

Committee Daily Bulletin

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Housing and Urban Development	HBs 228, 1724 & 2125	Deputy Speaker Singson, Reps. Biazon and Ocampo	Prescribing the mechanisms to facilitate the disposition of idle government-owned lands for socialized housing	The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Rep. Jose Christopher Belmonte (6 th District, Quezon City), will deliberate further on the four bills.
	HB 2807	Rep. Castelo	Mandating that at least 10% of government-owned lands to be sold, alienated or otherwise encumbered for development purposes, be segregated for socialized housing projects	Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2 nd District, Quezon City) said that his bill, HB 2807, provides an opportunity for homeless Filipinos to have a decent housing, thereby addressing the perennial problem of lack of socialized housing for the underprivileged. Representatives from the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP), Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC), and the Organization of Socialized Housing Developers of the Philippines (OSHDP) supported the intention of the bills. However, they believe that the Committee needs to discuss the bills further to come up with a more responsive law. The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills.
	HBs 1337, 3150 & 4534	Reps. Lanete, Alejano, and Yap (V.)	Mandating the full disclosure of relevant facts and all requirements by the owners and/or developers of condominium projects to the buyers, amending for the purpose PD 957, also known as the Subdivision and Condominium Buyers' Protective Decree	The Committee will deliberate further on the three bills. Rep. Scott Davies Lanete, M.D. (3 rd District, Masbate) said that his bill, HB 1337, seeks to protect buyers from unscrupulous condominium owners and/or developers by mandating the latter to fully disclose all relevant information, including the requirements, pertaining to the purchase of the property. Atty. Maria Luisa Pangan, director of the Appeals Review Group of HLURB, suggested that condominium owners or developers must also be required to disclose the payment or financing scheme for the project; while HGC Internal Auditor Genalin Todcor, said they

Continuation... Housing and Urban Development				<p>must also disclose the cost of construction of the condominium.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills.</p>
Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples	HBs 575 & 4545	Reps. Panganiban and Rodriguez (M.)	Providing for a free and culture-sensitive system of registration concerning the civil status of indigenous peoples (IPs)	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Nancy Catamco (2 nd District, North Cotabato), approved the bills, subject to amendments and consolidation.
	HB 1777	Rep. Catamco	Providing for the establishment of an indigenous training center in the City of Kidapawan, North Cotabato and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 1777.
	HBs 2572 & 3221	Reps. Rodriguez (M.) and Cosalan	Extending the period for indigenous cultural communities (ICC)/IPs to exercise the option to secure title to their ancestral lands under Land Registration Act 496, and granting a new five-year period to the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to take appropriate legal action for the cancellation of officially documented titles which were illegally acquired, amending for the purpose RA 8371, otherwise known as the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997	<p>The Committee agreed to consolidate HBs 2572, 3221, and 2697.</p> <p>The proposed law would extend the option to secure a certificate of title for another 20 years effective October 29, 2017.</p> <p>On the other hand, the Committee agreed to exclude from the consolidated bill the provision granting a new five-year period to the NCIP to take appropriate legal action for the cancellation of officially documented titles which were illegally acquired. Reps. Maximo Rodriguez Jr. (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City) and Ronald Cosalan (Benguet), authors of HBs 2572 and 3221, respectively, were requested to draft a separate bill on the matter.</p>
	HB 2697	Rep. Dalog	Extending the period for ICC/IPs to exercise the option to secure title to their ancestral lands under Land Registration Act 496, amending for the purpose RA 8371	
	HB 115	Rep. Baguilat	Recognizing, protecting and strengthening the IPs and local communities conserved areas and territories (ICCA), acknowledging their contribution to biodiversity conservation and protection of key biodiversity areas, establishing for the purpose the National ICCA Registry, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune the bill.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Ifugao Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr.</p>
	HB 1420	Rep. Cosalan	Establishing the Kalanguya Center for the Provinces of Ifugao, Benguet, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, and Pangasinan, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee deferred its discussion of the bill pending the submission of NCIP's recommendations on how the proposed law will be operationalized taking into consideration the nomadic nature of the Kalanguya tribe.
			Letter complaint filed by petitioner Mr. Juniper Dominguez on the alleged corruption and collusion among Aboitiz Inc., NCIP and other government agencies in the processing of the free and prior informed consent (FPIC) of the indigenous peoples of Sabangan, Mountain Province for the Sabangan hydroelectric power project	The Committee will discuss further the issues raised relative to the complaint in its next meeting.
Tourism	HB 283	Rep. Dalog	Declaring the Municipality of Barlig in Mountain Province as a tourism development area (TDA) and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Lucy Gomez (4 th District, Leyte), approved HB 283.

