

Committee Daily Bulletin

17th Congress
First Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. I No. 43
November 16, 2016

COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Ecology	HBs 983, 2655, 3130, 3577 & 3579	Reps. Fortun, Campos, Revilla, Suansing (E.), and Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo	Regulating the production, importation, sale provision, use, recovery, recycling and disposal of plastic bags and plastic products	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the measures and come up with a substitute bill.</p> <p>The resource persons, representing various business organizations and corporations, expressed support for the regulation of the use of plastic bags, plastic containers and disposable polystyrene food containers, instead of banning their use.</p>
	HB 1966	Rep. Suansing (E.)	Requiring retail stores that provide plastic bags to consumers to implement a plastic bag collection and recycling program	
	HB 4181	Rep. Tambunting	Institutionalizing the creation of "The Plastic Bag Recycling Act of 2016"	Philippine Amalgamated Supermarkets Association, Inc. (PAGASA) President Steven Cua said that at present there is no practical substitute for plastic bags. He added that the problem lies not on the use of plastic, but on its improper disposal.
	HB 3801	Rep. Castelo	Banning the use of single-use plastic shopping bags at grocery stores, convenience stores, drug stores, delicatessens, or similar marketplaces to protect the environment	Emmanuel Jimenez, representing the First in Colours, Incorporated (FIC), proposed to allow the use of biodegradable plastic bags, explaining that they are not harmful to the environment.
	HB 4183	Rep. Tambunting	Prohibiting the use of disposable polystyrene food container, disposable non-recyclable plastic food container, and disposable non-recyclable content paper container	Jimenez added that carbon emission from the manufacture of paper bags is higher compared to the manufacture of plastic bags.
	HR 330	Rep. Relampagos	Directing the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to fully implement the provision of RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2003 that prohibits the use or manufacture of non-environment friendly products and packaging as part of the Solid Waste Management Program	Philippine Plastic Industry Association (PPIA) President Willy Go said that based on a life cycle assessment (LCA) study conducted by a professor from De La Salle University, as commissioned by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), plastic bags are more environment-friendly compared to paper bags because plastic bags can be reused several times.
	HR 370	Rep. Pineda	Inquiry into the propriety of collecting fees to discourage the use of plastic bags for shopping in certain retail establishments with the end in view of aligning the fees to its professed purpose and enacting legislation to regulate the same	Engr. Alma Ferareza of the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), an agency chaired by the DENR, said that the DENR is inclined to support the regulation of the use of plastic bags.
Information and Communications Technology	HB 671	Rep. Yap (V.)	Providing for penalties or fines against erring public telecommunications entities for violation of the terms or conditions of any certificate, authority, order, decision,	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Victor Yap (2 nd District, Tarlac), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate and fine tune HBs 671, 3876 and 3996.

Continuation... Information and Communications Technology			resolution or regulation of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), amending for the purpose Sections 21 and 23 of Commonwealth Act No.146, otherwise known as the Public Service Act	The Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Francisco Jose "Bingo" Matugas II (1 st District, Surigao del Norte), presided over the meeting to allow the Committee Chair to sponsor his bill, HB 671.
	HB 3876	Rep. Zarate	Expanding the powers of the NTC classifying short messaging service and internet services as utilities imbued with public interest and providing penalties thereof, amending Republic Act 7925 otherwise known as the Public Telecommunications Policy Act of the Philippines	Rep. Yap said his bill aims to update the existing laws to increase the penalties imposed on non-complying telecommunications companies (telcos). Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN), author of HB 3996, explained that the amount of the proposed penalties, though may still be considered minimal, should already enjoin the telcos to shape up and provide better services.
	HB 3996	Rep. Pineda	Amending Section 21 of Commonwealth Act No. 146, by increasing the fine for violating or failing to comply with the terms and conditions of any certificate orders, decisions or regulations of the NTC	For his part, Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA), author of HB 3996, remarked that internet today has become a basic necessity, and may even be considered as a right. Rep. Zarate lamented that the quality of internet services in the Philippines did not improve much since it was introduced in 1994. Compare this with Nepal, wherein internet was immediately restored after a magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit the country. Ariel Tubayan, head of Globe's Legal and Regulatory Affairs, informed the Committee that Globe has 7,000 cell sites nationwide servicing 64 million subscribers. On the other hand, PLDT First Vice President Alfredo Carrera said that Smart has 12,000 cell sites servicing 65 million subscribers. NTC Deputy Commissioner Edgardo Cabarios said that the ideal ratio of cell site to a subscriber is 1: 600 to 1,000. Tubayan and Carrera said that their companies find it difficult to put up cell sites because of the tedious processing to secure numerous permits, the non-availability of locations where to put up the cell sites, and certain issues being raised by the local government units (LGUs). Rep. Arnolfo "Arnie" Teves Jr. (3 rd District, Negros Oriental) wondered why Globe and Smart still accept additional subscribers when they cannot meet the technical requirement to ensure the quality of their service. Rep. Pineda chided Smart and Globe for their failure to submit up to this time the documents required from them by the Committee.
	HB 2871	Rep. Yap (V.)	Promoting open access in data transmission, providing additional powers to the NTC	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to further study the measures.
	HR 476	Rep. Teves	Inquiry into the alarming state, under par, and sloth-paced communication and	Rep. Yap, author of HB 2817, said that data is considered as a value-added service and a key factor in telecommunications. He stressed

