

Committee Daily Bulletin

17th Congress
First Regular Session

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources	HBs 672, 1734, 1735, 1736, 1737, 1738, 1747, 1748, 1749, 1750, 1994, 1897, 1898 & 1899	Reps. Gonzales, Tan (A.), and Ty	Establishment of multi-species marine hatcheries in various municipalities in Albay, Quezon Province and Surigao del Sur	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Luis "Jon-Jon" Ferrer IV (6 th District, Cavite), approved the Committee Reports on the 14 bills.
	HBs 406, 1877, 1878, 2018, 3121, 3122, 3320 & 3624	Reps. Vargas-Alfonso, Almonte, Deloso-Montalla, Amatong, Acosta, and Bravo (M.V.)	Establishing fish ports/cold storage facilities in various municipalities and cities in Cagayan, Misamis Occidental, Zambales, Zamboanga del Norte, Puerto Princesa, and Masbate	The Committee approved the eight bills, subject to style and amendments.
Cooperatives Development	HR 277	Rep. Salimbangon	Congratulating and commending the Cebu CFI Community Cooperative for being conferred the "2016 Gawad sa Pinakatanging Kooperatiba" – platinum award, the highest award for cooperatives given by the Landbank of the Philippines (LBP)	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rico Geron, (Party-List, AGAP), adopted HR 277. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.
	HBs 188 & 259	Reps. Bravo & Loyola	Providing for the mandatory appointment of a cooperatives officer in every local government unit (LGU), amending for the purpose RA 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HBs 188 and 259 in its next meeting.</p> <p>John Macaspac, officer-in-charge (OIC) of the Local Government Regional Coordination Bureau of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), stated that the LGU should have the option to designate an incumbent officer or employee to perform the function of a cooperative officer. (This suggestion of Macaspac is included in HB 188 as one of the proposed amendments to RA 7160.)</p> <p>According to Macaspac, this is a more feasible option given that creating a mandatory position would require an increase in the budget for personal services which not all provincial, city and municipal governments will be able to obtain.</p> <p>Macaspac was requested to submit to the Committee data on the number of cities, municipalities and provinces that have no cooperative officers.</p>

Continuation... Cooperatives Development				Representatives from the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and cooperative unions present in the meeting expressed their full support for the bills.
	HB 2473	Rep. Geron	Strengthening the right of cooperatives to develop into viable and responsible economic enterprises, amending for this purpose RA 6938, or the Cooperative Code of the Philippines, by adding Section 9-B on cooperative powers and capacities	<p>The Committee will continue its deliberation of HB 2473 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Geron, author of HB 2473, manifested his intention to amend the title of the bill by replacing RA 6938 (Cooperative Code of the Philippines) with RA 9520 (Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008).</p> <p>Representatives from the Departments of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Agriculture (DA), Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Budget and Management (DBM), and the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Civil Service Commission (CSC), Land Management Bureau (LMB), and other cooperatives will be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee.</p>
	HB 565, 1275 & 2571	Reps. Bravo, Biazon & Rodriguez (M.)	Reorganizing and strengthening the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), repealing for the purpose RA 6939, otherwise known as the Charter of the CDA	<p>The Committee suspended its deliberation of the three bills until Rep. Geron is able to meet and discuss with Batanes Rep. Henedina Abad, Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, on the proper course of action considering that there is another bill with similar intent referred to the latter's Committee.</p> <p>This bill, HB 4174, authored by Rep. Maria Valentina Plaza (1st District, Agusan del Sur) seeks to create a Department of Cooperatives.</p>
Dangerous Drugs	HB 3191	Rep. Unabia	Requiring an annual mandatory drug testing for all government officials and employees, amending for the purpose RA 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Robert Ace Barbers (2 nd District, Surigao del Norte), adopted the recommendation of the technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Arnolfo "Arnie" Teves Jr. (3 rd District, Negros Oriental), to archive HBs 3191 and 3611.
	HB 3611	Rep. Lanete	Mandating random drug testing in all government agencies, providing funds therefor	Secretary Benjamin Reyes of the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), who discussed the findings of the TWG, explained that there are enough laws and guidelines on the conduct of drug testing foremost of which is Section 36 (Authorized Drug Testing) of RA 9165. The DDB also issued various regulations on the matter: DDB Regulation No. 2, series of 2004 (Guidelines for the Formulation and Implementation of a Drug Free Workplace Program and the Conduct of Authorized Drug Testing by all Offices, Bureaus, and Agencies of the National and Local Governments, Government Owned and Controlled Corporations, and other Institutes of Learning Including State Colleges and Universities); DDB Regulation No. 6, series of 2003 (General Guidelines for the Conduct of Random Drug Testing for Secondary and Tertiary Students); and DDB Regulation No. 3, series of 2009

