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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agrarian Reform	HB 1184	Rep. Dimaporo (M.)	Transferring the Provincial Agrarian Reform Office (PARO) of Lanao del Norte from Iligan City to the Municipality of Tubod, Lanao del Norte and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Rep. Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1st District, Ilocos Sur), approved HB 1184. The secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte), author of HB 1184, underscored the need to transfer the Department of Agrarian Reform's (DAR) provincial office in Lanao del Norte from its existing location in Iligan City to the Municipality of Tubod, Lanao del Norte to make its services more accessible to agrarian reform beneficiaries who are mostly residing outside of the city or in the mountains of Lanao.</p> <p>Majority of the Committee members and the stakeholders present expressed their support for the measure.</p> <p>On the contrary, DAR Lanao del Norte Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer (PARPO) Jamil Amatonding Jr. expressed his concern on the possible displacement of at least 47% of PARO's workforce if its office will be transferred to another location.</p> <p>Rep. Dimaporo and DAR Undersecretary Marcos Risonar Jr. assured Amatonding that the welfare of employees who will be affected by the transfer will be taken care of.</p>
East Asean Growth Area (Special Committee)	HR 248	Rep. Castelo	Calling for the integration into the line agencies' 2016 Annual Work Plan of an aggressive and massive information drive on the 2015 ASEAN Integration and laying down the groundwork for the nation's essential role in the ASEAN regional effort and charting its economic and development road maps	<p>The Committee, chaired by Davao del Sur Rep. Mercedes "Didi" Cagas, agreed to deliberate further on the issues raised relative to HR 248.</p> <p>The Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Gil "Kabarangay" Acosta (3rd District, Palawan), who sponsored the resolution in behalf of Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), said that an aggressive and massive information drive to educate all stakeholders of the implications and impact of the ASEAN integration on the Philippines should be integrated in the annual work plan of all the line agencies of government. He emphasized the importance of being prepared for any eventualities as he warned that the ASEAN integration will remove all restrictions on trade</p>

<p>Continuation... East Asean Growth Area (Special Committee)</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on BIMP-EAGA 	<p>and service sectors, such as transport and logistics supply chain, research, information technology, media and arts, healthcare, education, tourism, and human capital management.</p> <p>Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Assistant Secretary for Legal and Legislative Affairs Joji Aragon expressed her support for the resolution. She said that DOLE, aware of the effects of the ASEAN integration on the labor market, is set to put in place strategic policies to assist and protect the country's local workforce.</p> <p>Engineer George Tardio, chief of the National Information and Communications Technology Planning Division, Department of Science and Technology (DOST), also supports the intent of the resolution.</p> <p>The Committee requested all the stakeholders to submit their respective position papers on the resolution.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Acosta asked for an update on the recent 25th Senior Officials Meeting and 20th Ministerial Meeting of the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) held in Palawan from November 27 to 29.</p> <p>Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Assistant Secretary Arturo Boncato Jr. said that the BIMP-EAGA Vision 2025 was discussed comprehensively by the ministers and senior officials of the member-countries.</p> <p>The BIMP-EAGA Vision (BEV) 2025 is a development blueprint of EAGA which aims to shape the sub-region's future as a more relevant sub-grouping that is fully integrated into the ASEAN Economic Integration.</p> <p>Mindanao Development Authority's (MinDA) International Relations Division Chief Jonathan Miral added that in these meetings the BIMP-EAGA representatives agreed to launch next year the Davao-General Santos-Bitung Roll-on Roll-off (RoRo) shipping service.</p> <p>Rep. Cagas requested MinDA to submit several documents, including a draft House Resolution, requesting President Rodrigo Duterte to issue a memorandum circular allocating a supplemental budget to concerned government agencies to fund EAGA-related programs and projects.</p>
<p>Ecology</p>	<p>HBs 235 & 3279</p>	<p>Reps. Marcoleta and Ocampo</p>	<p>Requiring mandatory environment insurance coverage (MEIC) to promote ecological protection for environmentally-critical businesses</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate HBs 235 and 3279. It likewise agreed to conduct a <i>motu proprio</i> investigation into the extent of damages to the environment caused by mining operations and the</p>

Continuation... Ecology				<p>commercial establishments along Laguna de Bay.</p> <p>Mother Earth Foundation Chairperson Sonia Mendoza, Miriam College Project Assistant Rhoderic Buado, and Green Environment Management and Insurance Agency (GEMIA), Inc. President Fernando Baterna Jr. expressed their full support for the bills.</p> <p>While they also favor the passage of the proposed law, the representatives of the following agencies and groups underscored the need to resolve first several issues already brought up in committee meetings during the 16th Congress: Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, Pollution Control Association of the Philippines Inc. (PCAPI), Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI), and Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI).</p> <p>Among the issues raised are the following: redundancy of the MEIC in relation to the already existing and working system for environmental protection; effect of the proposed law to the global competitiveness of the country's various industries; and the willingness and readiness of the country's insurance industry to provide the proposed environment insurance coverage.</p> <p>The stakeholders present were requested to submit to the Committee their position papers on the bills on or before December 14, 2016.</p>
Justice	HB 3443	Rep. Primicias-Agabas	Creating an additional branch of the Regional Trial Court in the First Judicial Region to be stationed in the Municipality of Asingan, Province of Pangasinan, further amending for the purpose Section 14, Paragraph (A) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as the "Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980," as amended, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2 nd District, Oriental Mindoro), approved HB 3443 and the corresponding Committee Report.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 1, 16, 513, 3237, 3239, 3240 & 3418	Deputy Speaker Castro, Reps. Biazon, Barbers and Pacquiao	Imposing the death penalty on certain heinous crimes, repealing for the purpose RA 9346, or the law prohibiting the imposition of death penalty in the Philippines, and amending Act 3815, as amended, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code and other special penal laws	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to the seven bills.
Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (Special Committee)	HB 490	Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo	Granting amnesty to members of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New Peoples Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) and other individuals and groups involved in past political conflicts	The Committee, chaired by Tawi-Tawi Rep. Ruby Sahali, will deliberate further on the measures. Atty. Angela Librado-Trinidad, head of the JASIG and Releases Committee of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) negotiating panel, welcomed the initiative of the House Members in filing the measures which support the call for the immediate release of NDFP detainees. She
	HR 16	Rep. Zarate	Urging President Rodrigo Duterte to vigorously pursue the already jumpstarted peace negotiations between the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and	

			the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and cause the immediate release of detained NDFP peace talks consultants in compliance with the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG)	explained that although it is the prerogative of the President to grant amnesty, a measure from Congress on the matter validates its urgency. NDFP Legal Consultant Rachel Pastores agrees with Librado-Trinidad's statement.
HR 17	Rep. Zarate		Urging the president for the immediate release of all political prisoners, for just and humanitarian reasons, as well as the release of detained consultants of the NDFP in compliance with the JASIG	Rep. Ariel 'Ka Ayik' Casilao (Party-List, ANAKPAWIS) asked whether "kidnap for ransom" should indeed be included among the crimes that will not be covered by the proposed amnesty. Deputy Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2 nd District, Pampanga) recommended that the issue be taken up in the majority caucus that will be held later in the day.
HR 192	Rep. Casilao		Urging the Duterte Administration to fulfill its promise to work for the resumption of the peace negotiations between the GPH and the NDFP and to carry out immediate measures to effect the release of detained NDFP peace consultants	Reps. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan (1 st District, North Cotabato) and Maximo Rodriguez Jr. (2 nd District, Cagayan de Oro City) urged the immediate approval of the proposed law which is seen to bring positive results in the continuation of the peace talks in January next year.
Privilege Speeches	Reps. Casilao, Zarate, and Sahali		On the resumption of the peace talks between the GPH and the NDFP	However, Rep. Gary Alejano (Party-List, MAGDALO) suggested to the Committee to conduct another meeting to allow the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to present their positions on the measures.
HB 493	Rep. Turabin-Hataman		Declaring a national policy on peace zones	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to study the bill further. The Committee will request the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP), GRP Panel, AFP, and the PNP to submit their respective position papers on the bill.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Muslim Affairs	Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	The Committee, chaired by AMIN Party-List Rep. Sitti Djalia Turabin-Hataman, adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17 th Congress. The Committee has jurisdiction over all matters directly and principally relating to Muslim Affairs inclusive of the welfare of Muslim Filipinos and the development of predominantly Muslim areas.
