

Committee Daily Bulletin



17th Congress
First Regular Session

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Food Security (Special Committee)	HBs 2818, 4354 & 4422	Reps. Suansing (E.), Romero, and Abayon	Promoting an integrated urban agricultural development/urban farming in all metropolitan areas nationwide to address food security concerns and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Leo Rafael Cueva (2nd District, Negros Occidental), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG), to be chaired by Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija), to consolidate the three bills.</p> <p>Rep. Suansing, author of HB 2818, explained that her bill seeks to institutionalize urban farming in highly urbanized cities and municipalities nationwide in order to promote self-sufficiency in food production and build climate-resilient communities.</p> <p>Engineer Renato Dela Cruz, chief, Partnership and Accreditation Division of the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) of the Department of Agriculture (DA), expressed DA's support for the proposed measures, emphasizing that its programs and projects are geared towards addressing food security concerns.</p> <p>Dela Cruz briefed the Committee on one of the DA's programs dubbed "<i>Ating Gulayan sa Kagawaran</i>," which promotes urban gardening as a strategy in attaining food security and poverty alleviation. The program, being implemented in collaboration with other government agencies and local government units (LGUs), consists of lectures, seminars, street caravans, and roadshows showcasing agriculture technologies, promoting safe food system and ecological waste management, and mitigating hunger and malnutrition in urban communities.</p> <p>Dr. William Dar, a member of the technical panel on agricultural education under the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), shared his 15-year experience with international organizations that conduct research on the development and promotion of agriculture technologies.</p> <p>Dar emphasized that in promoting urban farming, the government must consider not just the food security objective but also the purpose of ensuring proper nutrition, raising income, and protecting the environment.</p>

<p>Continuation... Food Security (Special Committee)</p>				<p>Dar also recommended expanding the scope of urban farming to include livestock and aquaculture as well. He also pointed out the need to identify the land area that will be devoted to urban farming in order to determine the funding required to sustain the program.</p> <p>Reynaldo Guillen of the National Nutrition Council (NNC) suggested that the definition of the term “food security” stated in the bills be consistent with the definition of the 1996 World Food Summit.</p> <p>Lenard Guevarra, agriculture staff of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and Ma. Ana Rita Ramirez, senior science research specialist of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), conveyed their respective agencies’ comments in support of the proposed law.</p> <p>Likewise, the representatives from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), and the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), and other concerned government agencies manifested their support for the proposed law. They were requested to submit to the Committee their position papers on the bills.</p>
	<p>HB 4263</p>	<p>Rep. Escudero</p>	<p>Banning supermarkets, food establishments and other similar businesses from throwing away and spoiling unsold food</p>	<p>The Committee listened to the presentation of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations on the state of food losses and wastage in the context of sustainable food systems in relation to HB 4263.</p> <p>Tamara Palis-Duran, programme assistant at the FAO, highlighted the 2030 agenda for the 17 sustainable development goals, specifically on the goal of ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns (Goal 12) that focuses on food losses and wastage, the target being to reduce by half the global food wastage by the end of 2030.</p> <p>Palis-Duran also presented the recommendations of the UN’s Committee on World Food Security on reducing food loss and wastage, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve data collection and knowledge sharing; • Develop effective strategies; • Create an enabling environment through responsive policies, investments, and incentives; and • Improve the coordination of policies, strategies and actions. <p>The Committee on World Food Security is an international forum within the United Nations which serves as a platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security.</p>