Continuation... Information and Communications Technology			internet service provided by network operators	that it is high time for Congress to allow the entry of other players in the telecommunications industry to make competition work for the welfare of the consumers.
	Privilege Speeches 43 & 93	Reps. Pineda and Teves	On the poor quality of service provided by telecommunications companies	<p>Likewise, Rep. Teves, author of HR 476 and who also delivered a privilege speech on the poor quality of service by telcos, brought up the possibility of making the government provide an alternative network facility.</p> <p>On the other hand, Rep. Pineda stressed that there is indeed oversubscription of internet and cellphone users, and that telcos cannot claim that their poor quality of service is due to the delay in securing permits for constructing new cell sites.</p>
Legislative Franchises	HB 4110	Rep. Treñas	Granting the Iloilo Baptist Church (Philippines) a franchise to construct, maintain and operate non-commercial radio broadcasting stations in the Philippines	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Franz "Chicoy" Alvarez (1st District, Palawan), approved HB 4110.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Gil "Kabarangay" Acosta (3rd District, Palawan), Pastor Gilbert Porras, manager of the Iloilo Baptist Church (IBC), explained that IBC's broadcasting company is a non-profit, 100% Filipino-owned corporation operating nationwide.</p> <p>Porras added that IBC meets the required financial, technical and legal capabilities for the issuance by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) of a provisional authority (PA) to operate public communication utilities and services.</p> <p>NTC Commissioner Gamaliel Cordoba expressed support for the granting of legislative franchise to IBC.</p> <p>With regard to the issue raised by AKO-BICOL Party-List Rep. Alfredo Garbin Jr., the NTC was requested to submit pertinent documents on the violations committed by congressional franchise holders, particularly the subleasing of their franchise to other parties, and other abuses.</p>
	HB 3118	Rep. Madrona	Granting the Streamtech Systems Technologies, Inc. (SSTI) a franchise to construct, install, establish, operate and maintain telecommunications system throughout the Philippines	<p>The Committee deferred consideration of HB 3118.</p> <p>Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1st District, Ilocos Norte) stressed that providing telecommunications services is not the primary purpose of the Prime Asset Ventures, Inc. which is 99% owner of SSTI.</p> <p>Streamtech's President and Chief Executive Officer Fe Rebanco presented the profile of SSTI.</p> <p>NTC Commissioner Cordoba supports the granting of legislative franchise to SSTI adding that it is capable of competing with the two giant telecommunications companies, Globe and Smart.</p>

Continuation... Legislative Franchises	HB 3946	Rep. Enverga	Renewing the franchise granted to GMA Network, Inc. under Republic Act (RA) 7252	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 3946 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte Jr. (2nd District, Camarines Sur) brought up the issue on contractualization following the statement of Atty. Roberto Parel, corporate secretary of GMA Network, that only half of its workforce holds a permanent employment status.</p> <p>Rep. Villafuerte disclosed that one of Congress' priority legislative agenda is the eradication of end of contract ("endo") practice by a number of companies.</p> <p>Parel said GMA's contractual employees are under project-based employment contracts. However, these employees enjoy more benefits and privileges despite their limited job tenure compared to the company's regular employees, he added.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Romero "Miro" Quimbo (2nd District, Marikina City) underscored the need to consider HB 3946 as a priority legislative measure because the original franchise of GMA Network is due to expire next year.</p> <p>The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) was requested to submit its report relative to the cases filed against the network which are pending before the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC).</p>
Public Works and Highways	HB 700	Rep. Eriguel	Converting the Anduyan-Rizal-San Pascual-Asin Road from a provincial road to a national secondary road and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Celso Lobregat (1 st District, Zamboanga City), approved HB 700.
	HB 3457	Rep. Ortega	Classifying the San Fernando Bypass Road and San Fernando Bypass Extension Road in the Province of La Union into national roads and appropriating funds therefor and renaming the same roads to Gov. Justo O. Orros, Jr. Highway	The Committee approved HB 3457.
	HBs 1425, 2656, 2708, 2785 & 3580	Reps. Cosalan, Ramos, Dalog, Rodriguez (I.) & Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo	Renaming/naming of roads in certain parts of the country	The Committee approved the five bills.
	HB 943	Rep. Tiangco	Amending Sections 2 and 3 (B) of RA 8794, otherwise known as the Motor Vehicle User's Charge (MVUC) Act of 2000, by exempting motorcycles with sidecar (tricycles) from the payment of the road users tax	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the seven bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Asked to comment on the proposed abolition of the Road Board, Road Board legal consultant Atty. Marilyn Barua-Yap explained that the agency was created to manage the utilization of the MVUC funds in the most prudent and efficient way. The Road Board, Yap added, provides an inter-agency system of checks and balances ensuring accountability in the use of the funds.</p>
	HB 2394	Rep. Zarate	Abolishing the motor vehicle user's charge, repealing for the purpose RA 8794, and rechanneling the same for the establishment of a Mass Transport System Support Fund	