Continuation... Dangerous Drugs				<p>(General Guidelines for the Conduct of Random Testing for Students of Secondary, Tertiary, Vocational and Technical Schools, Amending Board Regulation No. 6, series of 2003).</p> <p>Reyes, however, emphasized the need for more funds and the procurement of confirmatory testing machines to facilitate the proper conduct of drug testing.</p>
	HB 3640	Rep. Antonio	Mandating annual drug testing to all students of secondary, tertiary, vocational and technical schools, providing funds therefor	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 3640 in its next meeting.</p> <p>While the Committee is inclined to adopt the recommendation of the TWG to archive the bill given the existing laws and regulations that already address its intent, it acceded to the position of AGBIAG Party-List Rep. Michelle Antonio, author of HB 3640, to discuss the bill further. Rep. Antonio underscored the importance of a mandatory annual drug testing of all students and not merely on a random basis.</p> <p>On the cost that will be incurred in the implementation of the proposed law, Rep Antonio said that the bill provides for continuous funding support of P200 million annually in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).</p> <p>Rep. Sarah Jane Elago (Party-List, KABATAAN) suggested involving the college student-volunteers of the National Service Training Program (NSTP) in the community-based drug rehabilitation program as additional manpower complement.</p>
	HBs 9, 118, 132, 265, 345, 948, 1298, 1398, 1779, 1782, 2100, 2113, 2160, 2289, 2690, 2736, 2985, 3044, 3108, 3232, 3248, 3598, 3806 & 3819	Majority Leader Fariñas, Reps. Tan (A), Batocabe, Villafuerte, Romualdez, Ocampo, Robes, Amante, Catamco, Calixto-Rubiano, Paduano, Pineda, Eusebio, Tan (S), Billones, Antonio, Malapitan, Aglipay-Villar, Marquez, Primicias-Agabas, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Aumentado & Revilla	Establishing drug rehabilitation centers across the country and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee adopted the recommendation of the TWG to archive the proposed measures, noting that Section 75 (Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers) of RA 9165 and Executive Order No. 4 issued on October 11, 2016 (Providing for the Establishment and Support of Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers Throughout the Country) already provided for the establishment of drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation centers throughout the country.</p> <p>Reyes added that the “mega drug rehabilitation center” located in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija is operational and can accommodate as many as 10,000 drug patients. He added that there is another mega rehabilitation center which will be constructed from the donations of San Miguel Corporation, aside from regional rehabilitation centers and community-based rehabilitation programs currently being established or are to be established.</p>

Continuation... Dangerous Drugs	HB 3406	Rep. Barbers	Exempting drug trafficking and other drug related offenses from the prohibition of RA 4200 or the Anti-Wire Tapping Law	The Committee will deliberate further on HBs 3406 and 3733 in its next meeting.
	HB 3733	Rep. Bagatsing	Authorizing wiretapping in cases involving violations of RA 9165, amending for the purpose Section 3 of RA 4200	It agreed to adopt the recommendation of the TWG, chaired by Rep. Pablo Ortega (1 st District, La Union), to incorporate the proposed amendments to RA 4200, including the exemption of offenses under RA 9165 from the coverage of the Anti-Wire Tapping Law. However, Rep. Barbers requested the TWG to reconcile the proposed House version of the bills with that of the Senate, after noting that the counterpart committee in the Senate has already approved and reported out the said bill. For its next meeting, the Committee will invite the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) to give its comments on the bills recognizing the DICT's would-be role in the proposed law.
	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 Committee adopted the recommendation of the TWG to archive HBs 860 and 2568, and in lieu thereof, support the approval of measures re-imposing the death penalty which is covered by pending bills in Congress.
	HB 588	Rep. Bataoil	Strengthening the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and providing supplemental duties thereof, amending for the purpose RA 9165	The Committee will deliberate further on the four bills in its next meeting.
	HB 1413	Rep. Castelo	Amending Sections 23 and 24 of RA 9165, by restoring plea bargaining and probation laws	The Committee agreed to adopt the recommendation of the TWG to incorporate the proposed amendments to RA 9165, including making the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) and the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) additional members of the DDB. It recognizes the role of sports and the arts in the rehabilitation of drug dependents.
	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, as amended	
	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, as amended	
Legislative Franchises	HB 3946	Rep. Enverga	Renewing the franchise granted to GMA Network, Inc. (formerly Republic Broadcasting System Inc.) under RA 7252, or the law granting the Republic Broadcasting System, Inc. a franchise to construct, install, operate and maintain radio and television broadcasting stations in the Philippines for 25 years from the effectivity of this Act	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Franz "Chicoy" Alvarez (1 st District, Palawan), approved HB 3946 with amendment. Replying to the question raised by Rep. Johnny Pimentel (2 nd District, Surigao del Sur), Gilberto Duavit Jr., president & chief operating officer of GMA Network, said that the corporation is compliant with Sec. 11, Art. XVI of the Constitution being 100% Filipino-owned. Section 11, Article XVI (General Provision) of the Constitution provides that the ownership and management of mass media shall be