Continuation... Tourism	HBs 614, 615, 625, 1020, 1063, 1064 & 1065	Reps. Roman, Bataoil and Lanete	Declaring certain areas in the Provinces of Palawan, Pangasinan and Masbate as ecotourism sites/zones and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the seven bills.
	HBs 623, 1014 & 1015	Reps. Gonzalez (F.) and Abueg	Declaring the Provinces of Albay and Palawan as tourist destinations, providing for its development and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HBs 623, 1014 and 1015.
	HB 981	Rep. Fortun	Declaring the City of Butuan a heritage tourism zone, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 981.
Ways and Means	HBs 1889 & 3010	Rep. Defensor and Deputy Speaker Quimbo	Granting amnesty in estate tax	<p>The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, approved the proposed measures. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the Substitute Bill to HBs 1889 and 3010.</p> <p>Department of Finance (DOF) Assistant Secretary Ma. Teresa Habitan expressed support for the bills. She reported that the DOF is currently conducting studies on the proposal to grant amnesty to unpaid estate taxes, the result of which will be available before the end of the year.</p> <p>Atty. Benedict Tugonon, president of the Tax Management Association of the Philippines (TMAP), conveyed the group's support for the proposed law, adding that existing estate tax laws should be simplified to facilitate their implementation.</p> <p>Reps. Lianda Bolilia (4th District, Batangas) and Manuel Zubiri (3rd District, Bukidnon) also pushed for the approval of the proposed law.</p>
	HBs 458, 3311, 3528, 3794 & 4394	Reps. Manalo, Uy (J.), Tan (A.), Ocampo and Escudero	Amending certain sections of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 by restructuring the rates of the estate tax	<p>The Committee approved the proposed measures. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the substitute bill to the five measures.</p> <p>The DOF and TMAP expressed support for the bills.</p> <p>National Tax Research Center (NTRC) Executive Director Trinidad Rodriguez recommends the widening of the tax base to support the lowering of tax rates.</p> <p>Rep. Jesulito "Jess" Manalo (Party-List, ANGKLA) said that as soon as the proposed law is enacted, concerned government agencies should conduct an information drive to inform the people of the new requirements for the payment of the estate tax.</p>