Government Reorganization	HBs 68, 876, 1274, 1529 & 2207	Reps. Salceda, Sarmiento (E.), Biazon, Gonzales (A.P.), and Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo	Instituting reforms in real property valuation and assessment in the Philippines, reorganizing the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Batanes Rep. Henedina Abad, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the five bills.</p> <p>Representatives from the National Tax Research Center (NTRC) and Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations, Inc. (CREBA) conveyed their support for the proposed measures.</p> <p>On the other hand, <i>Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas</i> (BSP) Director Mary Jane Chiong does not agree to the provision in the bill making the BSP a part of the proposed Central Consultative Committee, explaining that the agency does not perform valuation-related functions. The Central Consultative Committee, which will be chaired by the BLGF, shall serve as "the forum on matters pertaining to the setting, adoption and maintenance of the valuation standards."</p> <p>Chiong recommended that representatives from the banking industry, such as the Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP), be considered instead because they are the primary users of real estate valuation data.</p> <p>Chiong also disagrees with a provision in the bills requiring government offices, which includes the BSP, to submit all documents that the BLGF may require in relation to the development of a real property database. She said that BSP may be violating laws, including its charter, if it discloses certain confidential information or data obtained from its various transactions.</p>
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Housing and Urban Development	HBs 449, 1518, 1721, 3375 & 3639	Rep. Belmonte (J.C.), Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, Reps. Biazon, Castelo, and Romero	Creating the Department of Housing and Urban Development (DHUD), defining its mandate, powers and functions, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Batanes Rep. Henedina Abad, Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental), Chair of the Committee on Housing and Urban Development, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the five bills.</p> <p>The TWG will be co-chaired by Reps. Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN) for the Committee on Government Reorganization and Jose Christopher Belmonte (6th District, Quezon City) for the Committee on Housing and Urban Development.</p> <p>AKO BICOL Party-List Rep. Rodel Batocabe and Baguio City Rep. Mark Go suggested the integration of all government shelter agencies into a single housing department in order to effectively plan, regulate and monitor housing development concerns in the country.</p> <p>As stated in the bills, the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) and the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) are the only shelter agencies</p>

Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ Housing and Urban Development				<p>that will form part of the proposed DHUD.</p> <p>The resource persons present expressed their support for the bills and thereafter, submitted their respective position papers to the Joint Committee.</p>
Labor and Employment	Substitute Bill to HBs 989, 1353 & 3267	Reps. Chipeco, Nogralles (K.A.), and Villarica	Regulating the practice of employers in posting notices of termination of employment of former employees in newspapers, social media and other public information venues	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Randolph Ting (3 rd District, Cagayan), approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 989, 1353 and 3267, subject to style and amendment.
	HB 2625	Rep. Atienza	Mandating all business establishments in the country to institutionalize profit sharing, repealing and/or amending all laws inconsistent with this Act	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 2625 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Jose Atienza Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY) explained that his bill, HB 2625, will require companies to share 10% of their net profit to their employees, both regular and contractual, which will be tax creditable to their income tax return. He added that the bill would have far-reaching effects on laborers and workers in terms of uplifting their economic condition.</p> <p>Rep. Edcel Lagman (1st District, Albay) suggested that farm workers should also be included in the bill to allow them to receive a just share of the fruits of the land they till. He lamented that although RA 6557 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law already provides for profit sharing between landowners and farmers, it is still not being fully complied with.</p> <p>Expressing support for the bill, Undersecretary Bernard Olalia of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) suggested that Section 3, Article XIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution be cited as basis for the proposed law.</p> <p>The constitutional provision states that: "The State shall regulate the relations between workers and employers, recognizing the right of labor to its just share in the fruits of production and the right of enterprises to reasonable returns on investments, and to expansion and growth."</p> <p>The workers' organizations present expressed their full support for the bill.</p> <p>The Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) was requested to submit the list of companies that are already practicing profit sharing. Likewise, the National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC) was requested to submit data showing the efficiency and effectiveness of the productivity incentives being implemented in business establishments.</p> <p>The Committee will invite in its next meeting the Department of Finance (DOF) to comment on the tax implications of the proposed law,</p>