Continuation... Legislative Franchises				<p>limited to citizens of the Philippines, or to corporations, cooperatives or associations, wholly-owned and managed by such citizens.</p> <p>Asked by Deputy Speaker Romero “Miro” Quimbo (2nd District, Marikina City) on the position of GMA Network relative to the deletion of Section 8 of the bill, Duavit said GMA agrees to the amendment, saying that the company has always complied with its tax obligations.</p> <p>The DOLE was requested to submit to the Committee a report on the status of pending cases in the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) involving labor disputes between GMA Network and its employees, noting the concerns raised by DOLE’s legal counsel Karen Bueno.</p>
	HB 4110	Rep. Treñas	Granting Iloilo Baptist Church (Philippines) a franchise to construct, maintain and operate non-commercial radio broadcasting stations in the Philippines	<p>The Committee reconsidered its previous approval of HB 4110 to give way to the amendment proposed by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo: to delete Sec. 11 (Dispersal of Ownership) since the franchise applicant is a non-stock, non-profit, religious corporation, thus rendering the provision unnecessary.</p> <p>Thereafter, the Committee finally approved HB 4110 with amendment.</p>
	HB 3118	Rep. Madrona	Granting the Streamtech Systems Technologies, Inc. (SSTI) a franchise to construct, install, establish, operate and maintain telecommunications systems throughout the Philippines	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 3118 in its next meeting.</p> <p>SSTI Finance Officer Luis Buenaventura highlighted the services that SSTI intends to provide based on its 10-year development plan that will allow connectivity to underserved areas inside the country and abroad, such as: international gateway facility (IGF), international broadband service (IBS), public data network, and bandwidth via satellite service. The 10-year development plan will initially be rolled out in Iloilo and later to Mindanao, Buenaventura said.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Romualdo on the ability of SSTI to expand its services, Buenaventura said that aside from tapping the assets of its sister companies, SSTI intends to purchase wholesale bandwidths from existing telecommunication companies prior to setting up its own infrastructures.</p> <p>Manuel Paolo Villar, who owns Prime Asset Ventures, Inc., the majority stockholder of SSTI, as well as other stockholders of SSTI will be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee.</p>
Labor and Employment	HB 175 in consolidation with HBs 711 & 1908	Reps. Nograles (K.A.) & Angara- Castillo	Rationalizing government interventions in labor disputes by adopting the essential services criteria in the exercise of the assumption or certification of power of the Secretary of Labor and Employment,	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Randolph Ting (3rd District, Cagayan), approved the Committee Report on HB 175 in consolidation with HBs 711 and 1908.

Continuation... Labor and Employment			decriminalizing violations thereof, amending for this purpose Articles 263, 264, and 272 of PD 442, as amended	A bill with similar subject matter was approved on Third Reading during the 16 th Congress.
	HB 269 in consolidation with HB 500	Reps. Roman and Nograles (K.A.)	Instituting policies for the protection and welfare of caregivers in the practice of their profession	The Committee approved the Committee Report on HB 269 in consolidation with HB 500. A bill with similar subject matter was approved on Third Reading during the 16 th Congress.
	HB 277 in consolidation with HB 710	Reps. Nograles (K.A.) & Angara-Castillo)	Strengthening the regulation of employment of foreign nationals, amending for the purpose Articles 40, 41, and 42 of Title II Book I of PD 442, as amended	The Committee approved the Committee Report on HB 277 in consolidation with HB 710. A bill with similar subject matter was approved on Third Reading during the 16 th Congress.
	HB 726	Rep. Nograles (K.A.)	Fostering a culture of voluntary compliance with labor laws, amending for the purpose Article 128 of PD 442, as amended	The Committee approved the Committee Report on HB 726. A bill with similar subject matter was approved on Second Reading during the 16 th Congress.
	HB 1355	Rep. Nograles (K.A.)	Reducing the minimum membership requirement for registration of unions or federations and streamlining the process of registration, amending for this purpose Articles 234, 235, 236 and 237 of PD 442, as amended	The Committee approved the Committee Report on HB 1355. A bill with similar subject matter was approved on Third Reading during the 16 th Congress.
	HB 1358	Rep. Nograles (K.A.)	Providing for the remedy of filing a petition for <i>certiorari</i> to the Supreme Court to review the decisions of the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC), amending for the purpose Articles 223 and 224 of PD 442, as amended, otherwise known as the Labor Code of the Philippines	The Committee approved the Committee Report on HB 1358. A bill with similar subject matter was approved on Third Reading during the 16 th Congress.
	HBs 55, 76, 170, 341, 556, 563, 709, 712, 895, 916, 1045, 1208, 1351, 1563, 1837, 1857, 1910, 2389, 3556, 3769 & 3802, and Privilege Speeches 18, 38 & 65	Reps. Bag-ao, Aglipay-Villar, Nograles (K.A.), Villarín, Casilao, Castelo, Angara-Castillo, Tan (A.), Roque (H.), De Jesus, Zarate, Bertiz, Herrera-Dy, Aragones, Villarica, Paduano, Go (M.), Yap (A.) & Zubiri	Strengthening the security of tenure of workers in the private sector	The Committee will deliberate further on the 24 measures in its next meeting. The bills' authors manifested to adopt their explanatory notes to the bills as their sponsorship speeches. DOLE Assistant Secretary Joji Aragon conveyed the Department's support to the proposed law. She said that DOLE is currently in the process of reviewing Department Order (DO) 18-A which provides for the rules and regulations governing contracting and subcontracting arrangements, after holding consultations with various labor groups, private companies/employers, and the academe regarding putting a stop to the practice of contractualization. Aragon added that DOLE has also conducted labor summits in relation to the crafting of a comprehensive labor agenda that will address several labor issues and concerns, including security of tenure. Aragon also reminded the Committee that there are no bills filed yet seeking the total