Continuation... Public Works and Highways	HB 2603	Rep. Santos-Recto	Creating the Special Mass Transit System Support Fund, amending for the purpose Sections 7 and 8 of RA 8794	<p>On the proposal to rechannel the MVUC Funds to the Mass Transport System Support Fund (MTSSF) solely under the control of the Department of Transportation (DOTr), Yap reiterated that this arrangement takes away the system of checks and balances and the multi-agency participation in the determination of fund use that may lead to inefficiency. The Road Board is composed of representatives from the government and public transport organizations. Any action on the use or transfer of MVUC funds would require the approval of the Road Board, as a collegial body.</p> <p>As to the discrepancy between the amount of MVUC collections recorded by the Land Transportation Office (LTO) and the amount of MVUC funds deposited with the Bureau of Treasury (BTr), Yap explained that it may be attributed to clerical errors. She added that the Road Board has already sent personnel to the BTr to reconcile the records.</p> <p>The Road Board Secretariat will be invited to attend the next Committee meeting to respond to the other queries raised by the Members of the Committee.</p>
	HB 2605	Rep. Santos-Recto	Exempting public utility vehicles from the MVUC, amending for the purpose Sections 2 and 3 of RA 8794	
	HBs 3278 & 3855	Reps. Ocampo & Bravo (A.)	Abolishing the Road Board created by virtue of RA 8794 and transferring its powers and functions to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and Department of Transportation (DOTr), amending for the purpose RA 8794	
	HB 3680	Minority Leader Suarez	Reconfiguring the disposition of the monies collected and delineating the status of the special funds, amending for the purpose Sections 7 and 8 of RA 8794	
	HBs 7, 833, 1992, 2194, 3045, 3047, 3703, 4053, 4189 & 4190	Deputy Speaker Quimbo, Reps. Zamora, Tolentino, Ferrer, Acop, Sy-Alvarado, Relampagos & Revilla	Renaming/naming of roads in certain parts of the country	
Transportation	HB 4334	Speaker Alvarez	Traffic Crisis Act of 2016	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, will deliberate further on HB 4334 in its next meeting.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Sarmiento said that the present traffic crisis is a result of the unresponsive transportation systems and institutions that cannot keep pace with the growth in population and economy. He added that unless this is rectified, the country cannot attain a sustainable, orderly, predictable and safe transportation system.</p> <p>He then presented HB 4334, which is the product of the Committee's thorough study on the appropriate measures that should be implemented to immediately and comprehensively address massive traffic problems. He, however, explained that the proposed law is not a cure-all piece of legislation.</p> <p>Among the salient features of HB 4334 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The implementation of the proposed law is limited to land-based traffic in Metro Manila, Metro Cebu and Davao City, and would be in effect for three years unless sooner

Continuation... Transportation				<p>withdrawn;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance will be provided to displaced drivers as a consequence of the rationalization of routes that would pave the way for appropriate mass transit projects; and • The funds needed for the implementation of the proposed law shall be sourced from the Motor Vehicle User's Charge (MVUC) Fund, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation's (PAGCOR) annual aggregate gross earnings, and from the current fiscal year's appropriation of the agencies involved in the implementation of the Act. <p>Department of Transportation (DOTr) Undersecretary Raoul Creencia said the inclusion of the aviation and maritime sectors within the coverage of the bill is necessary to have an integrated and holistic approach in solving traffic congestion.</p> <p>He added that limiting the coverage of the bill to just the land sector might delay the implementation of other equally important projects in air and maritime.</p> <p>Assistant General Manager Julia Catherine Nebrija of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) stressed that failed urban planning contributed to the traffic crisis. She suggested that the MMDA should be the lead agency in coming up with a Traffic Impact Plan as prescribed under Section 19 of the bill.</p> <p>Undersecretary Eliseo Rio of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) proposed that the use of ICT-based tools be included in Section 2 (Declaration of Policy).</p> <p>Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City) remarked that certain rights might be violated in the course of the implementation of the law such as through actions that involve summary demolition of sidewalks, withdrawal of franchises granted to certain public transportations, and removal of several terminals of tricycles, without due process.</p> <p>The government agencies and private sector representatives present were requested to submit their official position papers on the matter.</p>
Youth and Sports Development	Substitute Bill to HBs 535, 545, 1907 & 3447	Reps. Gonzaga, Sambar, Angara-Castillo & Primicias-Agabas	Establishing a sports complex known as the National Sports Training Center (NSTC) and providing funds for the acquisition of property, construction of facilities, including administration, maintenance, and management of the same	<p>The Committee, chaired by ABONO Party-List Rep. Conrado Estrella III, approved the substitute bill.</p> <p>Rep. Michael Romero Ph.D. (Party-List, 1-PACMAN), chair of the technical working</p>