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples	Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 17 th Congress	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Nancy Catamco (2 nd District, North Cotabato), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17 th Congress.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Public Order and Safety (Technical Working Group)	HBs 589, 1146, 1475, 1892, 3690 & 4556	Reps. Bataoil, Alejano, Abayon, Defensor, Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, and Rep. Gatchalian	Regulating the manufacture, sale, distribution, and use of firecrackers	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2nd District, Pangasinan), will deliberate further on the eight bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Chief Superintendent Cesar Binag of the Firearms and Explosive Office, Philippine National Police (PNP), said that the PNP supports the imposition of stiffer penalties for the illegal manufacture, sale and use of firecrackers as espoused in the bills. He mentioned that RA 7183, the current regulatory law on firecrackers, imposes a fine of P20,000 up to a maximum of P30,000 or imprisonment of six months to one year for those who violate the law.</p> <p>Binag also suggested that the proposed law should require pyrotechnic products to pass the safety and quality standards set by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and that the standard certification mark be printed on the product label.</p> <p>Police Senior Superintendent Alfredo Valdez of the PNP Firearms and Explosives Office proposed the inclusion in the bill of the following provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorize the PNP to regulate the chemicals and devices being used in the manufacture of firecrackers and to accredit pyrotechnic technicians and display operators; • Designate an area for firecrackers or fireworks display; and • Limit the function of local government units (LGUs) to the issuance of business permits and local ordinances relative to the regulation on firecrackers. <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Gavini "Apol" Pancho (2nd District, Bulacan), Binag said that importation of finished firecrackers and pyrotechnic products is not allowed under the law.</p> <p>Lieutenant Angelito Cruz of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) assured the Committee that the BOC closely monitors the importation of chemicals or explosive ingredients used by the pyrotechnic industry.</p> <p>Engineer Celso Cruz, chairman emeritus of the Philippine Pyrotechnics Manufacturers and Dealers Association Inc., made the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be continuous training in the manufacture, handling, and transport of firecrackers and pyrotechnic devices to update industry players of modern and safer
	HBs 896 & 1626	Reps. Tan (A.) and Castelo	Banning the manufacture and/or use of firecrackers	

Continuation... Public Order and Safety (Technical Working Group)				<p>technology;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The manufacturers should provide a list of the type of products they manufacture for proper inspection and accounting; • The LGUs must be involved in the regulation and development of the pyrotechnics industries in their respective areas of jurisdiction; and • The Department of Health's (DOH) campaign should focus more on educating the public on the safer handling and use of firecrackers and pyrotechnic devices instead of its "Iwas Paputok" program. <p>Assistant Secretary Ricojudge Echiverri of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said that the pyrotechnic industry is a major source of livelihood for the people of Bulacan, thus banning this business altogether will adversely affect the people dependent on this industry.</p> <p>The TWG requested the resource persons to submit their respective position papers on the bills.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Natural Resources	Briefing by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on the mining audit report	<p>The Committee, chaired by BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate, listened to the report of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) on the result of the audit of all mines in the country.</p> <p>In July this year, the DENR issued Memorandum Order 2016-01, ordering the audit of all operating mines and mines under suspended and/or care and maintenance status to primarily determine whether they are compliant with mining and environmental laws.</p> <p>MGB Assistant Director Danilo Uykieng said that of the 41 metallic mines audited, only 11 mining companies passed the audit and are thus allowed to continue operating; 10 were already suspended because of breach of environmental standards; while 20 were given seven days to explain the adverse audit findings or face suspension.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Peter "Sr. Pedro" Unabia (1st District, Misamis Oriental) on how the MGB managed to conduct the audit of the 41 mining companies in just 30 days, Uykieng said that the audit team was composed of people not only from the MGB but also from the DENR central and regional offices and other concerned government agencies. In addition, third party mining experts, non-government organizations (NGOs), and civil society organizations (CSOs) also helped in the conduct of audit.</p> <p>Reps. Francisco Jose Matugas II (1st District, Surigao del Norte), Ariel "Ka Ayik" Casilao (Party-List, ANAKPAWIS), and Lito Atienza (Party-List, BUHAY) inquired if the MGB had followed set standards or criteria in conducting the mining audit.</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Natural Resources</p>		<p>Uykieng explained that there are no specific criteria relative to the mining audit, but added that he cannot give a definite answer since he was not originally part of the audit team and only came on board in November 2016 as a member of the technical working team.</p> <p>Rep. Zarate declared that DENR Secretary Regina Paz “Gina” Lopez should therefore be present in the next Committee meeting so that all the queries of the Members of the Committee may be adequately answered.</p> <p>Likewise, Rep. Johnny Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur) requested the Committee to compel the presence of the audit team members in the next meeting to respond to questions regarding their audit findings.</p> <p>Bernie Larin of the Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) promised to submit a report of his group’s observations on the conduct of the mining audit.</p>
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