Continuation... Labor and Employment				<p>prohibition of contracting or subcontracting. She noted that Article 106 of the Labor Code is silent as to what activity or function may be contracted out which she believes may be addressed through legislation.</p> <p>Representatives from the labor groups <i>Kilusang Mayo Uno</i> (KMU), Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), Federation of Free Workers (FFW), <i>Sentro ng mga Nagkakaisa at Progresibong Manggagawa</i> (SENTRO), and <i>Partido ng Manggagawa</i> (PM), as well as the <i>Sentro ng Alternatibong Lingap Panligal</i> (SALIGAN) favor the proposed measures.</p> <p>On the other hand, representatives from the management groups Philippine Association of Local Service Contractors (PALSCON), Employees Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP), Information Technology and Business Process Association of the Philippines (ITBPAP) and Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) suggested that the bills be studied further. They cited the alleged exit of some 10,850 contractors due to the recent strict implementation of the country's labor laws.</p> <p>All the stakeholders present in the meeting were requested to submit to the Committee their position papers on the bills.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to hold a public hearing in Baguio City on December 9, 2016 to discuss the issue of contractualization.</p>
	HB 1354	Rep. Nograles (K.A.)	Allowing foreign individuals or organizations to engage in trade union activities and to provide assistance to labor organizations or groups of workers, amending for the purpose Articles 269 and 270 of PD 442, as amended	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 1354 in its next meeting.</p> <p>The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) was requested to submit its official position paper on the matter.</p> <p>Rep. Karlo Alexi Nograles (1st District, Davao City), author of HB 1354, underscored the importance of strengthening the Philippine workers' affiliation with other organizations of workers to fully exercise their right to self-organization, which is a universal right, as embodied in the International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention No. 87 on Freedom of Association.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go does not favor allowing foreign individuals to engage in trade union activities in the country, concerned that it might lead to the active involvement of foreigners in all the country's trade union activities.</p>
Natural Resources	HB 691	Rep. Romualdo	Simplifying the procedure in the disposition of public agricultural lands, amending for the purpose Section 24 of Commonwealth Act 141, otherwise known as the Public Land Act	The Committee, chaired by BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate, approved HB 691.

Continuation... Natural Resources	HB 854	Rep. Villarica	Reverting fishponds to forest lands which have been unutilized or abandoned for a period of three years to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), amending for the purpose Section 43 of Presidential Decree 705, otherwise known as the Revised Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines	The Committee approved HB 854.
	HBs 124, 230, 610, 1990, 2116, 2362, 2573, 2632, 2789, 2986, 3167 & 3258	Rep. Lobregat, Deputy Speaker Singson, Reps. Eriguel, Ting, Pimentel, Bravo, Rodriguez (M.), Villarin, Rodriguez (I.), Mellana, Gonzalez, and Aglipay-Villar	Declaring various parts of the country as protected areas	The Committee approved the 12 bills subject to the review and correction of the technical description by the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA).
	HBs 612, 678, 868, 1343, 2050 & 3348	Reps. Roman, Eriguel, Yap (V.), Acop, Durano, & Evardone	Reclassifying parcels of land of the public domain located in different parts of the country	The Committee approved the six bills.
	HB 872	Rep. Espina	Declaring Biliran Province as mining-free zone	The Committee approved the two bills.
	HB 3166	Rep. Ungab	Declaring Davao City as mining-free zone	
	HB 3516	Rep. Mellana	Establishing the final forestland boundary of the Province of Agusan del Sur	The Committee approved the bill subject to the correction of the technical description by the Forest Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (FMB-DENR).
	HBs 54, 113, 1665, 2633 & 2715	Reps. Bag-Ao, Baguilat, Cosalan, Villarin & Zarate	Regulating the rational exploration, development and utilization of mineral resources, and ensuring the equitable sharing of benefits for the State, indigenous peoples and local communities	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to study the bills further.
	HBs 143, 2938 & 3486	Reps. Acosta-Alba, Dalog & Escudero	Providing for the delineation of specific forest limits of the public domain in various parts of the country	
	HB 212	Rep. Matugas	Declaring the islands of Siargao and Bucas Grande as protected areas under the category of protected landscape and seascape and providing for its management	

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
National Defense	Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure; discussion of legislative agenda	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Amado Espino Jr. (5 th District, Pangasinan), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17 th Congress. Rep. Espino said that one of the priority legislative agenda of the Committee is the amendment of RA 10349 or the Armed Forces of

<p>Continuation... National Defense</p>		<p>the Philippines (AFP) Modernization Law. Thereafter, the Committee members gave their own suggestions on what other legislative actions the Committee should undertake in the present Congress.</p> <p>Rep. Manuel Jose “Mannix” Dalipe (2nd District, Zamboanga City) underscored the importance of providing appropriate salaries and benefits to military personnel to boost their morale.</p> <p>Rep. Gary Alejano (Party-List, MAGDALO) proposed the establishment of a uniform military pension system, while Rep. Antonio Tinio (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS) proposed the re-activation of the AFP Retirement and Separation Benefit System (RSBS) which was dissolved in December 31, 2006.</p> <p>Rep. Luis Raymund “LRay” Villafuerte Jr. (2nd District, Camarines Sur) brought up the need to amend the Procurement Law to facilitate the AFP’s purchase of necessary military equipment.</p> <p>In the course of the discussion of priority legislative agenda of the Committee, Reps. Alejano, Mariano Michael Velarde Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY), and Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City) suggested that the Department of National Defense (DND) and the AFP conduct a briefing on the following matters: national security policy of the government; the country’s present security situation, including security threats in Mindanao; AFP capability and the soldiers’ morale and welfare; and status of the AFP modernization program.</p> <p>Rep. Noel Villanueva (3rd District, Tarlac) requested that the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) be invited to apprise the Committee on the status of the conversion of certain military camps in the country; while Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1PACMAN) proposed that the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) be invited as well to present the situation at the Philippine maritime zones including the coastal areas.</p>
<p>Population and Family Relations</p>	<p>Approval of the Committee’s Rules of Procedure</p> <p>Briefing by the following government agencies on their programs and services, and priority legislative agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sol Aragonés (3rd District, Laguna), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p> <p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sol Aragonés (3rd District, Laguna), listened to the briefing conducted by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Health (DOH), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), Commission on Population (POPCOM), and Philippine Statistic Authority (PSA).</p> <p>DSWD Undersecretary Florita Villar highlighted the various programs and services of the DSWD which aim to reduce poverty, ensure social protection, and empower the poor and the vulnerable.</p> <p>Villar also made a report on the status of implementation of the following laws: Centenarians Act of 2016 (RA 10868), Expanded Seniors Citizens Act of 2010 (RA 9994), and Solo Parents Welfare Act (RA 8972).</p> <p>The DSWD’s proposed the following legislative agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Welfare and Development Agencies (SWDAs) Act – to strengthen DSWD’s regulatory functions; • Public Solicitation Act – to strengthen the system of granting permits for charitable and welfare purposes to protect the general public from unscrupulous solicitation; • International Social Services Act – to create the International Social Services Office (ISSO) in every foreign post to protect undocumented and distressed overseas Filipino workers (OFWs); • Elderly Abuse Act – to define the illegal acts committed, impose penalties, and develop strategies to prevent or reduce abuses against senior citizens;