	Briefing by the following agencies on their plans and programs benefitting Muslim Filipinos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCFM) 	The Committee listened to the briefing conducted by the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCFM), Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), and Department of Education (DepEd). NCFM Executive Director Tahir Lidasan discussed the plans and programs of the NCFM including proposals to strengthen the Commission and its preparations for the annual <i>Hajj</i> , the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Asked by Tawi-Tawi Rep. Ruby Sahali on the details of NCFM's training seminar scheduled in Malacañang, NCFM Bureau of Pilgrimage and

Continuation... Muslim Affairs		<p>of the program, such as the: delay in the release of funds to the ARMM by the DepEd Central Office; inadequate teachers; and lack of infrastructure support.</p> <p>Sattar recommended the appointment of a qualified Muslim to handle the Madrasah Education Program at the DepEd Central Office and the passage of a law that will strengthen the program.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Overseas Workers Affairs (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 78, 457, 574, 1356, 4360 & 4525	Reps. Aglipay-Villar, Manalo, Angara-Castillo, Nograles (K. A.), Villarin, and Mendoza	Instituting the Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by the Committee Secretary, Atty. Christopher Lomibao, will deliberate further on the substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>The discussion focused more on the role of various agencies in the implementation of the proposed law.</p> <p>Commenting on Section 46 (g) of the substitute bill, Captain Leuel Oseña, president of Amigos Marino Incorporated, agreed to the provision making the Philippine Regulatory Commission (PRC) solely responsible for the administration of professional licensure examinations and the issuance of professional licensing for the seafarers because of its expertise in the field.</p> <p>However, Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Director Ma. Cynthia Bautista argued that such provision may require a review of RA 10635, which specifically transferred PRC's powers, duties and functions on the examination, licensing and certification system for marine deck and engine officers to the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA).</p> <p>As regards Section 46 (e) of the bill, Labor Attaché Vicente Cabe said that the provision duplicates the function of the Philippine Overseas Labor Offices (POLO) as the operating arm of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) for the administration and enforcement of labor policies and programs applicable to the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). Section 46 (e) provides that the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) shall provide the Filipino seafarers and their families all the assistance they may need in the enforcement of contractual obligations by agencies and their principals.</p> <p>OWWA Welfare Officer Nerissa Mercado agreed that OWWA and POLO have overlapping functions and suggested that the matter be addressed through this bill.</p> <p>The OWWA, DOLE, and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) were requested to submit to the Committee</p>

Continuation... Overseas Workers Affairs (Technical Working Group)			<p>their recommendations on how their functions could be delineated.</p> <p>The other resource persons present were also requested to submit their position papers on the bill.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)	Briefing by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) on its plans and programs for Regions I and II, and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Mountain Province Rep. Maximo Dalog, listened to the briefing conducted by the NIA on its accomplishments and plans and programs for CAR and Regions I and II.</p> <p>NIA Corporate Planning Service Acting Manager Rogelia dela Torre reported that as of December 31, 2015, the NIA has already accomplished 57.33% of its irrigation development program covering an area of 1.73 million hectares of the total of 3.02 million hectares of potential irrigable areas around the country. She likewise said that irrigation development in the country posted a 12% growth rate from 2005 to 2015.</p> <p>According to Dela Torre, out of the P20.34 billion budget for 2017 allocated for irrigation projects in Luzon, P1.06 billion will go to CAR; P6.70 billion to Region I; and P1.36 billion to Region II. The irrigation projects include maintenance, rehabilitation and improvement of existing irrigation systems within the three regions.</p> <p>Rep. Dalog and Kalinga Rep. Allen Jesse Mangaong raised some issues on the repair and rehabilitation of various irrigation projects in Northern Luzon that were heavily damaged by the previous typhoons.</p> <p>Rep. Marlyn Primicias-Agabas (6th District, Pangasinan) asked NIA how it was able to exhaust its P500 million calamity assistance fund for 2016 even before reaching the last quarter of the year. She chided the NIA for using up its calamity funds early on which led to its inability to fund the rehabilitation of damaged irrigation facilities wrought by Typhoon <i>Lawin</i> in October this year.</p> <p>Dela Torre explained that NIA's calamity fund was utilized for the implementation of its various programs to counter the effects of the "El Niño" phenomenon earlier this year. However, she apprised the Committee that calamity assistance may be availed of through the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) which, like NIA, is directly under the Office of the President (OP). She stressed that under the Duterte Administration, the disbursement of the Quick Response Fund is now the main responsibility of the NDRRMC.</p> <p>The NIA was requested to submit its list of projects per legislative district in Regions I and II, and CAR.</p>
Transportation	<p>Update by concerned government agencies on steps undertaken to address the following issues and concerns relative to the transportation sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right-of-way for LRT Line 1 project 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, listened to concerned government agencies on their reports pertinent to the issues and concerns affecting the transportation sector.</p> <p>Rep. Edgar Sarmiento (1st District, Samar) presided over the meeting of the Committee in behalf of the Chair who had to attend to an urgent matter. Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) Deputy Administrator for Operations and Engineering Emerson Benitez reported that the acquisition of the right-of-way (ROW) for LRT Line 1 Cavite Extension (Package 1) is almost 100% complete.</p> <p>Light Rail Manila Corporation (LRMC) President Rogelio Singson said that LRMC is ready to start the project as soon as it receives the Certificate of</p>