Continuation... Labor and Employment				and the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to comment on the inclusion of employees of government-owned or controlled corporations (GOCCs) in the coverage of the bill.
	HB 4207	Rep. Barbers	Declaring a one-time amnesty for unpaid Social Security System (SSS) contributions, inclusive of fees, fines, penalties, interest and other additions thereto, by employers of househelpers under RA 7655, or the law increasing the minimum wage of househelpers, amending for the purpose Article 143 of Presidential Decree 442, as amended, and RA 10361, or the law instituting policies for the protection and welfare of domestic workers	The Committee will deliberate further on HB 4207 in its next meeting.
Muslim Affairs	HB 968	Rep. Turabin-Hataman	Declaring the first day of February of every year as National Hijab Day	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sitti Djalila Turabin-Hataman (Party-List, AMIN), approved HB 968.</p> <p>Rep. Mauyag “Jun” Papandayan Jr. (2nd District, Lanao Del Sur) presided over the meeting to allow Rep. Turabin-Hataman to sponsor her bill.</p> <p>Rep. Turabin-Hataman explained that the observance of a National Hijab Day aims to foster awareness about why Muslim women wear <i>hijab</i>, erase the stigma attached to wearing a <i>hijab</i>, and stop the discrimination against <i>hijabi</i> women.</p> <p>According to Rep. Turabin-Hataman, the very first observance of the World Hijab Day was on February 1, 2013 and has since become an annual event encouraging Muslim and non-Muslim women to wear the <i>hijab</i> and experience the life of a <i>hijabi</i> woman for a day.</p> <p>Under the bill, “hijab” is defined as a veil that covers the head and chest, which is particularly worn by a Muslim female beyond the age of puberty in the presence of adult male outside of her immediate family. The wearing of <i>hijab</i> is obligatory upon every Muslim woman to guard her chastity and modesty according to the Muslim holy book, the <i>Qur-an</i>.</p> <p>Professor Darwin Absari of the University of the Philippines (UP)-Institute of Islamic Studies and Alnasser Kasim, National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) development management officer, signified their support to the proposed law.</p> <p>Rep. Turabin-Hataman likewise said that the Committee received a position paper from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) expressing its support for the bill.</p>
North Luzon Growth Quadrangle	HB 4570	Rep. Dalog .	Terminating the collection of toll fees along the portion of the Benguet Road (Kennon Road) from Klondyke’s Spring to Camp	The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Rep. Pablo Ortega (1 st District, La Union), will deliberate further on HBs 4570 and 4571 in its

(Special Committee)	HB 4571	Rep. Dalog	<p>Six, repealing for the purpose EO 34, series of 1954, as amended</p> <p>Abolishing the Baguio-Bontoc Halsema Highway National Toll Road and terminating collection of toll fees thereto</p>	<p>next meeting.</p> <p>Benguet Rep. Ronald Cosalan, co-author of the bills, called for an end in the collection of toll fees along Benguet Road (from Klondyke's Spring to Camp Six) and along the Baguio-Bontoc Halsema Highway, saying that motorists traversing these roads are being charged twice.</p> <p>Rep. Cosalan explained that aside from the toll fees, motor vehicle owners also pay the motor vehicle user's charge (MVUC) upon registration of their vehicles. He added that the ones directly affected by these additional charges are mostly farmers from Benguet and the Mountain Province transporting their agricultural products to the Vegetable Trading Post in La Trinidad or to Metro Manila. Farmers are forced to increase the prices of vegetables to bear the additional transport cost, Rep. Cosalan pointed out.</p> <p>Atty. Maria Dionesia Guillermo, legal officer of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) - Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), explained the legal basis for the collection of toll fees on these two road networks. She rejected the claim of double taxation, stressing that the toll fee is a "pure user fee," wherein fees have to be paid in exchange for using the toll roads.</p> <p>Guillermo said that the DPWH is inclined to retain the collection of these toll fees, the proceeds of which are being utilized for the repair and maintenance of the toll roads.</p> <p>DPWH Assistant Regional Director Alberto Gahid mentioned that starting 2013, all toll collections were required to be remitted to the National Treasury and the funds needed for the repair and maintenance of toll roads, including those in the CAR, are released upon request by the DPWH.</p> <p>Rep. Ortega suggested allocating a separate budget for the repair and maintenance of these toll roads so that the DPWH will no longer collect toll fees from the motorists.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go emphasized that the government should continue to support the proper maintenance of the Kennon Road citing its importance to Baguio City, particularly for tourism and economic purposes.</p> <p>The DPWH was requested to submit its position paper on HBs 4570 and 4571 within two weeks.</p>
Population and Family Relations	HB 886	Rep. Tan (A.)	Redefining the term "indigent senior citizens" under RA 7432, as amended by RA 9994, otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sol Aragon (3 rd District, Laguna), will deliberate further on HB 886 in its next meeting.

