

Committee Daily Bulletin



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First Regular Session

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Banks and Financial Intermediaries	HBs 14, 178, 3405 & 3455	Reps. Belmonte (F.), Ramirez-Sato, Collantes, and Oaminal	Designating casino operators as covered persons, under RA 9160, otherwise known as the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001, as amended	The Committee, chaired by Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the five measures.
	HB 4407	Rep. Castelo	Strengthening RA 9160, otherwise known as the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001, as amended	<p>Stressing the importance of the proposed law, Rep. Henry Oaminal (2nd District, Misamis Occidental) sought for the immediate passage of his bill, HB 3455, a similar version of which was approved during the 16th Congress.</p> <p>The bills seek to include the casino sector under the coverage of the Anti-Money Laundering Law (AMLA) as recommended by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an inter-governmental body established during the 1989 G7 Summit in Paris to combat the growing problem of money laundering.</p> <p>The Committee focused its discussion on the amount of transaction that will be covered by the proposed law.</p> <p>Rep. Oaminal suggested a threshold amount of P5 million, while majority of the casino operators present in the meeting proposed that the amount be pegged at P6 million.</p> <p>Atty. Julia Bacay-Abad, executive director of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) expressed support for the bills, but proposed to lower the covered transaction to P500,000.</p> <p>Atty. Arnold Salvosa, assistant vice president for corporate and legal services of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), opposed the inclusion of casinos among the sectors that will be subject to the AMLA. He went on to say that stricter regulations must instead be put in place to address money laundering concerns.</p>
	HBs 3682 & 3818	Reps. Yap (A.) and Bravo (A.)	Strengthening the secured transactions legal framework in the Philippines, which shall provide for the creation, perfection, determination of priority, establishment of a notice, registry, and enforcement of security of interests in personal property	<p>The Committee agreed to consolidate HBs 3682 and 3818.</p> <p>The bills seek to create a framework for secured transactions, to further improve micro, small, and medium enterprises' (MSMEs) access to financing by expanding the number of acceptable collaterals and improving the</p>

Continuation... Banks and Financial Intermediaries				existing legal and regulatory framework for movable collaterals. The International Finance Corporation (IFC) was requested to submit the list of moveable assets in the Committee's next meeting.
Basic Education and Culture	Substitute Bill to HB 2576	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Strengthening the rules on the proper use and display of the country's national symbols and the rendition of the national anthem, repealing for the purpose RA 8491, otherwise known as the "Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines"	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Evelina Escudero (1 st District, Sorsogon), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 2576.
	HB 2860, in consolidatio n with HB 4783	Reps. Sarmiento (E.M.) and Salceda	Designating the Philippine national performing arts companies, defining their roles and functions and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved with amendments HB 2860, in consolidation with HB 4783, and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HB 735	Rep. Escudero	Including a national artist as a member of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), amending for the purpose RA 7356, or the law creating the NCCA	The Committee approved HB 735 and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HB 2660	Rep. Angara- Castillo	Designating the National Music Competitions for Young Artists (NAMCYA) as the national youth development program for music, defining its roles and functions as such, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved with amendments HB 2660, and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HB 200	Rep. Cari	Establishing a national high school in Barangay Hampangan, Municipality of Hilongos, Province of Leyte to be known as the Hampangan National High School and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 200 and the corresponding Committee Report.
Good Government and Public Accountability	HR 292	Rep. Vergara	Inquiry into the illegal practices in the Bureau of Immigration (BI)	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Johnny Pimentel (2 nd District, Surigao del Sur), will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 292 in its next meeting. The resolution states that a case was filed against Rep. Vergara by a certain Philip Piccio in the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal citing a certification made by former BI Commissioner Ronald Geron that the BI had no documents pertaining to the renunciation of Rep. Vergara's foreign citizenship. The case filed by Piccio came after the disqualification cases against Rep. Vergara were already dismissed by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) and the courts. Rep. Vergara renounced her foreign citizenship prior to the filing of her certificate of candidacy in October 2015. Asked by SAGIP Party-List Rep. Rodante Marcoleta about his duties as technical assistant to the former BI Commissioner, Atty. Cris Villalobos said that one of his functions was to review pertinent documents before the Commissioner signed them. With regard to his role in the handling of Rep. Vergara's records with the BI, Villalobos insisted that he was

Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability				<p>merely requested by Geron to borrow the copy of the lawmaker's renunciation records from the BI records section. But, he added, the records section chief personally brought the documents directly to Geron.</p> <p>Maria Alexis Graciela Maceda, BI acting chief of the records section, claimed that at the time of the request, she immediately informed Geron that only photocopies of Rep. Vergara's renunciation of foreign citizenship exist in their file.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to invite former BI Commissioner Ronaldo Geron, BI fingerprint examiner Melandro Manglo, and BI records verifier Rolando Ortiz in its next meeting to shed light on the issue.</p>
	HR 566	Rep. Zarate	Inquiry into the alleged midnight deals of the Manila Electric Company (MERALCO)-affiliated generation companies and the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) which may be disadvantageous to the public and may cause power rate hikes	The Committee deferred consideration of HR 566.
	HRs 597, 610 & 612	Reps. Bondoc, Bagatsing, and Lazatin	Inquiry into the purported illegal online gambling activities inside the Clark freeport zone in Pampanga and the illegal employment of Chinese nationals in this gaming establishment	The Committee assumed jurisdiction over HRs 597, 610 and 612. It likewise agreed to consolidate the three resolutions for having the same subject matter.
	HR 654	Rep. Gonzales (A.) (D.)	Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the sale of Paskuhan Village in Pampanga by the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) to SM Development Corporation (SMDC) reportedly under the former's asset privatization program, with the end in view of ascertaining the real ownership of the subject property amidst certain assertions to the contrary, as well as to determine whether correct procurement procedures were followed and whether the condition imposed by its former owner Jesus Lazatin has legal effect and to determine if the same was complied with or not	The Committee assumed jurisdiction over HR 654.
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Science and Technology	HBs 25, 2977, 3651, 4369 & 4785	Reps. Abaya, Yu, Aumentado, Salceda, and Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo	Providing for a comprehensive nuclear regulation, creating for the purpose the Philippine Nuclear Regulatory Commission and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Isidro Rodriguez Jr. (2nd District, Rizal) for the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Erico Aristotle Aumentado (2nd District, Bohol), Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology, approved the five bills. Thereafter, the Committee secretariats of the two Committees were directed to craft a substitute bill to the five measures.</p> <p>The authors present manifested that their explanatory notes to the bills be registered as their sponsorship speeches.</p>
	HBs 3637, 4275, 4367 & 4623	Reps. Aumentado, Nieto, Salceda, and Rodriguez (M.)	Establishing the Philippine space development and utilization policy and creating the Philippine Space Agency (PSA) and defining the purpose and scope of its activities	The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Christopher "Toff" Vera Perez De Venecia (4 th District, Pangasinan) for the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Aumentado, for the Committee on Science