<p>Continuation... Sustainable Development Goals (Special Committee)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) 	<p>The priorities of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People – End poverty and hunger in all forms, and ensure dignity and equality; • Planet – Protect the planet's natural resources and climate for future generations; • Prosperity – Ensure prosperous and fulfilling lives in harmony with nature; • Peace – Foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies; and • Partnership – Implement the agenda through a solid global partnership. <p>Almgren stressed that while the SDGs are not legally binding, governments are expected to take ownership and establish national frameworks for the achievement of the SDGs. He also encouraged Congress to legislate laws that are supportive of the SDGs; appropriate budget for the attainment of the SDGs; and maintain an oversight role over the progress of the achievement of these global goals.</p> <p>NEDA Social Development Staff Director Erlinda Capones apprised the Committee on the achievements under the MDGs and the various activities that the NEDA is undertaking to start-off the SDGs.</p> <p>Capones reported that since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration in 2000, the Philippines has undertaken various interventions to establish an environment that would facilitate the attainment of the MDGs in the country. NEDA ensures that all stakeholders are on board and they know their respective roles. She, however, said that as of now, NEDA is still in the process of collecting data from various agencies involved so it cannot make a final assessment yet on the level of accomplishment the Philippines reached in relation to the MDG targets.</p> <p>On transitioning to the SDGs, Capones reported that NEDA has conducted technical workshops as initial step towards establishing a mechanism for monitoring the SDGs.</p> <p>Capones also said that NEDA launched the "AmBisyonNatin 2040," which represents the collective long-term visions and aspirations of the Filipino people for themselves and for the country in the next 25 years. She added that this will serve as an anchor for development planning to ensure continuity of policies, programs and projects across political administrations.</p> <p>Capones also discussed the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022, which lays down a solid foundation for a more inclusive growth, a high-trust society, and a globally competitive knowledge economy, adopting the theme: "<i>Malasakit, Pagbabago para sa Patuloy na Pag-unlad.</i>"</p>
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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, held the fifth of a series of public consultations concerning the proposal to amend the Constitution with resource persons from the basic sectors and various government agencies being asked to present their views on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether it is necessary to amend or revise the Constitution; • The preferred mode of amendment or revision; and • Specific proposals, if any.

<p>Continuation... Constitutional Amendments</p>		<p>Rep. Corazon Nuñez-Malanyaon (1st District, Davao Oriental) presided over the second half of the meeting.</p> <p>The representatives from the following government agencies expressed full support to the proposal to amend the Constitution, including the shift to a federal form of government: Departments of Agriculture (DA), Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Health (DOH), Labor and Employment (DOLE), National Defense (DND), and Social Welfare and Development (DSWD); National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA); National Youth Commission (NYC); National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP); and Mindanao Development Authority (MinDa). They were, however, divided on what mode of amending or revising the Constitution shall be adopted, with some of them promising to submit their position paper on the matter at a later date. They also presented their specific proposals designed to promote the sectors they are mandated to assist and support.</p> <p>Similarly, the representatives from the academe, research institutions, sectoral groups, and non-government organizations (NGOs) conveyed their support to the move to amend/revise the Constitution, namely: Trade Union Congress Party (TUCP), Centrist Democracy Political Institute (CDPI), Center for Scientific Research and Strategic Development, Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers of the Philippines, Inc. (IIEE), Philippine Federation of Professional Associations (PFPA), Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO) Project, Institute for Autonomy and Governance (IAG), Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), and Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (PACU). Some of them presented to the Committee their specific proposals to amend the Constitution, each pushing for the recognition and promotion of the rights and welfare of the sector or group they represent.</p> <p>On the preferred mode of amending or revising the Constitution, the IIEE chooses people's initiative, while PFPA, CODE-NGO, and PPCRV prefer a constitutional convention (ConCon). All the others were still undecided on this issue.</p> <p>Atty. Raul Lambino, member of the 2005 Consultative Constitutional Commission, favors the amendment of the 1987 Constitution but has not expressed which mode he thinks should be adopted. Lambino also emphasized the need to amend the Local Government Code to strengthen the powers of the local chief executives.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), as well as the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) and the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL) promised to submit to the Committee their respective position papers on the charter change proposal.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Youth and Sports Development (Technical Working Group)	HB 3228	Rep. Pacquiao	Establishing the Sarangani Sports Academy and Training Center to be located in the Sarangani Provincial Capitol Sports Area and allocating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Committee Secretary Percie Managuelod, will deliberate further on HB 3228 in its next meeting.</p> <p>The Secretariat will draft a Substitute Bill to HB 3228 to incorporate the suggestions of the TWG members, among which are as follows;</p>