<p>Continuation... Population and Family Relations</p>				<p>The bill seeks to expand the definition of “indigent senior citizens” to include even those who are not “frail, sickly or with disability” yet are in dire need of government assistance having no pension, permanent income or compensation.</p> <p>Rep. Angelina “Helen” Tan M.D. (4th District, Quezon), author of HB 886, also noted that the poor implementation of the existing law benefitting senior citizens is due to the tedious process of complying with the requirements and the inaccuracy of the list of qualified beneficiaries made by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).</p> <p>Irene Sta. Ines, development management officer of the Department of Finance (DOF), suggested that a provision identifying the source of funding be included in the bill, citing its implications on government funds. The Expanded Senior Citizen’s Act of 2010 provides an array of benefits and assistance to senior citizens that include financial assistance and tax exemptions, as well as tax incentives to the private sector participating in the program.</p> <p>The DSWD and groups advancing the cause of the elderly, such as the Coalition for the Services of the Elderly (COSE), Confederation of Older Persons Association of the Philippines (COPAP), and the Federation of Senior Citizens Association of the Philippines (FSCAP), manifested their support for the bill.</p>
	<p>HBs 2157, 2653, 2775 & 3934</p>	<p>Reps. Pineda, Campos, Gonzaga, and Zarate</p>	<p>Increasing and expanding the coverage of the monthly pension of indigent senior citizens, further amending for the purpose RA 7432, as amended by RA 9994</p>	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HBs 2157, 2653, 2775, and 3934 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Heeding the complaints of some Members of the Committee that many indigent senior citizens in their respective districts have not been included as beneficiaries of the social pension plan, Rep. Aragonese instructed the DSWD to review its guidelines and the process of identifying qualified beneficiaries of the social pension.</p> <p>Director Ma. Alicia Bonoan of the DSWD’s Protective Services Bureau informed the Committee that the DSWD is currently working on a scheme that will improve the implementation of the social pension plan for senior citizens.</p> <p>For 2017, Bonoan said that P17.94 billion has been earmarked to provide social pension to almost 2.8 million qualified beneficiaries.</p> <p>Rep. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL) suggested that all senior citizens not receiving pension be covered by the social pension plan of the government.</p> <p>Similarly, COSE Executive Director Emily</p>