<p>Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ Science and Technology</p>				<p>and Technology, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to craft a substitute bill to the four measures.</p> <p>The authors present manifested that their explanatory notes to the bills be registered as their sponsorship speeches.</p> <p>Rep. De Venecia said the Philippine space development and utilization policy will serve as the country's strategic roadmap for space development and will embody the country's goal of becoming space-capable and space-faring nation within the next decade.</p> <p>Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Undersecretary for Research and Development Rowena Christina Guevara expressed the DOST's support to the proposed measures, adding that the creation of a national space agency will consolidate all space-related research and development ventures of various government agencies.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Alberto Ungab (3rd District, Davao City), Guevara said that the DOST has already conducted a study on space technology which it plans to launch as soon as a particular location shall have been identified.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Maximo Rodriguez Jr. (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), author of HB 4623, on whether the DOST has a special unit that studies space development, Guevarra said that the DOST has a core group composed of representatives not only from the government agencies but also representatives from different countries that conduct studies on space technology. She cited that a regional space forum participated in by 36 different countries has already been conducted by the DOST.</p> <p>Director Carlos Primo David of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) supports the passage of the proposed law, citing that space technology will boost the country's internet connectivity.</p> <p>Rogel Mari Sese of Regulus Spacetech said that the development of space technology will allow the country to catch up with other neighboring countries that have long invested in space science.</p> <p>Rep Evelina Escudero (1st District, Sorsogon) suggested a review of the funding provision (Section 19. Philippine Space Development Fund) of the bills to ensure proper implementation of the proposed law.</p> <p>The DOST was requested to submit to the Committee its position paper on the bills and a copy of the research studies on space technology.</p>
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Human Rights	HBs 61, 256, 1645 & 3938	Reps. Nograles (K.A.), Roque (H.), Villarica, and Bag-ao	Providing a framework for the right to adequate food	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2nd District, Zambales), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the four bills.</p> <p>The resource persons present expressed support for the bills and promised to submit to the Committee their respective position papers.</p> <p>Elizabeth Salvino, registered nutritionist of the Protective Services Bureau, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), said that instead of the DSWD, the local government units (LGUs) should be given the task of ensuring the “regular, reliable and timely delivery of minimum amount of food to any person suffering from hunger or under nutrition,” because the delivery of basic services was already devolved to the LGUs.</p> <p>Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles (1st District, Davao City) urged the DSWD to reconsider its position since it has access to quick response funds, which could readily be utilized for the provision of food to people suffering from hunger and under nutrition.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA) suggested that the National Nutrition Council (NNC) be reorganized to function as the lead agency in the implementation of the proposed law instead of creating a new office.</p> <p>Rep. Nograles said that in the course of the deliberation during the 16th Congress of a similar bill (which was refiled in the present Congress as HB 61), the Committee already agreed that the NNC will only identify the nutritious food to be included in the program. Rep. Nograles opined that the creation of the Commission on the Right to Adequate Food, which will be attached to the Office of the President (OP) and will exercise monitoring and oversight functions, will ensure the efficient and effective implementation of the proposed law.</p>
Overseas Workers Affairs	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	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY), approved with amendment the Substitute Bill to the six bills.
	HB 323	Rep. Escudero	Providing a system of extending no collateral, low interest loans to graduates of any courses offered by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) or duly accredited learning institutions with approved overseas job contracts	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to harmonize and consolidate the three bills.
	HBs 482 & 3117	Reps. Villar and Villafuerte	Establishing a credit assistance program for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs)	