Continuation... Youth and Sports Development				group (TWG) that drafted the substitute bill, presented the salient features of the bill. Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Vice Chair Angelo Cunanan said that the BCDA has already proposed three parcels of land within the Clark Green City in Tarlac for the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) to choose from as a site for the NSTC. Cunanan added that the chosen area would be leased to PSC for a token amount of P1.00 for the entire 50-hectare lot for 25 years and renewable for another 25 years. Upon the request of several Members of the Committee, the BCDA agreed to extend the lease period to 50 years.
	HB 4054	Speaker Alvarez	Providing tax incentives to individuals and corporations giving donations, contributions and grants to Filipino athletes who have won medals in the Summer Olympic Games	The Committee approved HB 4054 with amendment to include in the bill's coverage individuals and corporations giving donations, contributions and grants to Filipino athletes who have also won medals in the Winter Olympics and Para Olympics. Rep. Celso Lobregat (1 st District, Zamboanga City) explained that the bill grants tax exemptions to individuals or corporations who give donations, contributions, gifts, or grants to Filipino athletes within one year from the date the Olympic medal was won up to an amount not exceeding P1 million for one taxable year. The value of the donation in excess of P1 million shall no longer be allowed as tax deduction.
	HB 4086	Dimaporo (M.)	Establishing the Lanao del Norte Sports Training Center to be located in the Municipality of Tubod, Province of Lanao del Norte and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 4086.
	HB 3228	Rep. Pacquiao	Establishing the Sarangani Sports Academy and Training Center to be located in Sarangani Provincial Capitol Sports Area and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to study the bill further. The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Romero.
	HB 3697	Dimaporo (M.)	Establishing the Lanao del Norte Sports Academy to be located in the Municipality of Tubod, Province of Lanao del Norte and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to study the bill further. The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Romero

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	The Committee, chaired by Southern Leyte Rep. Roger "Oging" Mercado, heard the views of resource persons from the academe, local government organizations, and research institutions on their views on the proposed amendment of the Constitution. Miriam Coronel Ferrer, professor at the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman, first gave an insight on the difference between the terms "amendment" and "revision," explaining that in amending the Constitution, only certain provisions are changed; while "revision"

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Constitutional Amendments</p>		<p>implies substantive change which affects the whole Constitution.</p> <p>As of now, Ferrer sees no necessity of amending the Constitution. She however said that, in due time, she prefers amending the constitutional provisions restricting land ownership and corporate ownership and management, towards a level playing field for foreigners and Filipinos alike.</p> <p>The representative from the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) also feels that as of now, it is not yet necessary to amend the Constitution.</p> <p>Executive Director Katrina Clemente-Lua of the Stratbase-Albert del Rosario Institute (ADRI) for Strategic and International Studies said that the provisions of the 1987 Constitution are restrictive and outdated, thus the need to liberalize them for economic growth.</p> <p>Dr. Erlinda Medalla, senior research fellow of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), said that the prospect of more foreign direct investments coming into the country is an important consideration in amending the economic provisions of the Constitution.</p> <p>Pulse Asia Research, Inc. Research Director Maria Ana Tabunda disclosed that their latest survey among Filipinos revealed that 44% of the respondents are against the amendment of the Constitution, 37% responded positively, and the rest were undecided.</p> <p>Executive Director Evi-ta Jimenez of the Center for People Empowerment in Governance (CenPEG) underscored the need to engage the people in the process of amending the Constitution.</p> <p>Isabela Vice Governor Antonio Albano, president of the League of Vice Governors of the Philippines (LVGP), expressed his support for the proposal to amend the Constitution's economic provisions.</p> <p>Dinagat Island Vice Governor Benglen Ecleo also favors amending the Constitution, particularly the proposed shift to a federal system of government.</p> <p>Executive Director Edmund Tayao of the Local Government Development Foundation (LOGODEF), who is in favor of amending the Constitution, suggested that the Committee should have a framework or model which will be its basis in considering proposals for the country's shift to a federal system of government.</p> <p>Representatives from the UP Diliman Institute of Islamic Studies, Union of Local Authorities in the Philippines (ULAP), and the Philippine Councilors League (PCL) also expressed their support for amending the Constitution.</p> <p>AKO BICOL Party-List Rep. Alfredo Garbin Jr. suggested the conduct of public hearings in all areas of the country including the remotest barangays to know the true sentiments of the people on the ground.</p>
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ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Bases Conversion (Special Committee)	Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Pasay City Rep. Emi Calixto-Rubiano, adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p> <p>The Committee has jurisdiction over all matters directly and principally relating to policies and programs relating to bases conversion, the</p>

Continuation... Bases Conversion (Special Committee)		operation of special economic zones in former military bases, sale of military camps and disposition of proceeds thereof, relocation of military camps and personnel, and the construction of new military camps.
	Briefing by the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA)	<p>The Committee listened to the presentation of the BCDA on its mandate, major accomplishments, and plans and projects.</p> <p>BCDA Executive Vice-President Aileen Zosa said that BCDA is mandated to convert military bases in Clark and Subic, and their extensions, into alternative productive uses for regional development; raise funds through the disposition of Metro Manila camps to support its conversion projects; and contribute funds for the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).</p> <p>Zosa also reported the BCDA's accomplishments as of October 2016, among which are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generated 250,000 jobs and \$3.56 billion in the form of investments in economic zones; • Disposed a total of P79.1 billion worth of assets; • Contributed a total of P31.9 billion to the AFP's modernization program and construction of military facilities; and • Remitted P46.7 billion to the Bureau of Treasury (BTr). <p>BCDA's big-ticket projects, according to Zosa, include the disposition of properties at Bonifacio South Pointe and Navy Village in Taguig; the development of Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro and Camp Allen in Baguio City; and infrastructure projects in Subic and Clark.</p> <p>Likewise, the BCDA plans to construct the Clark Green City Olympic Village Complex in the 150-hectare lot inside the Clark Green City in Capiz, Tarlac. The complex will host sports events such as the Olympics as well as provide a modern training facility for the country's athletes.</p> <p>Rep. Noel Villanueva (3rd District, Tarlac) inquired on what the BCDA intends to do regarding the continued stay of the Philippine Air Force (PAF) on a large tract of land at the heart of Clark. Zosa said the BCDA is now conducting talks with the AFP regarding the matter.</p> <p>Asked about BCDA's plans for the farmers affected by the Clark Green City project, Zosa replied that financial assistance will be provided to the affected families. The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to study the matter.</p> <p>The Committee requested BCDA to submit documents on the contracts entered into by the BCDA, cases filed against the agency, and an inventory of properties under its jurisdiction.</p>