Continuation... Population and Family Relations				<p>Beridico called for the implementation of a universal social pension plan to help alleviate the plight of all indigent senior citizens.</p> <p>COPAP President Dioscoro Banalla likewise recommended that organizations of senior citizens be involved in validating DSWD's list of qualified beneficiaries.</p> <p>The DOF and DSWD, in coordination with COSE, were asked to look into the proposal to include all senior citizens not receiving any pension as beneficiary of the social pension plan under RA 9994, as amended.</p>
Public Works and Highways	HB 2691	Rep. Bautista-Bandigan	Creating the lone district engineering office (DEO) of the Province of Davao Occidental and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Celso Lobregat (1 st District, Zamboanga City), approved HB 2691.
	HB 3378	Rep. Loyola	Converting the DPWH sub-DEO in the Province of Cavite into a regular DEO and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 3378.
	HB 3546	Rep. Jalosjos	Renumbering the three DPWH DEOs to conform to the legislative numbering of the three congressional districts in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte, amending for the purpose the laws governing the creation of the three DEOs	The Committee approved HB 3546.
	HB 4583	Rep. Dimaporo (M.K.)	Naming the Linamon-Matungao-Baloi National Road in the Province of Lanao del Norte as the Metro Iligan Regional Agro-Industrial Center (MIRAIC) Highway	The Committee approved in principle HBs 4583 and 4584 subject to the submission of documentary requirements for evaluation of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP).
	HB 4584	Rep. Dimaporo (M.K.)	Naming the Poblacion-Caniogan National Road in Tubod, Lanao del Norte as the Arsenio Arcelo Quibranza Highway	The Committee will deliberate further on the bill in another meeting.
	HB 1426	Rep. Yap (M.)	Establishing the Negros Occidental first DEO in the Province of Negros Occidental and appropriating funds therefor	<p>HB 1426 aims to establish a separate engineering district for the first district of Negros Occidental.</p> <p>Engr. Edwin Fortes of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) explained that in establishing a separate DEO in the province, the classification of the existing first engineering district office will be downgraded to second class because of the consequent decrease in the area it covers. Likewise, the number of personnel will also be reduced from 78 to 60.</p> <p>However, Rep. Lobregat said it should not result in the reduction of employees because the natural consequence of establishing another office is the creation of jobs.</p>
	HB 2431	Rep. Siao	Creating a separate DEO in the City of Iligan and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee will deliberate further on HB 2431 in another meeting.
	HB 2847	Rep. Gonzales (A.)	Reconstituting the Pampanga DEOs in the Province of Pampanga into four regular DEOs and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee will deliberate further on HB 2847 in another meeting.

Continuation... Public Works and Highways				update the apportioning of road networks per DEO in Pampanga.
	HB 4579	Rep. Lobregat	Creating a separate DEO of the DPWH in the first legislative district of Zamboanga City and appropriating funds therefore	The Committee will deliberate further on HB 4579 in another meeting.
	HB 4331	Rep. Relampagos	Renaming the Bohol Island Circumferential Road to President Carlos P. Garcia Circumferential Road	The Committee deferred consideration of HBs 4331 and 4673. Alvin Alcid, chief of the Research Heraldry and Publication Division of the NHCP, said that the Commission is inclined to favor HB 4331 based on the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NHCP prefers giving the honor to a former President; and • In accordance with NHCP's guidelines for the renaming of public roads, a 10-year rule is being observed, which means that 10 years should have lapsed from the time of death of the person in whose name such public road shall be named. (The late Gov. Aumentado died in December 2012.) <p>Nevertheless, Alcid said this 10-year rule is not a hard and fast rule, adding that Congress is better empowered to decide on the matter.</p>
	HB 4673	Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo	Renaming the entire Bohol Circumferential Road in the Province of Bohol into Governor Erico B. Aumentado Highway	
	HB 4566	Rep. Sy-Alvarado	Renaming McArthur Highway/ Manila North Road to General Gregorio Del Pilar Highway	The Committee deferred consideration of HB 4566. Alcid opined that pursuant to Section 25 of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA 10066 (Heritage Law), historical street names which have been in existence for at least 50 years shall not be allowed to be renamed by a local or national legislation, unless approved by the NHCP. He added that the McArthur Highway has already attained a certain degree of historical association, which must be preserved.
Transportation	HBs 1875, 3188, 3723 & 3986	Reps. Biazon, Sandoval, Radaza, and Ermita-Buhain	Converting the extension offices of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) into regular district offices in the cities of Muntinlupa, Malabon, and Lapu-Lapu in Cebu, and in the municipality of Balayan, Batangas	The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, approved the four bills.
	HBs 3169 & 4166	Reps. Mariño and Aragones	Converting the LTO licensing centers in the cities of Batangas and San Pablo in Laguna into regular licensing centers	The Committee approved the two bills.
	HBs 2554, 3011, 4065, 4765 & 4766	Reps. Roque (R.N.), Marquez, Floirendo, and Abueg	Establishing LTO district/extension/satellite offices in the cities/municipalities of Valencia, Bukidnon; Malay, Aklan; Panabo, Davao del Norte; and Brooke's Point and Narra, Palawan, respectively	The Committee approved the five bills.
	HBs 153, 843, 1507, 3178, 3451 & 3667	Reps. Aglipay-Villar, Villarica, Alejano, Escudero, Castelo, and	Providing for the protection of the rights of airline passengers and penalizing acts in violation thereof	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the 12 bills and come up with an Air Passenger Bill of Rights.

