

Committee Daily Bulletin



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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	The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Rep. Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1 st District, Ilocos Sur), approved the Committee Report on HB 1184.
	HBs 114 & 3051	Reps. Baguilat and Bag-ao	Mandating the completion of the land acquisition and distribution (LAD) component of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) pursuant to RA 6657, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HBs 114 and 3051 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Dinagat Islands Rep. Kaka Bag-ao, author of HB 3051, underscored the need to continue and complete the land acquisition and distribution process for all private and agricultural lands covered by CARP which has long been initiated almost three decades ago. She said that almost 800,000 hectares of agricultural lands still remain to be covered under the CARP and countless agrarian related disputes are yet to be resolved.</p> <p>AKBAYAN Party-List Rep. Tomasito Villarin lamented the plight of farmers being deprived of their rights over the land they till. He recommended the immediate passage of the proposed measures in order to empower the farmers and give them what is rightfully theirs.</p> <p>Rep. Gabriel Bordado (3rd District, Camarines Sur) added that the farmers are qualified beneficiaries under the CARP law.</p> <p>Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Undersecretary Marcos Risonar lauded the intent of the proposed measure, but recommended that the time frame within which DAR may continue to issue Notices of Coverage (NOCs) be deleted from the bill.</p> <p>Zenaida Soriano, representative of the Amihan National Federation of Peasant Women, called for the implementation of a genuine agrarian reform program that would truly alleviate the plight of the farmers and peasant workers. She said that the problem on land acquisition and land conversion is one of the major issues that the government should look into.</p> <p>(Amihan is a federation of rural women's organizations that puts forward the demands</p>

Continuation... Agrarian Reform				<p>of women in the rural areas so that they may be given priority attention by the government, institutions and agencies involved in policy making.)</p> <p>The stakeholders present conveyed their support for the passage of the proposed law. They were requested to submit to the Committee their position papers on the bills.</p>
Transportation	<p>Substitute Bill to HB 4334 in consolidation with HBs 3, 38, 554, 1315, 1666, 3048, 3162, 3314, 3442, 3617, 3712 & 3716, and HR 119</p>	<p>Speaker Alvarez, Majority Leader Fariñas, Rep. Yap (A.), Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, Reps. Castelo, Revilla, Deputy Speaker Cayetano, Reps. Tambunting, Primicias-Agabas, Escudero, Belmonte (J.C.), Salceda, Gonzales (A.D.) & Deputy Speaker Abu</p>	<p>Traffic Crisis Act</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, approved in principle the Substitute Bill to HB 4334 in consolidation with the 13 measures, subject to amendment based on proposals to be submitted by some members of the Committee. Thereafter, the bill will be transmitted to the Committee on Appropriations for approval of its funding provision.</p> <p>The Committee asked the Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to submit a list of their programs and projects that were not included in the 2017 General Appropriations Act (GAA) but are necessary for the implementation of the Traffic Crisis Act.</p> <p>DOTr Undersecretary for Road Transport and Infrastructure Anneli Lontoc said the Department needs additional funding to pay the benefits and hazard pay of the personnel of the Highway Patrol Group (HPG); synchronize and unify all the traffic signalization system in Metro Manila; and extend social support mechanism to all public utility vehicle (PUV) operators that will be affected by the route rationalization program.</p> <p>DPWH Undersecretary Karen Jimeno suggested the creation of a one-stop shop in the local government units (LGUs) to expedite the processing of permits needed to implement transport-related infrastructure projects. She also mentioned that the DPWH would need funds for the transfer of electric posts and relocation of informal settlers.</p> <p>MMDA Deputy Chairman Frisco San Juan Jr. requested an additional allocation of P1.7 billion for the hiring of additional traffic personnel and purchase of transport facilities and equipment.</p> <p>Rep. Bayani Fernando (1st District, Marikina City) advised the MMDA to purchase heavy equipment instead of additional motorcycles and patrol cars to remove road obstructions during emergencies and accidents.</p>
	HR 651	Rep. Sarmiento (C.)	Expressing the full support of the House of Representatives to the "Westminster Declaration" and directing the concerned land transport agencies to faithfully implement the road safety laws	<p>The Committee adopted HR 651.</p> <p>As stated in HR 651, the "Westminster Declaration" is a formal agreement adopted by the Global Forum for Road Safety Legislators</p>