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Subcommittee on Correctional Reforms (Justice)	HBs 02, 505, 935, 1609, 2009 & 3973	Deputy Speaker Castro, Reps. Yap (V.), Tiangco, Cagas, Acop and Suansing (E.)	Lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility, amending for the purpose RA 9344, as amended by RA 10630, otherwise known as the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006	<p>The Subcommittee on Correctional Reforms, chaired by Rep. Henry Oaminal (2nd District, Misamis Occidental), will deliberate further on the six bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Assistant Director (OIC) Rosalie Degulo of the Protective Services Bureau of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) expressed the Department's strong objection</p>

<p>Continuation... Subcommittee on Correctional Reforms (Justice)</p>				<p>to the bills arguing that they violate the rights of children provided for under the law. She added that the proposed amendments should make children more responsible for their actions, instead of categorizing them as criminals.</p> <p>Similarly, representatives of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC), Children's Legal Rights & Development Center, Philippine Action for Youth Offenders (PAYO), and Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation also opposed the bills.</p> <p>State Counsel Shiara Mangoba of the Department of Justice (DOJ) said the DOJ will submit its official position paper on the matter.</p> <p>The Committee will invite the DSWD Secretary in its next meeting.</p>
	<p><i>Motu Proprio</i> Inquiry</p>		<p>On the riot inside the National Bilibid Prison (NBP) on September 28, 2016</p>	<p>The Subcommittee will deliberate further on the issues raised relative to the inquiry in its next meeting.</p> <p>Police Superintendent Francisco Ebreo, investigator of the Criminal Investigation and Detention Group (CIDG), made a report on the results of the investigation on the stabbing incident, which was earlier reported as a riot, at the National Bilibid Prison (NBP). Ebreo said the CIDG conducted a probe in response to the request of the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) and the pronouncement of Department of Justice (DOJ) Undersecretary Renato Orceo, a few hours after the incident occurred.</p> <p>Ebreo narrated that the incident happened on September 28 at around 7:45 a.m., inside Building 14 of the NBP in Muntinlupa City, which caused the death of convict Tony Co, and the wounding of high profile inmates Jaybee Sebastian, Peter Co, Vicente Sy and Clarence Dongail.</p> <p>Among the findings of the CIDG were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No riot or tumultuous affray occurred. What transpired were two separate stabbing incidents inside the makeshift room of Tony Co and at the mess hall area; • The incidents were triggered by different causes and there was no showing that the persons involved acted together in a disruptive and tumultuous manner in carrying out a common purpose; • Illegal drugs still exist inside Building 14 based on the result of the drug test of the inmates (including the deceased Tony Co) and the seized illegal drugs and paraphernalia; • The on-duty Philippine National Police-

<p>Continuation... Subcommittee on Correctional Reforms (Justice)</p>				<p>Special Action Force (PNP-SAF) personnel acted with regularity in the performance of their respective duties and responsibilities.</p> <p>When asked by several Congressmen if the motive of the incident was established, PNP Deputy Chief for Operations Director Benjamin Magalong answered in the negative adding that he already instructed CIDG Deputy Chief Eliseo Rasco to pursue the investigation and gather more evidences to establish the motive.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Fredenil “Fred” Castro (2nd District, Capiz), Rep. Arnolfo “Arnie” Teves (3rd District, Negros Oriental), and Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA) asked if the officers on duty at the NBP during the time of the incident are liable, and if there are charges already filed against concerned individuals.</p> <p>Rasco said based on the report, the actions of the guards on duty were deemed appropriate so no charges will be filed against them. He said the CIDG recommends the filing of criminal charges against three inmates found to have instigated the incident.</p> <p>Magalong added that it is the NBP which shall file the appropriate cases given that the incident happened inside the NBP.</p> <p>Magalong also explained that during the past administration, Building 14 was guarded by BuCor personnel, and it was only in July 2016 that the PNP-SAF personnel were deployed to exclusively guard the building. He added that during the watch of BuCor guards, bringing in of contrabands, bladed weapons and illegal drugs were uncontrolled. But with the PNP-SAF’s strict guarding of the building, it was impossible for any contraband to be brought inside the building, he also said.</p>
	<p><i>Motu Proprio Inquiry</i></p>		<p>On the warrant of arrest issued by the House of Representatives against Ronnie Dayan, who failed to show up at the Committee’s investigation on the proliferation of illegal drugs in the National Bilibid Prison (NBP)</p>	<p>The Subcommittee will deliberate further on the delayed serving of the warrant of arrest against Ronie Dayan in another meeting.</p> <p>Executive Director Isabelito Flores of the Legislative Security Bureau of the House of Representatives (HRep) reported on the status of the warrant of arrest against Dayan.</p> <p>Flores said letters have been sent to the heads of the PNP, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) requesting their assistance in determining the whereabouts of Dayan as well as in providing escorts and support in the serving of the warrant. He also verbally coordinated with the PNP Acting Provincial Director in Pangasinan regarding the matter. However, he is still awaiting reports from the enforcement agencies concerned.</p>