Continuation... Transportation		Tambunting		Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) Executive Director Carmelo Arcilla interposed no objection to the proposed measures saying that the passage of a law on Air Passenger Bill of Rights will institutionalize the joint administrative order of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) on the Air Passenger Bill of Rights and Carrier Obligations. Representatives from the Philippine Airlines (PAL), Cebu Pacific, and Zest Air/Air Asia expressed their support for the proposed measures. The resource persons present promised to submit their respective position papers on the matter.
	HB 756	Rep. Aglipay-Villar	Establishing the passenger protection office in all major airports in the Philippines	
	HB 1523	Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo	Requiring all carriers to provide training for flight attendants and gate attendants regarding serving alcohol, recognizing intoxicated passengers and dealing with disruptive passengers	
	HBs 2042 & 2611	Rep. Sarmiento (C.)	Providing for a Bill of Rights of Air Passengers and penalizing violations thereof	
	HB 2782	Rep. Zarate	Providing for the Magna Carta of Airline Passengers, imposing obligations on air carriers, and penalizing acts in violation thereof	
	HB 3270	Rep. Roque (H.)	Establishing a national policy of basic consumer fair treatment for airline passengers	
	HBs 1029 & 1288	Reps. Manalo and Baguilat	Providing for the registration of ships and incentives therefor	
HB 4051	Rep. Acosta	Establishing an extension office of the regional Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) in Puerto Princesa, Palawan and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to deliberate further on HB 4051.	
Ways and Means	HB 4688	Rep. Salceda	Amending Sections 22, 24, 31, 32, 34, 35, 79, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 148 and Title VI of RA 8424, otherwise known as the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended	The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, will deliberate further on HBs 4688 and 4774 in its next meeting. At the outset, Rep. Cua clarified that the discussion in today's meeting will focus on the excise tax on petroleum products which both bills propose to increase. Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2 nd District, Albay), author of HB 4688, also requested the Committee to consider a distinct proposal in his bill: to earmark 25% of the incremental revenue from the increase in excise tax as subsidy for the government's basic social services for a period of three years to mitigate the impact of such increase on the poor and low income households. Department of Finance (DOF) Undersecretary Karl Chua conveyed the Department's agreement to the proposed increase in the excise tax on diesel to P6 a liter, and the same tax rate for other products currently exempt from excise tax; and the proposed tax increase to P10 a liter on regular gasoline and other products that are presently subject to excise tax, to be implemented on a staggered basis for three years.
	HB 4774	Rep. Cua	Amending Sections 6, 22, 24, 25, 31, 33, 34, 79, 84, 86, 99, 106, 107, 108, 109, 113, 116, 148, 149, 155, 232, 237 and 288; creating new Sections 148-A, 237-A, 264-A and 264-B; and repealing Sections 35 and 62 of RA 8424	