<p>Continuation... Overseas Workers Affairs</p>	<p>HR 220</p>	<p>Rep. Salceda</p>	<p>Inquiry into the P530 million fraud involving the Embassy of Kuwait and a private company known as Winston Q8 Certification Solutions, Inc. with Kuwait-bound OFWs as victims</p>	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 220 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Aniceto “John” Bertiz III (Party-List, ACTS-OFW) sponsored the resolution on behalf of Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), author of HR 220. Rep. Bertiz also filed a resolution which has the same subject matter as HR 220 but is still with the Committee on Rules.</p> <p>Starting in 2016, Rep. Bertiz explained, the Kuwait Embassy has outsourced its medical certification and visa services to two companies, Winston Q8 and MAWARED, respectively. No overseas Filipino worker (OFW) bound for Kuwait can leave without passing through these two companies.</p> <p>Rep. Bertiz averred that this cartelization of the Kuwait medical testing and certification system is a gross violation of the rights of OFWs and Philippine labor laws.</p> <p>According to Rep. Bertiz, the Department of Health (DOH) has already issued Department Circular No. 2016-1267 on September 23, 2016 that prescribes the price of the basic pre-employment medical examination from P2,000 to P2,200 per OFW applicant. However, Winston Q8-accredited clinics charge P8,500 to P9,600 per OFW applicant which is more than 320% beyond the DOH-prescribed rates. He added that visa fees increased from P387 to P3,457 or a 793% increase.</p> <p>Rep. Bertiz added that the imposition of the Winston Q8 medical decking system is a clear violation of the Migrant Workers and Overseas Act of 1995, citing particularly Section 5, which provides in part that “it is considered an illegal recruitment to impose a compulsory exclusive arrangement whereby an OFW is required to undergo health examinations from specifically designated medical clinics.”</p> <p>Atty. Bienvenido Amora, Winston Q8 representative, explained that Winston Q8 does not conduct medical tests to Kuwait-bound OFWs but merely verifies and certifies the results of such medical tests in accordance with the standards set by the employers in Kuwait. The results of the medical tests are sent to MAWARED for visa stamping, Amora added. He averred that Winston Q8 is authorized by the Kuwaiti government to collect fees for this purpose.</p> <p>Refuting the statement of Amora, Rep. Bertiz showed to the Committee a copy of the letter of the Kuwait government denying its connection with Winston Q8 and MAWARED.</p> <p>Amora was requested to submit to the Committee a copy of the letter from the Kuwaiti government authorizing Winston Q8 to</p>
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Continuation... Overseas Workers Affairs				<p>verify and certify the medical results of Kuwait-bound OFWs, if any.</p> <p>DOH Deputy Director General for Regulatory Operation Ma. Rosario Vergiere disclosed that the DOH has conducted its own investigation on the operations of Winston Q8 and has issued a department order restraining it from continuing its operation. Vergiere assured the Committee that the DOH will review the papers of the eight Winston Q8-accredited clinics prior to the renewal of their accreditation.</p> <p>The following will be invited in the next meeting of the Committee to shed light on the issue: Secretaries of the Departments of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Health (DOH), and Labor and Employment (DOLE); a representative from the Embassy of Kuwait; Filipino members of the Board of Winston Q8; and representatives of the eight accredited medical clinics.</p>
Public Information	HR 57	Rep. Olivarez	Congratulating and commending Director Brillante Mendoza for receiving the ecumenical jury prize-special mention in the 68 th Cannes Film Festival for his film 'Taklub'	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Antonio Tinio (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS), agreed to consolidate HRs 57, 406 and 618 and draft a substitute resolution to the three measures.
	HR 406	Rep. Nieto	Congratulating and supporting Director Brillante Mendoza for being selected as the official Filipino entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 89 th Academy Awards for his film 'Ma' Rosa'	
	HR 618	Rep. Castelo	Commending and congratulating filmmaker Brillante Mendoza for winning Best Director for his film 'Ma' Rosa' at the 54 th Gijon International Film Festival	
Social Services	Substitute Bill to HBs 328, 2065, 2324 & 3689	Reps. Romualdo Villar, Relampagos, and Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo	Allowing the rectification of simulated birth records and prescribing administrative adoption proceedings	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sandra Eriguel, M.D. (2nd District, La Union), approved with amendment the substitute bill to the four measures and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>A bill with similar subject matter was approved on Third Reading during the 16th Congress.</p> <p>Under the substitute bill, simulation of birth refers to the "tampering of the civil registry making it appear in the birth records that a certain child was born to a person who is not the biological mother, causing the loss of the true identity of the child."</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 179 & 2476	Reps. Ramirez-Sato and Aggabao	Regulating public solicitations and providing penalties for violation thereof, repealing for the purpose Presidential Decree 1564, otherwise known as the Solicitation Permit Law	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 179 and 2476 and the corresponding Committee Report, subject to style.
	Substitute Bill HB 438	Rep. Bravo (A.)	Establishing a comprehensive system for registration and licensing of social welfare and development agencies and	The Committee approved the substitute bill subject to style.

Continuation... Social Services			accreditation of social welfare and development programs and services and appropriating funds therefor	A bill with similar subject matter was approved on Third Reading during the 16 th Congress.
	HBs 209, 524, 591, 1831, 2173, 2513, 2546, 2738 & 3490	Reps. Violago, Garbin, Velarde, Vargas, Santos-Recto, Roa-Puno, Pineda, Tupas, and Tan (A.)	Providing for the mandatory PhilHealth coverage for all persons with disabilities (PWDs), amending for the purpose RA 7277, as amended by RA 9442, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons, and providing funds therefor	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the 15 bills. The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Jose Antonio "Kuya Jonathan" Sy-Alvarado (1 st District, Bulacan), author of HB 2396.
	HBs 656 & 1584	Reps. Treñas and Vargas	Granting additional benefits to PWDs, amending for the purpose RA 7277, as amended	
	HB 1586	Rep. Vargas	Providing for lifetime validity of PWD identification cards, amending for the purpose RA 7277, as amended	
	HBs 1916 & 2396	Reps. Violago and Sy-Alvarado	Amending RA 7277, as amended, mandating private corporations engaged in social development to reserve 5% of their total number of employees for PWDs	
	HB 3160	Rep. Tambunting	Establishing a credit assistance program for PWDs	
	HB 1101	Rep. Castelo	Establishing the volunteer responders incentives protection program, thereby providing financial and/or non-pecuniary benefits especially for those who become victims themselves of such disasters, calamities or emergencies in the course of duty	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to consolidate the eight bills. The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Arthur Yap (3 rd District, Bohol), author of HB 2452.
	HBs 1496 & 1742	Reps. Abayon and Tan (A.)	Providing provisional relief to certain victims of typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions or other similar disasters by granting special deductions from income and real property taxes in their favor	
	HBs 2452, 3274, 4262 & 4373	Reps. Yap (A.), Roque (H.), Escudero, and Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo	Providing for tax relief in times of calamity	
HB 4322	Rep. Olivarez	Giving the persons affected by typhoons and other natural disasters in areas declared to be in a state of calamity a moratorium, forbearance or grace period in the payment of utility bills		