Continuation... Youth and Sports Development (Technical Working Group)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To establish a sports training center instead of the proposed sports academy and training center; and Funding for the proposed center shall be sourced from the Provincial Government of Sarangani and the Municipality of Alabel, Sarangani. <p>Philippine Sports Institute Training Director Marc Velasco informed the TWG that at present, the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) has no budget allocation for the establishment of new sports centers.</p>
	HB 3697	Rep. Dimaporo (M.K.)	Establishing the Lanao del Norte Sports Academy to be located in the Municipality of Tubod, Province of Lanao del Norte and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The TWG will deliberate further on HB 3697 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte) explained his concept of a sports academy and training center, which is an integrated school where scholars will be chosen based on the physical requirements of the sports that they will engage in. The scholars will be provided monthly stipend, free education, and free board and lodging.</p> <p>Rep. Dimaporo will revise his bill to incorporate the amendments discussed by the TWG, some of which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To define the term “sports academy” and state its objectives; To indicate that the provincial government will fund the first five years of the school’s operations, and thereafter the national government; To specify that the Department of Education (DepEd) shall provide the budget for the salary of teaching personnel and shall assist in the curriculum planning; and <p>To mandate the PSC to assist in the upgrading of the sports complex.</p>

AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources	Briefing by the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Luis “Jon-Jon” Ferrer IV (6th District, Cavite), listened to the briefing of the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) on its major accomplishments, and plans and programs for 2017.</p> <p>PFDA General Manager Glen Pangapalan was at hand to answer the queries of the Committee members and explain the PFDA’s operations.</p> <p>Pursuant to Presidential Decree 977, as amended, the PFDA is mandated to promote the development of the fisheries industry, and improve efficiency in the handling and distribution of fish and fishery products through the establishment of post-harvest facilities like fish ports, ice plants and cold storages. The PFDA’s major final output includes the rehabilitation/upgrading of regional fish port facilities and construction/establishment of fishery post-harvest facilities.</p>

<p>Continuation... Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources</p>		<p>PFDA Assistant General Manager Loralie Datahan disclosed that out of the 10 projects recommended by PFDA for funding under its 2017 budget, only two fish port projects were approved by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), namely: Bulan Fish Port in Sorsogon with a budget of P111 million and Navotas Fish Port Complex in Navotas City with a budget of P113.80 million.</p> <p>When asked by Rep. Pedro Acharon Jr. (1st District, South Cotabato and General Santos City) on why PFDA delegates the management of local fish ports to local government units (LGUs), Pangapalan answered that the agency lacks the manpower to manage the operations of the 102 municipal fish ports nationwide. The PFDA manages the eight regional fish ports in Navotas, General Santos, Iloilo, Zamboanga, Sual, Camaligan and Lucena, Pangapalan added. Nevertheless, he reported that PFDA recently conducted a survey of the municipal fish ports to determine which may be upgraded to regional fish ports.</p> <p>On another query of Rep. Acharon, Pangapalan replied that there is no policy limiting the number of ports that may be constructed in a locality. However, the volume of fish harvested per day will determine the kind or number of fish ports that should be established.</p>
<p>Metro Manila Development</p>	<p>Discussion on the perceived underperformance of telecommunication companies (telcos) in Metro Manila</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), solicited the comments of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) and the telecommunication companies (telcos) on their perceived underperformance particularly in the Metro Manila area.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Castelo said that the privilege speech delivered by Rep. Arnolfo "Amie" Teves Jr. (3rd District, Negros Oriental), criticizing the poor quality of service by telcos and the alleged "stolen loads" or "unknown load deductions," prompted the Committee to discuss these issues with the NTC and telcos. (Rep. Teves' privilege speech was referred to the Committee on Information and Communications Technology.)</p> <p>Rep. Manuel Luis Lopez (1st District, Manila) said that the poor quality of service by telcos can be attributed to oversubscription of internet and mobile services which went beyond the existing capacity of telcos given the limited number of cell sites. Rep. Lopez told Globe Telecom, Inc. and Smart Communications, Inc. to improve their services otherwise their duopoly may end with the possible entry into the country of foreign investors in the telecommunications business.</p> <p><i>Globe Senior Vice President for technical service design Emmanuel Estrada</i> and <i>Smart Senior Legal Manager Sherwin de Joya</i> explained that there are several reasons why there are deductions on loads and all these are valid charges made by their firms.</p> <p>As to how dropped calls are being charged, NTC Deputy Commissioner <i>Edgardo Cabarios explained</i> that cellular phone calls are billed six seconds after the call is made, such that if the call is dropped (or cut short even before the caller/receiver hung up) after that period, charges already apply. Nevertheless, Cabarios added that telcos are penalized if the dropped-call rate is higher than the 2% minimum standard, which means that no more than two dropped calls are allowed for every 100 calls.</p> <p>Raising another issue, Rep. Teves said mobile phones using prepaid cards are being used in the commission of crimes and the owners or users of these phones can hardly be traced since their identities are not recorded or registered as they make the purchase. The telcos said they have the capability to register buyers of subscriber identity</p>