Continuation... Ways and Means				<p>Chua said that such an adjustment would generate substantial revenues for the government which could be utilized to create social assistance programs that would help eradicate poverty in the country.</p> <p>Chua added that the DOF also favors increasing the tax rates on petroleum products by four percent every year, and to require the mandatory marking of all petroleum products, as proposed in HB 4774.</p> <p>Representatives from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), National Tax Research Center (NTRC), Action for Economic Reforms (AER), SGS Philippines Inc., Dow Chemical Pacific Ltd., and Authentix concurred with the recommendations of DOF, including the proposed mandatory fuel marking as this would address smuggling and malpractice in the industry.</p> <p>On the other hand, former Congressman and DOF Secretary Margarito Teves and President Maria Lourdes Lim of the Tax Management Association of the Philippines, Inc. (TMAP) proposed that the increases in tax rates be indexed to inflation and that such increases be made every five years instead of every year, particularly for diesel.</p> <p>Rep. Cua informed the Committee that a separate bill on fuel marking is being drafted which is aimed at addressing fuel smuggling in the country and to stop the proliferation of "dirty" fuel.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Economic Affairs (Technical Working Group)	HBs 69 & 2510	Reps. Salceda & Cua	Collective Investment Schemes Law (CISL)	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte), agreed to form a small group to study some of the proposed amendments to the bills which have not yet been decided upon and to submit its recommendations to the Committee Secretariat for the crafting of a substitute bill.</p> <p>The Department of Finance (DOF), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Insurance Commission (IC), and <i>Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas</i> (BSP) were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills.</p> <p>Among the proposed amendments discussed are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To shorten the definition of the term "affiliates" to limit its scope, by deleting paragraphs 4 to 8 of Sec. 5 (a);

Continuation... Economic Affairs (Technical Working Group)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To require a licensing examination for all collective investment schemes (CIS) solicitors. (Under the bills, a CIS solicitor is licensed to sell CIS securities); and To delete Sec. 40 (Meetings of CIS Investors).
People's Participation (Technical Working Group)	HBs 191, 3429 & 3862	Reps. Bravo, Rocamora, and Bag-ao	Institutionalizing citizen's participation in the budget process	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Dinagat Islands Rep. Kaka Bag-ao, will deliberate further on the bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>The TWG focused its discussion on the definition of terms under Section 3 of the bills. Among the terms that the TWG agreed to amend were the following: "civil society assembly," "government entity," "bottom-up budgeting," and "private sector."</p> <p>The Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE NGO) was requested to formulate the definition of "non-government organizations" (NGOs). On the other hand, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) was asked to submit its definition of the term "poor."</p> <p>The resource persons present were requested to again attend and participate in the next TWG meeting.</p>

FORUM		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Land Use (Special Committee)	Forum on the issues and priorities pertaining to land use in the Philippines	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Rep. Virgilio Lacson (Party-List, MANILA TEACHERS), conducted a forum on the issues and priorities relative to instituting a land use plan in the Philippines at the House of Representatives.</p> <p>The forum was attended by concerned government agencies and stakeholders from the estate brokerage and realty industries.</p> <p>Rep. Lacson welcomed the participants to the forum. He said that as policymakers, knowing the issues on land use will help them in crafting a National Land Use Act (NaLUA) that will systematize and harmonize the uses of all types of lands all over the country to benefit the present and future generations.</p> <p>The forum's keynote speaker, Dr. Elmer Mercado, member of the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners (PIEP), presented the internal and external challenges that confront the government's land use policy which include the following: climate change, conversion of lands, overlapping laws on land use, conflict between the mandates of the national government agencies and local governments with regard to the use of lands, and disjointed land use management and implementing bodies.</p> <p>Mercado underscored the need to have a national land use plan saying that the absence of which costs the country billions of pesos in terms of economic, social and environmental losses. He added that the 1987 Philippine Constitution as well as the Local Government Code of the Philippines provide for the efficient use and management of the country's resources.</p>