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Ethics and Privileges	Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Delphine Gan Lee (Party-list, AGRI), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress. The Committee has general jurisdiction over all matters relating to "duties, conduct, rights, privileges and immunities, dignity, integrity

Continuation... Ethics and Privileges		and reputation of the House and its Members.” The Committee created the Subcommittees on Preliminary Inquiries and Amendment of Rules.
Social Services	Approval of the Committee’s Rules of Procedure	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sandra Eriguel, M.D. (2 nd District, La Union), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17 th Congress. The Committee has overall jurisdiction “over all matters directly and principally relating to social development and social services and interventions that develop and enhance the quality of individual and community life, including welfare of persons with disabilities and special needs.”
	Briefing by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)	The Committee listened to the presentation of DSWD Assistant Secretary Maria Lourdes Turalde-Jarabe on the Department’s programs and services and legislative priorities. Turalde-Jarabe reported that 4.4 million Filipino households nationwide are beneficiaries of the DSWD’s <i>Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino Program</i> (4Ps), and 1.3 million of them have already improved their status and thus moved up to being beneficiaries of the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP). Apart from the 4Ps and SLP, the DSWD also undertakes the following programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan</i> – Comprehensive Integrated Delivery of Social Service (KALAHI-CIDSS); • Protective Services Program; • Supplemental Feeding Program; • Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens Program; • Provision of Center-based Services; • Comprehensive Program for Street Children, Street Families and Indigenous People – especially Bajasos; • Recovery and Integration Program for Trafficked Persons; • Assistance to victims of disasters and natural calamities; and • <i>Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan</i> (PAMANA). The DSWD’s proposed priority legislative agenda for the 17 th Congress are the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to the Solo Parents’ Welfare Act of 2000; • Establishment of the National Council for the Welfare of Senior Citizens; • Magna Carta of Day Care Workers; • Registration and Licensing of Social Welfare and Development Agencies (SWDAs); • Regulating Public Solicitation; and • Positive and Non-violent Discipline of Children. ACT TEACHERS Party-List Rep. France Castro supports the DSWD’s proposed legislations. Rep. Jose Antonio "Kuya Jonathan" Sy-Alvarado (1 st District, Bulacan) asked the DSWD about the status of the P1 billion worth of medical assistance for indigent patients allocated by President Rodrigo Duterte. The DSWD, Turalde-Jarabe said, has already presented the implementing guidelines to the Office of the President (OP). She added that for the program’s initial implementation, the DSWD forged an agreement with the following hospitals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philippine General Hospital in Manila; • Jose B. Lingad Memorial General Hospital in San Fernando City, Pampanga; • Western Visayas Medical Center in Iloilo City; • Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center in Cebu;