<p>Continuation... Metro Manila Development</p>		<p>module (SIM) cards without the need of a law.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to conduct an ocular inspection of the telcos' facilities. It also agreed to recommend to the Committee on Legislative Franchises to defer the approval of Smart's application for the renewal of its franchise until the issues raised are resolved.</p> <p>The Committee Secretariat was directed to ensure the attendance of Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Secretary Rodolfo Salalima and the chief executive officers (CEOs) of Smart and Globe in the Committee's next meeting to clarify the issues raised by the Members of the Committee.</p> <p>Smart and Globe were requested to submit to the Committee the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average number of calls and short message services (SMS) made daily; • Sample computation of charges on dropped calls; and • List and description of promotional products and services offered by telcos.
	<p>Discussion on the traffic management plan for the 2016 Christmas season</p>	<p>Inter-Agency Council on Traffic (i-ACT) Deputy Chief Manuel Gonzales, apprised the Committee of i-ACT's traffic management plan for this Christmas season, which include such activities as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement operations against illegal parking, illegal use of sidewalks, colorum buses, and traffic violations; • Moratorium on all utility works and road diggings; • Moratorium on road closures for special events; • Extended Unified Vehicle Volume Reduction Program (UVVRP) or the number coding scheme with no window hours from 7am to 8 pm; and • Implementation of the 'no mall sale on weekdays' and deployment of additional traffic enforcers during mall sale events. <p>Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Thomas Orbos added that the MMDA is planning to increase the penalty imposed on number-coding violators from P500 to P1,000 to encourage compliance with this regulation.</p> <p>Expecting a worse case traffic scenario in Metro Manila during the Christmas season, Minority Leader Danilo Suarez (3rd District, Quezon) suggested adding one more digit to the current two-digit number coding scheme, meaning cars with plate numbers ending in any of three digits designated for the day will be prohibited from plying the streets in Metro Manila. Minority Leader Suarez believed that this scheme will reduce the volume of vehicles on the road in Metro Manila by 30% to 40%.</p> <p>Orbos and Gonzales welcomed the suggestion made by Minority Leader Suarez and promised to discuss the matter with the Metro Manila Council and i-ACT.</p> <p>Orbos likewise was open to the suggestion of Rep. Teves to use cameras with geo-tagging facility - where the picture of the violation can be taken, indicating the location, date and time - in apprehending traffic violators in view of the MMDA's "no contact apprehension policy."</p>
<p>Mindanao Affairs jt. w/ Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, and Muslim Affairs</p>	<p>Briefing by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)</p>	<p>The Joint Committee, presided by Rep. Maximo Rodriguez Jr. (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City) for the Committee on Mindanao Affairs, and Tawi-Tawi Rep. Ruby Sahali for the Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, listened to the briefing by the OPAPP on the President's peace and development roadmap and the recently signed Executive Order (EO) No. 8 pertaining to the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC).</p>