Continuation... Subcommittee on Correctional Reforms (Justice)				Magalong said he instructed his personnel to track down the whereabouts of Dayan but up to this date there is no significant report. NBI Deputy Director Ferdinand Lavin also disclosed that the NBI is still locating Dayan. He did not give further details of the ongoing search to safeguard their informants.
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Public Information (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 32, 63, 75, 77, 112, 120, 127, 161, 224, 237, 251, 330, 334, 463, 560, 903, 973, 1055, 1121, 1251, 1654, 1855, 1873, 2269, 2284, 2309, 2331, 2773, 2853, 3022, 3783, 3950 & 4020, HR 153 & PS 23	Reps. Del Mar, Nograles (K.), Vargas, Aglipay-Villar, Baguilat, Tan (A.), Tambunting, Belmonte (J. C.), Roque (H.), Almonte, Bordado, Romualdo, Zarate, Tugna, Castelo, Fortuno, Fortun, Antonino, Alejano, Biazon, Angara-Castillo, Aragones, Montoro, Bagao, Villarin, Cojuangco, Villafuerte, Rocamora, Deputy Speaker Cayetano, Reps. Escudero, Suansing (E.) & Atienza	Strengthening the people's right to information	The technical working group (TWG), presided by Committee Chair Rep. Antonio Tinio (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS), approved in principle the draft substitute bill. The substitute bill will be reported out to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.

AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Agrarian Reform	Briefing on the mandates and accomplishments relative to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) by the following agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) 	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rene Relampagos (1 st District, Bohol), listened to the briefing conducted by the PARC on the vision, mission, legal basis, and structure of the CARP, and the CARP-implementing agencies on their mandates and accomplishments under the CARP. PARC Executive Committee (PARC ExCom) Chair and Agrarian Reform Secretary Rafael "Ka Paeng" Mariano said that pursuant to EO 229 and RA 6657, the PARC, as the highest policy and coordinating body for CARP, is responsible for the formulation and implementation of policies, rules and regulations of CARP-related activities. The PARC ExCom acts as the executive arm of the Council and is mandated to facilitate the supervision and coordination of the implementation of the CARP.