Continuation... Social Services		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Philippines Medical Center in Davao City; and • Davao Regional Hospital in Tagum, Davao. <p>Rep. Sy-Alvarado requested that other local government hospitals be included in the program to ensure that many Filipinos will benefit from it.</p> <p>The DSWD was requested to submit the list of SLP beneficiaries and the final list of DSWD's partner-hospitals which will provide free medicines to the indigent patients.</p>
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SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Subcommittee on Immigration, Naturalization and Deportation (Justice)	HB 435	Rep. Escudero	Philippine Immigration Act	<p>The Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Arnulfo Fuentesbella (4th District, Camarines Sur), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG), to be chaired by Rep. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL), to consolidate HBs 435, 1697 and 3005.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Maximo Rodriguez Jr. (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), author of HB 1697, explained that the bills seek to institutionalize stricter immigration rules and regulations in order to protect the security, morals, safety and health of the Filipino people, following reports on the involvement of foreign nationals in organized crimes like illegal recruitment, prostitution, drug trafficking, terrorism, and human smuggling.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu) stated that the proposed law is timely, given that the country is faced with such problems as human trafficking.</p> <p>Department of Justice (DOJ) state counsel Jenny de Castro signified the DOJ's support for the proposed measures, including the provision in HBs 435 and 1697 that requires cash deposits from the vessel's owner, operator, captain, master, pilot, agent, or consignee or other persons served to cover payments for overtime services rendered by immigration officers and employees.</p> <p>However, Atty. Ryan Lita, director of the Organization, Position Classification and Compensation Bureau of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), argued that the overtime pay due to immigration personnel should be paid by the government and included in the national budget.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to conduct an executive session on February 6, 2017 and invite the Secretaries of the DOJ, DBM, Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Finance (DOF), and the Commissioners of the BI and Commission on Audit (COA) to discuss the issue relative to overtime pay.</p>
	HB 1697	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Creating the Commission on Immigration, defining its powers and functions, expanding, rationalizing and further professionalizing its organization, upgrading the compensation and benefits of its officials and employees, and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 3005	Rep. Castelo	Mandating the Bureau of Immigration (BI) to implement a state-of-the-art method of documenting persons with hold departure orders and identify clearance to avoid inconvenience on the part of the namesakes of such persons who are the subject of such hold departure orders	

Continuation... Subcommittee on Immigration, Naturalization and Deportation (Justice)				Rep. Fuentebella requested the stakeholders present to submit to the Committee their position papers on the proposed law.
Subcommittee on Judicial Reforms (Justice)	HBs 1551 & 3767	Reps. Castelo and Gonzaga	Granting hazard pay to regional trial court (RTC) judges and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Vicente “Ching” Veloso (3rd District, Leyte), terminated its deliberation on HBs 1551 and 3767, and agreed to draft a substitute bill which will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Rep. Winston “Winnie” Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), author of HB 1551, agreed to adopt Section 2 of HB 3767, authored by Rep. Ruwel Peter Gonzaga (2nd District, Compostela Valley), which grants a tax-exempt hazard pay to RTC judges equivalent to 25% of their monthly basic salary.</p> <p>Rep. Castelo’s bill proposes to grant a hazard pay equivalent to 20% of the RTC judges’ basic pay.</p> <p>Representatives from the Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of the Court Administrator (OCA), and the Philippine Judges Association (PJA) expressed support for the measures.</p> <p>Atty. Ryan Lita, director for Organization, Position Classification and Compensation Bureau of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), objected to the bills explaining that other government employees who are also exposed to risk and danger because of the nature of their work will also demand for similar benefits in the future.</p> <p>Rep. Gonzaga requested the DBM to reconsider its position.</p>

OTHER MATTERS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Public Information	Discussion regarding recent news reports that certain government agencies blocked alleged child porn websites on the internet without sufficient basis	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Antonio Tinio (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS), heard the positions of various agencies regarding recent news reports that certain government agencies blocked alleged child porn websites on the internet without sufficient basis.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Tinio clarified that the Committee aims to find out whether or not there is truth behind recent news reports that certain government agencies blocked certain websites on the allegation that they are involved in child pornography and whether or not these agencies have sufficient legal bases to warrant such actions.</p> <p>Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Secretary Rodolfo Salalima explained that only the web links that were found to be in violation of the Anti-Child Pornography Law (RA 9775) and Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012 (RA 10175) were blocked and not the website itself. Salalima lamented that the</p>

<p>Continuation... Public Information</p>		<p>Philippine National Police (PNP) and the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) encounter problems in performing their duties under these laws primarily due to questions on the constitutionality of certain provisions.</p> <p>PNP Directorate for Police Community Relations (DPCR) Deputy Director Ericson Velasquez assured the Committee that the move to block the web links was evidence-based and was done in good faith.</p> <p>Computer Professionals' Union Project Coordinator Ana Celestial cautioned against arbitrary blocking of websites, saying that this form of control does more harm than good, and is not an effective way of preventing prohibited materials from being accessed by the public.</p> <p>Rep. Tinio expressed the need to revisit RA 9775 to look into the problems affecting its implementation.</p> <p>The PNP and NTC were requested to submit to the Committee certified true copies of their requests to block the web links allegedly showing or containing pornographic materials.</p>
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