<p>Continuation... Mindanao Affairs jt. w/ Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, and Muslim Affairs</p>	<p>OPPAP Undersecretary Diosita Andot said that the peace and development roadmap of the present administration was formulated in support of President Rodrigo Duterte's vision for peace and development in Mindanao. Andot also discussed the six-point peace and development agenda that was approved by the President on July 18, 2016, as well as the "Building Blocks in the Bangsamoro Peace Process."</p> <p>Andot also apprised the Committee of EO 8, which expands the membership and functions of the BTC. She said that pursuant to the EO, the BTC is mandated to draft a Bangsamoro Basic Law which shall be submitted to the Office of the President and subsequently to Congress; recommend amendments to the Constitution if necessary; spearhead the conduct of dialogues and discussions with the public on the Bangsamoro peace process; and assist in identifying development programs and projects for the Bangsamoro. The BTC's membership was also increased from 15 to 21 members so that all concerned sectors will be adequately represented.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Sahali, Andot said the members of the BTC have not been named yet but OPAPP intends to submit a consolidated list to the Office of President before the end of November for the President's approval. She added that out of the 21 members, 11 members, including the chairperson, shall be selected from the nominees of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).</p> <p>Rep. Sahali further inquired if the members of the Committee can be invited as observers when the BTC convenes for the drafting of the enabling law. Andot said the request will be relayed to OPPAP Secretary Jesus Dureza.</p> <p>Rep. Prospero Pichay (1st District, Surigao del Sur) reminded OPAPP that RA 9054 or the law strengthening and expanding the Organic Act for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) incorporates the 1996 Final Peace Agreement with the Moro National Liberation front (MNLF) and that this law should be strengthened instead of replaced. He requested OPAPP to submit a matrix of the provisions of the 1996 Peace Agreement that were not adhered to by the government for the information of the Committee.</p> <p>Reps. Manuel Zubiri (3rd District, Bukidnon) and Jesus Sacdalan (1st District, North Cotabato) called on the government agencies to work together for better programs in Mindanao to ensure its steady growth and development, which is the key towards a lasting peace in the region.</p> <p>Gerardo Reynaldo, development management officer of the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), said that MinDA can aid in formulating development plans and initiatives for the conflict-stricken areas in Mindanao.</p> <p>Assistant Director (OIC) Cynthia Villena of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) said the preparation of the Philippine Development Plan (2017-2022) is currently in process. She shared that NEDA and the government departments and agencies are conducting regional consultations to draft the Philippine Development Plan and Regional Development Plan by January next year.</p> <p>Rep. Rodriguez suggested that the NEDA, Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department (CPBRD) of the House of Representatives (HRep) should work together to identify how much budget is being allocated to Mindanao.</p> <p>The Joint Committee agreed to set another meeting to discuss the budget and program planning for Mindanao.</p>
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<p>Continuation... Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light Rail Transit (LRT) Line 1 Project 	<p>On the MRT Development Corporation's (MRT DevCo) P2.69 billion unpaid development rights to the government, Manalo disclosed that the Pasig City Regional Trial Court has issued a writ of preliminary mandatory injunction, ordering the DOTr-MRT3 to issue work/access permits to MRT DevCo for the removal of advertisement materials posted in the MRT-3 premises.</p> <p>The MRT DevCo was in-charge with the MRT's advertising and commercial space development. The advertising business at MRT is part of the development and commercial rights granted by the government to MRTC based on the BLT Agreement.</p> <p>Reporting on the status of the LRT-1 project, DOTr Project Manager Timothy Batan said that the relocation of 585 ISFs that will be displaced because of the construction of LRT-1 stations on Redemptorist Street and Dr. Santos Road, in Parañaque City will commence by April 2017, with the expected completion of the resettlement area in General Trias, Cavite by January 2017.</p> <p>Batan also reported that right-of-way issues are delaying the construction of the LRT-1's three major stations: Aseana in Parañaque, and Manila International Airport (MIA) and Asia World on Roxas Boulevard. He said the structures that are in the way of LRT-1 are those of the City of Dreams (COD), the skyway to the airport, and the south port terminal project.</p> <p>He went on to say that Belle Corporation, for one, which is the developer of the COD in Parañaque, expressed resistance to the acquisition of part of the hotel complex for the LRT-1 project's right-of-way.</p> <p>The LRT-1 Cavite Extension Project is an 11.7-kilometer railway which will start from the existing LRT line's last station in Baclaran and will traverse the cities of Parañaque and Las Piñas to Bacoor, Cavite.</p> <p>DOTr Assistant Secretary Cesar Chavez and former Public Works and Highways Secretary Rogelio Singson, now President and Chief Executive Officer of the Light Rail Manila Corp., which operates the LRT-1, agreed to work closely to speed up the implementation of the project.</p>
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FORUM		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Climate Change (Special Committee)	Forum on climate resilience	<p>The Committee, chaired by AKO BICOL Party-List Rep. Christopher Co, in partnership with the Climate Change Commission (CCC), conducted a forum on climate change with the theme "The Time is Now: Legislators for Resilience" on November 23 at the House of Representatives. The forum is part of the celebration of the 8th National Climate Change Consciousness Week.</p> <p>Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija), chairperson of the Committee on Ecology, welcomed the participants to the forum. She said that as policy makers, House members must ensure that policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation are based on extensive research, scientific models, and sound scenarios "rather than leaving them at the mercy of political expediency." Considering that the Philippines is one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change, Rep. Suansing stressed the need for the country to act on the matter without delay.</p>

<p>Continuation... Climate Change (Special Committee)</p>	<p>TUCP Party-List Rep. Raymond Democrito Mendoza, who spoke in behalf of Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba (1st District, Bukidnon), emphasized the importance of the forum as it aims to increase people’s awareness on the impact of climate change and to make communities, local governments, and the entire nation resilient to the onslaught of natural disasters and calamities. (Rep. Acosta-Alba, a member of the Special Committee on Climate Change, was supposed to open the forum but was not able to attend due to urgent matters she needed to take care of.)</p> <p>The following resource speakers from the National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE) discussed their assigned topics during the forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Rosa Perez presented the concepts associated with climate change and how the phenomenon impacts life through threats and opportunities brought about by climate change variability and extreme events; • Dr. Alfredo Mahar Francisco Amante Lagmay illustrated a wide range of scenarios relating to climate change, from low to worst case scenarios, that will help in arriving at better planning and programming decisions; and • Amelia Dulce Supetran lectured on “understanding risks,” explaining that risk management includes processes in identifying, assessing and judging risks, assigning ownership, and taking actions to mitigate or anticipate them. <p>The NPTE, organized by the CCC pursuant to RA 9729 or the Climate Change Act of 2009, consists of practitioners in disciplines that are related to climate change and disaster risk reduction. Its members provide technical advice to the Commission.</p> <p>AKO Bicol Party-List Rep. Rodel Batocabe, who was the chair of the Committee during the 16th Congress, presented the major provisions of HB 4217 or the proposed Resilient Housing and Human Settlements Act of 2016, which he authors.</p> <p>HB 4217 aims to provide a national framework which will serve as basis for standards, measures and mechanisms for resilient housing and human settlements planning, research and development, monitoring and evaluating programs, project and activities to protect vulnerable communities from the adverse effects of climate change and disasters.</p> <p>An open forum followed after the presentations of the resource speakers.</p> <p>Reps. Arnolfo “Arnie” Teves Jr. (3rd District, Negros Oriental), Noel Villanueva (3rd District, Tarlac), and Gary Alejano (Party-List, MAGDALO) were also present in the forum.</p> <p>Rep. Batocabe suggested that concepts on climate change should be described using words that ordinary people can understand so that they will be encouraged to participate and be involved in programs on climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p>
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