<p>Continuation... Agrarian Reform</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CARP implementing agencies (CIAs) 	<p>The PARC is chaired by the President of the Philippines, with the secretaries/heads of the Departments of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Agriculture (DA), Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Budget and Management (DBM), the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Trade and Industry (DTI), Finance (DOF), and Labor and Employment (DOLE), Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), and Land Registration Authority (LRA), as well as private sector representatives, as members.</p> <p>LBP Senior Vice President Alex Lorayes reported that as of September 2016, P70.16 billion was already paid to 84,722 landowners as compensation for about 1.5 million hectares of land covered by CARP, benefitting 910,508 farmer beneficiaries. Lorayes added that the LBP has extended loans to the following groups or activities: small farmers and fisherfolk, P38 billion; support for agriculture and fisheries, P104.4 billion; support for rice farmers, P5.04 billion; and support for agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) and agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations (ARBOs), P2.95 billion. Under the CARP, the LBP is mandated to conduct land valuation and process payments for landowners' compensation and to extend credit assistance to small farmers and fisherfolk.</p> <p>LRA Deputy Administrator Ronald Ortille said that LRA has registered emancipation patents (EP) and Certificates of Landownership Award (CLOAs) totaling to 5,157 titles as of November 2016. Under the CARP, Ortille said the LRA is mandated to issue decrees of registration and the corresponding certificates of title, and register patents and documents of land transactions for the benefit of CARP beneficiaries.</p> <p>Assistant Director (OIC) Henry Pacis of the DENR-CARP National Coordinating Office reported that the DENR has already completed in 2015 the issuance of patents covering 2.5 million hectares of agricultural lands in support of the CARP. For 2016, Pacis said the DENR will continue to provide support services in community-based forest management (CBFM) areas through agro-forestry development and livelihood projects in upland areas in support of the National Greening Program (NGP) of the government.</p> <p>DA Director Magdalena Casuga said that as of August 2016, total credit assistance of P2.96 billion was extended to 617 ARBOs and 36,879 ARBs under the DA's Agrarian Production Credit Program (APCP).</p> <p>Project Director Johnson Domingo of the Unified Project Management Office of the DPWH presented the summary of the DPWH-CARP completed projects from 1988 to 2010 consisting of 5,351 projects with total cost amounting to P5.36 million. The DPWH undertakes the construction and rehabilitation of farm-to-market roads, bridges, and multi-purpose pavements under the CARP.</p> <p>Labor Employment Officer Cyrus Policarpio of the Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns of the DOLE discussed the Self-Reliant Organizations (SRO)-CARP Project. The SRO-CARP Project is DOLE's commitment under the CARP which aims to assist the ARBs in developing their individual and organizational competencies and strengths through institutional development and management of farm operations. At present, Policarpio said, the program has already provided assistance to 43 project sites.</p> <p>Rep. Relampagos asked DAR what it intends to do to simplify the</p>
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Continuation... Agrarian Reform		<p>present complex structure of the PARC, noting that too many government agencies compose the PARC membership. Sharing the observation of Rep. Relampagos, Mariano said the DAR, in consultation with the President, intends to reduce the number of PARC's members or form them into clusters to facilitate policy formulation and decision making process.</p> <p>Rep. Relampagos said the Committee will wait for DAR's recommendation for possible legislative action to improve PARC's organizational structure.</p>
Economic Affairs	<p>Update by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) on the status of implementation of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA 9505, otherwise known as the Personal Equity and Retirement Account (PERA) Act of 2008</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Arthur Yap (3rd District, Bohol), listened to the briefing conducted by BSP Assistant Governor Johnny Noe Ravalo on the status of implementation of the IRR of RA 9505.</p> <p>PERA refers to the voluntary retirement account established for the exclusive use and benefit of the contributor for the purpose of being invested solely in PERA investment products in the Philippines. Under the law, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) shall issue the IRR regarding all aspects of tax administration relating to PERA. On the other hand, the BSP shall have regulatory authority over banks and other financial institutions and trust entities; the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for investment companies, investment houses, and pre-need plan companies; and the Insurance Commission (IC) for insurance companies.</p> <p>Ravalo informed the Committee that a technical working group (TWG) has been created to discuss and settle the following issues :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the BIR to clarify the tax exempt status of PERA investment products and reportorial requirements; • For the BSP to conduct a successful end-to-end PERA system test; and • For the PERA administrators and other PERA participants to ensure the readiness of internal systems and to establish external linkages to implement the program. <p>The PERA law, which was enacted way back 2008, has not been promptly implemented due to certain issues and delays in the promulgation of the IRRs. But Ravalo mentioned that it is targeted to be launched in mid-December of this year, initially within Metro Manila.</p> <p>Ravalo presented the incentives under the PERA law, which include a tax credit equivalent to 5% of the annual PERA contribution of up to P100,000.00 and 100% tax free on all income earned from investments. The PERA contributor may also create and maintain up to five PERAs at any one time.</p> <p>Moreover, Ravalo emphasized that the rules on PERA promote transparency and check and balance through the separation of functions of the administrator (who cannot exercise investment discretion), the investment manager (who can exercise investment discretion but cannot be a product provider), and the custodian (who must not be related to the administrator).</p>
	<p>Update by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on the status of implementation of the IRR of RA 9856, otherwise known as the Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) Act of 2009</p>	<p>Director Vicente Graciano Felizmenio Jr. of the SEC's Markets and Securities Regulation Department gave an update on the status of implementation of the IRR of RA 9856.</p> <p>The REIT is a stock corporation with the principal purpose of owning income- generating real estate assets.</p>

<p>Continuation... Economic Affairs</p>		<p>Since the REIT Act was passed into law in 2009, Felizmenio said there was no property developer that has launched a REIT vehicle because of the issues on public ownership requirements and taxation on asset transfers.</p> <p>Felizmenio said that among the recommendations made to settle issues concerning the REIT law are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the requirement that the REIT property manager shall be independent from the REIT and its sponsor/promoter to ensure the effective property management of the REIT; • Allow a quarterly or semi-annual distribution of dividends; • Amend the 67% minimum public ownership requirement required in the IRR. The minimum public ownership shall be limited to at least 1/3 of the outstanding capital stock of the REIT as provided by law; • Include in the IRR a provision that the REIT has the power to delegate its functions by entering into a management contract; and • Remove the imposition of value added tax (VAT) on the initial transfer of assets from the sponsor to the REIT. <p>Felizmenio also highlighted the tax incentives granted under the law, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The REIT is exempted from the minimum corporate income tax of 2% of gross income; • Income payments to a REIT shall be subject to a lower creditable withholding tax of 1%; • The sale and transfer of assets to REIT shall be subject to only 50% of the applicable documentary stamp tax (DST); • The dividends paid by REITs will be subject to a final tax of 10%, subject to certain exemptions; and • Any initial public offering and secondary offering of investor securities shall be exempt from tax imposed under Section 127 (b) of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997. <p>Majority of the Members of the Committee are amenable to amending the REIT Law in order to facilitate its implementation.</p>
<p>Metro Manila Development</p>	<p>Discussion with the following agencies and private organizations and corporations regarding the alleged proliferation of toxic beauty products in Metro Manila:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Winston “Winnie” Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), discussed with various government agencies and private organizations and corporations the alleged proliferation of toxic beauty products in Metro Manila.</p> <p>Rep. Castelo said the proliferation of fake beauty products in the local market may compromise the health of the consumers as well as the viability of legitimate health and beauty companies. He requested the resource persons to give their comments on the growing market of fake or toxic beauty products and to come up with measures to address the problem and make the perpetrators liable.</p> <p>FDA’s Center for Cosmetic Regulation and Research head Maria Theresa Gutierrez explained that the proliferation of fake cosmetics could be attributed mainly to the difficulty of identifying the source of the products. She added that other factors such as the lack of control in the issuance of permit to sell by the local government units, in the importation of products, and in online marketing also contribute to this growing problem.</p> <p>Responding to the query of Rep. Castelo with regard to the action of the FDA when fake products are identified, Gutierrez said the</p>