<p>Continuation... Transportation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test run of DOST train • Priority projects for inclusion in the proposed Traffic Crisis Act • Seafarer's Identification (SID) Project • Advertisements on MRT trains and terminals • Issuance of driver's license cards and car plates • Status of the integrated transport system 	<p>Entry from LRTA.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento requested LRTA and LRMC to expedite the implementation of the LRT Line 1 Cavite Extension project and to inform the Committee of the schedule of the ground breaking ceremony.</p> <p>Philippine National Railway (PNR) Manager (OIC) Joseline Geronimo said that the PNR is ready to conduct the test run of the prototype hybrid electric road train developed by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).</p> <p>The Members of the Committee reminded the PNR to ensure the safety of the public in the conduct of the performance testing of the DOST train, citing the poor condition of rail tracks and the presence of many informal settler families (ISFs) residing along the railways.</p> <p>The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) was requested to submit to the Committee the list of priority projects to be included in the proposed Traffic Crisis Act.</p> <p>DPWH Undersecretary Karen Jimeno manifested that the DPWH be exempted from obtaining a development clearance, to be required under the proposed Traffic Crisis Act, prior to implementing infrastructure projects, explaining that the Department already seeks the approval of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) for this purpose. Adding another layer in the approval process will delay the implementation of projects, Jimeno said.</p> <p>Jimeno also suggested that the dedicated courts to be established under the proposed Traffic Crisis Act be also tasked to handle ROW issues in order to fast track the implementation of priority infrastructure projects.</p> <p>Maximo Bañares, officer-in-charge of the Office of the Deputy Executive Director for Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), said that the pre-bid conference for the Seafarer's Identification (SID) Project is scheduled in January 2017. The tentative date for the award of the project is set for March 2017, he added. (The SID Project is in compliance with the International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention No. 185 which provides for worldwide SID standardization in order to eliminate fraud and identity theft among seafarers.)</p> <p>Rep. Johnny Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur) opined that the P231 million budget for the SID project is too much for such a project. Bañares explained that the P231 million will be spent for the development of the SID system and software, and the purchase of the necessary hardware and consumables.</p> <p>Metro Rail Transit (MRT) General Manager (OIC) Deo Leo Manalo commented that the advertisements placed by Metro Rail Transit Development Corporation (Metro Devco) on MRT trains and terminals are an eyesore and pose great risk to the public. Department of Transportation (DOTr) Assistant Secretary Lea Quiambao reported that the help of the Office of the Solicitor General was sought for the filing of legal claims against Metro Devco for the payment of the advertisements and development rights.</p> <p>Land Transportation Office (LTO) Assistant Secretary Edgar Galvante declared the three million backlog in the issuance of license cards with three-year validity period will be solved by January 2017. On the other hand, the delivery of license cards with five-year validity is expected to start in March of 2017. As regards the procurement of vehicle license plates, Galvante said that the LTO will proceed with the bidding process by the second quarter of 2017.</p> <p>Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Deputy Chair Frisco San</p>
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<p>Continuation... Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic management for the holiday season • Air traffic management 	<p>Juan reported that the MMDA has already negotiated with SM-Mall of Asia for the use of its property for the Southwest Integrated Provincial Transport System (SWIPTS) terminal. The existing SWIPT terminal will be closed by January 2017 because the property owner has not renewed its lease contract with the MMDA.</p> <p>The SWIPTS is one of the three terminals under the Department of Transportation's integrated transport system (ITS) banner project which aims to improve the mobility of people and the traffic situation inside the Metro Manila road network by consolidating all existing 85 terminals scattered all over the inner core of Metro Manila to three central terminals located at the fringes of Metro Manila. The MMDA was tasked to implement the Southwest area routes.</p> <p>Philippine National Police-Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG) Police Superintendent Oliver Tanseco reported that the HPG is currently implementing Phase 2 of the Inter-Agency Council on Traffic (I-ACT) plan which covers C5, Commonwealth and the airport loop. It has also deployed additional traffic personnel to man the identified traffic congested roads especially during rush hours and the holiday season.</p> <p>Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC) Vice President Darwin Cunanan presented the schedule of arrival and departure of commercial flights which involve more than 700 flights daily and the 24-hour slotting of flights at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).</p> <p>Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) supervising air traffic controller Marleen Singson briefed the Committee on the air traffic management at the NAIA. Singson that pursuant to Joint Memorandum Circular 2016-02 issued by the CAAP, Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) and Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB), CAAP is implementing restrictions on aircraft movement at the NAIA to two cycles per hour from 6:00 am up to 11:59 am, and disallowing general aviation operations from 12:00 noon up to 7:00 pm, which resulted in reduction in aircraft movements.</p> <p>Singson also presented the status of the Communications Navigation Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) Systems Development Project of the DOTC and CAAP that is funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Targeted for completion by the 3rd quarter of 2017, the project aims to develop a dynamic and integrated CNS/ATM system using satellite technology to enhance the safety, reliability and efficiency of air traffic service in the Philippine airspace.</p> <p>Rep. Raul del Mar (1st District, Cebu City) asked the MIAA when it can ever solve the perennially delayed flights that were subject of numerous complaints from local and foreign passengers.</p> <p>MIAA general manager Eddie Monreal blamed the airline companies which do not follow their flight slots, aside from a number of other reasons that cause flight delays. He said the MIAA has implemented stricter measures against airline companies which fail to comply with their slots.</p>
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