Continuation... Transportation				in December 2016. It encourages parliamentary bodies to adopt comprehensive laws on behavioral and protective risk factors with a view towards increasing the proportion of countries with comprehensive laws from 15% to 20% by 2020 and to adopt measures to fund road safety.
Ways and Means	Substitute Bill to HBs 1889 & 3010	Rep. Defensor and Deputy Speaker Quimbo	Granting amnesty in the payment of estate tax	The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HBs 1889 and 3010 subject to style and amendment.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 458, 3311, 3528, 3794 & 4394	Reps. Manalo, Uy (J.), Tan (A.), Ocampo, and Escudero	Simplifying the estate tax rate, amending for the purpose Section 84 of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997, as amended	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HBs 458, 3311, 3528, 3794 and 4394.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 42 & 3675	Deputy Speaker Quimbo and Rep. Ungab	Removing the conditions for the condonation of all unpaid taxes due from local water districts, amending for the purpose Section 289-A of the NIRC, as amended	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HBs 42 and 3675.
	HB 511	Rep. Barbers	Restructuring the transfer taxes, amending for the purpose Title III of the NIRC, as amended	The Committee directed the Secretariat to prepare a substitute bill to the two measures. It likewise authorized the Chair to finalize the corresponding Committee Report, subject to style.
	HB 1026	Rep. Manalo	Amending Section 99 of RA 8424, or the law amending the NIRC, as amended, by lowering the donor's tax	

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 37, 189, 294, 526, 558, 1053, 1197, 1887, 1943, 2133, 2150, 2247, 2251, 2812, 2857, 2880, 2902, 3013, 3119, 3151, 3302, 3505, 3589, 3595, 3853, 4056, 4162, 4170 & 4358	Reps. Yap (A.), Bravo, Suansing (E.), Garbin, Casilao, Antonino, Loyola, Estrella, Santos-Recto, Villafuerte, Pineda, Panganiban, Dalipe, Yu, Tan (A.), Oaminal, Tupas, Geron, Fortuno, Alejano, Villanueva, Primicias-Agabas, Salon, Deputy Speaker Singson, Reps. Unabia, and Pimentel	Strengthening assistance to small farmers, agrarian reform farmers and members of the indigenous cultural communities by providing free irrigation service fee and all other similar or related fees or charges, amending for the purpose certain provisions of Republic Acts 3601 and 8435, and Presidential Decrees 552 and 1702, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Noel Villanueva (3rd District, Tarlac), terminated its deliberation on the draft substitute bill to the 29 measures. The bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>The TWG agreed to the suggestion of Rep. Arthur Yap (3rd District, Bohol) to delete in Section 3 (Free Irrigation Program) of the bill the five-hectare ceiling on the area of farms or landholdings of farmers that can avail of the free use of the government's irrigation systems.</p> <p>Representatives from the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), Departments of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Interior and Local Government (DILG), and Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and various farmers' organizations expressed their support for the bill.</p> <p>Rep. Jose Panganiban Jr. (Party-List, ANAC-IP) asked if the proposed law will affect NIA's charter, particularly with regard to its status as a government-owned or controlled corporation (GOCC).</p>

Continuation... Agriculture and Food (Technical Working Group)				<p>NIA Legal Services Department Manager Genever Dionio answered that the agency's mandate as a GOCC will remain because NIA will still generate income from the collection of fees from commercial plantations or corporate farms, which could be used to fund its personnel services (PS) and miscellaneous and other operating expenses (MOOE).</p> <p>When asked by Rep. Villanueva if NIA's use of its internally-generated fund for the payment of PS and MOOE is legal, auditor Elena Agustin of the Commission on Audit (COA) answered in the affirmative.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Ways and Means	Briefing by the Department of Finance (DOF) on the tax reform for acceleration and inclusion in relation to HB 4774	<p>The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, listened to the briefing conducted by DOF Undersecretary Karl Chua on the proposed tax reform for acceleration and inclusion as espoused in HB 4774.</p> <p>HB 4774, authored by Rep. Cua, seeks to create a tax system that is simpler, fairer, and more efficient, characterized by low tax rates and a broad base that promotes investment, job creation, and poverty reduction.</p> <p>Chua said that the proposed tax reform program will earn the government P162 billion, offsetting the estimated P139 billion revenue losses from the personal income tax adjustment.</p> <p>Chua added that, by 2022, poverty rate is expected to be reduced from 21.6% to 14% and extreme poverty eradicated by 2040. To achieve this, the government needs to raise P366 billion per year between 2016 and 2022, Chua said.</p> <p>Among the reforms that will be introduced under the tax reform for acceleration and inclusion are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplification of the income tax bracket by decreasing it to six brackets; • Expansion of the VAT base by limiting exemptions found in special laws and in the provision of goods and services; • Increase in excise tax rates on automobiles and petroleum products; and • Reduction and restructuring of the donor's and estate taxes. <p>Deputy Speaker Romero "Miro" Quimbo (2nd District, Marikina City) emphasized that the DOF and the BIR should also strengthen their tax administration programs and policies, intensify their campaign against graft and corrupt practices within their departments, and go after unscrupulous taxpayers.</p> <p>Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Commissioner Caesar Dulay said that the BIR has a system in place designed to improve its tax collection, the components of which include the profiling of taxpayers, updating of zonal valuation, and reduction of documentary requirements.</p> <p>The DOF and the BIR were requested to submit to the Committee their position papers on the bill.</p>