<p>Continuation... Metro Manila Development</p>		<p>Metro Manila and parts of Cavite and Rizal.</p> <p>The Committee brought to the attention of the MWSS the issues and concerns raised by the public on the water utility providers' quality of service and fees being charged, and the failure of the two concessionaires, Manila Water and Maynilad, to fully implement the concession agreement with MWSS.</p> <p>Rep. Castelo said that some of the infrastructure projects contemplated in the concession agreements, like the provision of sewerage treatment plant (STP), were not implemented. He likewise questioned the charging of sewerage fees to the consumers when they are already being charged 20% environmental fee.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Reps. Manuel Luis Lopez (1st District, Manila) and Jose Christopher Belmonte (6th District, Quezon City) inquired if there is indeed a water crisis in Metro Manila.</p> <p>Santos replied that based on a report of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) made four or five years ago, the supply and demand ratio of water was projected to decrease from 122% in 2011 to 113% in 2016 and there is a possibility of a water deficit by 2017. In spite of this NEDA projection, however, Santos claimed that water supply in Metro Manila has in fact improved.</p> <p>The MWSS was requested to submit a copy its comprehensive water development plan and the list of technical plans and programs of its concessionaires.</p>
<p>North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>	<p>Briefing by the following government agencies on their programs for Regions I, II and III, and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of the Civil Defense-National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (OCD-NDRRMC) 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Mountain Province Rep. Maximo Dalog, listened to the briefing of the Office of the Civil Defense-National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (OCD-NDRRMC) and the Climate Change Commission (CCC).</p> <p>OCD Assistant Secretary Kristopher James Purisima apprised the Committee on the status of rehabilitation efforts, funding support, and on-going activities and training programs conducted in several areas in Regions I, II, and III and CAR that were severely damaged by Typhoons Lawin, Lando and Ineng.</p> <p>As of November 2016, Purisima reported that total funds released for the repair and rehabilitation of various infrastructure facilities, shelter assistance, and livelihood projects in areas badly hit by Typhoons Lando and Ineng reached P5.58 billion and P101.49 million, respectively.</p> <p>Purisima also discussed the training programs, consisting of lectures/discussions, workshops and field exercises, being conducted by the OCD, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid damage assessment and needs analysis (RDANA) –assesses the extent of damage caused by any disaster and prescribes the immediate needs of the affected population; • Contingency planning -- arranges inter-agency response mechanisms to address the worst case disaster situation; • Incident command system -- establishes on-scene command and control to harmonize the tactical actions of different disaster response groups; • Post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA) – comprehensively measures and assesses disaster damages and losses across all sectors for the purpose of implementing disaster rehabilitation and recovery programs; and • Community-based disaster risk reduction management

<p>Continuation... North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Commission (CCC) 	<p>(DRRM) training for trainers – provides training on various DRRM methods and approaches to be implemented at the community/barangay levels.</p> <p>Purisima presented the results of the rapid damage assessment and needs analysis the OCD conducted in Regions I, II and III, and CAR. He added that the OCD is currently conducting post-disaster needs assessment in Region II and CAR based on the RDANA. Targeted for completion by the second week of December 2016, the PDNA will be the basis for the preparation of a rehabilitation and recovery plan for the two regions.</p> <p>The Members of the Committee requested Purisima to facilitate the implementation of infrastructure projects especially in severely hit areas; construct evacuation centers in strategic locations; and monitor areas still with no electricity, water and communication lines. They also asked Purisima to provide the Committee with a list of requirements for the grant of financial and livelihood assistance to affected families.</p> <p>Purisima gave assurance that the OCD will consider the suggestions of the Committee Members even as he mentioned the current efforts of his office aimed at improving disaster risk management. He said, among other things, that the OCD has created a technical working group (TWG), composed of representatives from the different member agencies of the NDRRMC, to finalize the proposed amendments to the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 (RA 10121) that will establish better mechanisms and provide appropriate assistance to calamity prone areas.</p> <p>Purisima also reported that an amount of P72 million has been allotted to the Department of Public Works and Highway (DPWH) for the construction of evacuation centers.</p> <p>CCC Senior Coordinator Katherine Firmeza apprised the Committee of the mandate and functions of the CCC, as well as the People’s Survival Fund (PSF).</p> <p>Pursuant to the Climate Change Act of 2009 (RA 10174), the CCC was created as an independent and autonomous body attached to the Office of the President and mandated to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the programs and plans of the government relating to climate change.</p> <p>The Members of the Committee requested the CCC to assist their respective districts in formulating a climate change adaptation project proposal to be funded by the People’s Survival Fund (PSF).</p> <p>The PSF is a special fund in the National Treasury intended to finance climate change adaptation programs and projects of local government units (LGUs) and accredited local/community organizations, with a P1 billion annual allocation.</p> <p>LGUs wanting to access the PSF will be evaluated based on the following criteria: poverty incidence - 40%; exposure to climate risks - 30%; and presence of identified and delineated key biodiversity areas - 30%. On the other hand, local/community organizations are eligible to access the PSF upon accreditation and submission of necessary documents.</p>
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