<p>Continuation... Land Use (Special Committee)</p>		<p>He suggested that in developing a national land use policy, the following should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine primacy of the use of land resources for common good against all other demands, requirements, claims and user rights by various sectors; • Determine the minimum protected land use resource (such as permanent forestlands, critical watershed areas, and prime agricultural and production lands) for future needs; • Ensure the primacy of the national land use plan over all other sectoral and development plans of government, and the latter must be consistent with the objectives of the national land use policy; and • Focus more on management with planning, ensuring a strong link between the national planning body and the local implementing bodies. <p>An open forum followed after the presentation of the resource speaker.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Vicente “Ching” Veloso (3rd District, Leyte), Dr. Mercado said that a cadastral map, showing all registered geospatial data relating to registered plots and defining land ownership, is needed to designate the lands and classify them properly.</p> <p>Sought for comment on the two-year moratorium on land conversion proposed by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), OIC-Director Remedios Endencia of the Regional Development Staff, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) explained that while the DAR’s intention of addressing the food security concerns of the country is valid, the land conversion ban also precludes the attainment of the country’s other goals such as meeting the housing backlog, accelerating infrastructure development, and expanding other economic activities. This is why a national land use plan should really be pursued, she said.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Transportation	Update on the status of the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) common station	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, discussed with the officials of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) the status of the proposed common station that would link Metro Manila’s railway systems.</p> <p>Speaker Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez (1st District, Davao del Norte), who was present in the meeting, chided the DOTr for allegedly favoring certain businesses in determining the location of the MRT common station. He stressed that the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed last week by the DOTr and other parties involved would benefit private interest more than the purpose of providing comfort and convenience to commuters.</p> <p>The MOA involves the construction of a P2.8 billion common station located between SM City North EDSA and Trinoma in Quezon City.</p> <p>Minority Leader Danilo Suarez (3rd District, Quezon) prefers a similar proposal previously made by the then Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) which was approved by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) in 2009. At that time, the proposal would only cost about P780 million and would situate the common station near the SM North EDSA Annex, which, according to Rep. Suarez, would be an ideal location because major roads converge in the area.</p>

Continuation... Transportation		<p>DOTr Undersecretary for Legal and Procurement Affairs Raoul Creencia explained that the new design and location of the station would ensure a seamless connection of the rails and would make transfers easier for commuters. He added that the increase in the budget allocation was due to the expansion of the space of the common station from 7,000 to 13,000 square meters.</p> <p>Speaker Alvarez asked the DOTr to review the agreement thoroughly before it proceeds with the construction of the common station.</p> <p>The Committee decided to conduct an inquiry into the propriety of the agreement.</p>
	Update on the status of the Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority (MCIAA) public-private partnership (PPP) project	<p>The Committee listened to the report of MCIAA General Manager Steve Dicdican on the status of the MCIAA PPP project.</p> <p>Dicdican said that the MCIAA, through the DOTr, has entered into a partnership with GMR Infrastructure Limited (GMR) and Megawide consortium to upgrade the second busiest airport in the Philippines. The 25-year concession was signed after the consortium fulfilled all the requirements.</p> <p>The stakeholders present were requested to submit their respective position papers on the matter.</p>

OTHER MATTERS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)	Status of the adoption case of Angel Rabadon Carreon by spouses John Jay and Madi Wilson pursuant to the letter of Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2 nd District, Pangasinan)	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Rep. Pablo Ortega (1st District, La Union), listened to Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) social worker Christian Badua on the status of the adoption case of Angel Rabadon Carreon.</p> <p>The adoption case was discussed pursuant to the letter of Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2nd District, Pangasinan) addressed to the Committee Chair. Rep. Bataoil, a member of the Committee, requested that the DSWD be invited to shed light on the matter.</p> <p>Carreon is currently under the care of spouses John Jay and Madi Wilson, both American missionaries of the Christian Church of Patar in Bolinao, Pangasinan. They sought the assistance of Rep. Bataoil after having been referred from one office to another without getting the help on how to go about the adoption process.</p> <p>The Committee directed the DSWD to facilitate the processing of the adoption including the completion of the necessary reports within the first quarter of 2017.</p>