the purpose RA 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Pablo Ortega (1 <sup>st</sup> District, La Union), will deliberate further on the six bills in its next meeting.  AKO BICOL Party-List Rep. Rodel Batocabe said his bill, HB 3403, aims to de-clog the courts and avoid tedious processing for drug
	HB 1257	Rep. Biazon	Amending certain provisions of RA 9165, by adding certain chemicals and drugs to	

Continuation... Dangerous Drugs (Technical Working Group)			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	dependents who have surrendered because it does not require court orders for their disposition and rehabilitation.
	HB 1413	Rep. Castelo	Amending Sections 23 & 24 of RA 9165, by restoring plea bargaining and probation laws	
	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 certain sections of RA 9165	
	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	The TWG will deliberate further on HBs 860 and 2568 in its next meeting.  Czareanah Aquino, officer-in-charge of the Legal and Prosecution Service of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), manifested the strong support of PDEA for the proposed law. She, however, reminded the TWG members that the moratorium on death penalty in the country is still in effect.  Deputy Commander for Operations Ross Jonathan Galicia of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Task Force on Illegal Drugs suggested that the imposition of death penalty be also applied to Filipinos and not only to foreign nationals.  Rep. Romeo Acop (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Antipolo City) mentioned that bills seeking the reimposition of the death penalty have been filed in the present Congress and referred to the Committee on Justice.
	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 TWG will deliberate further on the three bills in its next meeting.  Rep. Arnolfo "Arnie" Teves Jr. (3 <sup>rd</sup> District, Negros Oriental) inquired on which agency will take the lead in conducting wiretapping activities to monitor cases involving drug trafficking and other drug-related offenses.
	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	Director Gladys Rosales of PDEA's Plans and







<p>Continuation... Bicol Recovery and Economic Development (Special Committee)</p>		<p>Rep. Unico informed Isleta that during the deliberations on the budget of the Philippine Army Engineering Brigade, it was suggested that, instead of the LGUs, the engineering brigade will be tapped to implement road construction projects under the <i>Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan</i> (PAMANA) Program. Isleta agreed to the proposal.</p> <p>PAMANA is the national government's convergence program that extends development intervention to isolated, hard-to-reach, and conflict-affected communities ensuring that they are not left behind.</p>
<p>Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples</p>	<p>Briefing on the role of indigenous peoples (IPs) in the peace process and reconciliation negotiations between the Philippine Government and the Communist Party of the Philippines/National Democratic Front (CPP/ NDF)</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Nancy Catamco (2<sup>nd</sup> District, North Cotabato), listened to the presentation of international indigenous rights advocates on their experiences in working for the attainment of peace in Colombia, and of local indigenous groups on their comments regarding the peace process between the Philippine government and the rebel groups.</p> <p>Gimena Sanchez Garzoli, human rights advocate from the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), gave an overview of the Colombian Peace Agreement that ended the more than 50-year internal armed conflict in Colombia, and the efforts exerted that paved the way for the inclusion of the "Ethnic Chapter" in the 297-page peace agreement. Garzoli said the Ethnic Chapter includes a set of principles and safeguards that the parties agree to follow in order to guarantee ethnic rights.</p> <p>Luis Fernando Arias, a tribal leader belonging to the Kankuamo people from the northern Colombian region, shared the experiences of the indigenous peoples (IPs) being victims of armed conflicts in Colombia. Arias related how his group worked hard to gain the support of the different countries in their quest for direct participation in the peace process in their country.</p> <p>Marino Cordoba, international coordinator for the National Afro-Colombian Peace Council (CONPA) and president and founder of the Association for Internally Displaced Afro-Colombians (AFRODES), highlighted the importance of the 1991 Constituent Assembly of Colombia which drafted the Colombian Constitution of 1991. He said it was a historic moment for Afro-Colombians to be recognized in the political, territorial and social arena and to be granted three seats in Congress. The same year also allowed IPs and AFRO descendants to be granted land ownership rights involving millions of hectares of lands rich in mineral resources and decide for themselves how these lands could be used for economic development, Cordoba added.</p> <p>Cordoba, who was a survivor of this internal conflict, also shared that of about eight million victims of internal conflict in Colombia, more than 30% belonged to the ethnic group, which he said was a "complete humanitarian disaster."</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Maximo Rodriguez Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Cagayan de Oro City) on how Colombia deals with injustices committed against the ethnic groups, Arias admitted that the injustices suffered by the ethnic groups in Colombia are historical and cannot be solved through the peace agreement alone. But Arias explained that the peace agreement is a process leading to the direction of closing the gaps and ending such injustices.</p> <p>All IP leaders present in the meeting, including Datu Nestor Apas from Davao and Datu Jimmy Guinsod from Surigao del Sur, were one in saying that their voices should be heard in the drafting of peace agreements and they should have a representative in the peace panel.</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples</p>		<p>Rep. Noel Villanueva (3<sup>rd</sup> District Tarlac) agreed that IPs should actively take part in the peace process, saying that the government and armed rebel groups cannot truly represent them.</p> <p>ANAKPAWIS Party-List Rep. Ariel “Ka Ayik” Casilao said that there can be no genuine peace for the IPs without understanding the root cause of their problems and finding the right solutions to solve these problems.</p> <p>Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Pangasinan) proposed the establishment of “peace zones” for the IPs that will guarantee that their areas will be free from outside influence, either by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) or communist rebel groups. He also proposed that the AFP and the rebel groups be notified of these zones of peace and be required to respect these areas.</p> <p>ACT TEACHERS Party-List Rep. France Castro requested the leaders of the IPs present to submit to the Committee their recommendations that they want to be considered in the crafting of the peace accords.</p>
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OTHER MATTERS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p>Women and Gender Equality</p>	<p>Update on the status of the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to the 15 House Bills seeking to increase the maternity leave period to 100 days for female workers in the government service and in the private sector, and granting the option to extend for an additional 30 days without pay</p>	<p>The Committee Chair, Rep. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar (Party-List, DIWA), gave an update on the status of the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to the 15 House Bills seeking to increase the maternity leave period to 100 days for female workers in the government service and in the private sector.</p> <p>The Members of the Committee agreed to deliberate further on the substitute bill in the presence of the authors of the bills.</p> <p>Rep. Aglipay-Villar added that Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1<sup>st</sup> District, Ilocos Norte) requested the Committee to resolve first the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The objection of the Social Security System (SSS), citing the adverse effect of the proposed law to the social security fund’s life;</li> <li>• The possible repercussion of a prolonged maternity leave on the government and the private sector especially if the pregnant woman occupies a key position; and</li> <li>• The possible discrimination in the hiring of female workers in the workforce as a result of any extension of the maternity leave.</li> </ul>