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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agrarian Reform	HBs 229 & 2177	Deputy Speaker Singson and Rep. Santos-Recto	Authorizing the grant of a full crop insurance coverage to qualified beneficiaries of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), amending for the purpose Section 14 of RA 9700, or the CARP Extension with Reforms	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rene Relampagos (1st District, Bohol), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate HBs 229 and 2177.</p> <p>The TWG will be co-chaired by Deputy Speaker Eric Singson (2nd District, Ilocos Sur), author of HB 229, and Rep. Vilma Santos-Recto (6th District, Lipa City), author of HB 2177.</p> <p>Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, who sponsored the bills on behalf of the authors, emphasized that the measures will provide the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) with the much needed insurance protection against losses arising from natural calamities, plant diseases and pest infestations.</p> <p>Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Undersecretary for Field Operations Marcos Risonar Jr. proposed that the DAR be given the task of ensuring that support services are provided to ARBs instead of the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC), citing the failure of the past administrations to convene the Council.</p> <p>Risonar presented the comments and recommendations of the DAR on the proposed law, as contained in its position paper, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tap the agricultural guarantee fund pool as alternative source of fund; • Clarify whether the premium to be paid by farmers will be subsidized by the government; and • Clarify whether the proposed crop insurance will also cover the period during seeding, threshing, hauling, storage and other similar farm-related activities. <p>Joey Faustino, executive director of the Coconut Industry Reform Movement (COIR), emphasized the need to define which agricultural crops are covered by the insurance, noting that the proposed amendment to Section 14 of RA 9700 seems to refer only to seasonal crops that involve a single-cycle process from planting to harvest. He explained that the proposed insurance coverage might exclude coconut which is a perennial crop that entails a longer gestation period and continued maintenance for multiple harvests.</p>

Cooperatives Development	HR 44	Rep. Bravo (A.)	Inquiry into the establishment of an apex organization of all cooperatives as a unifying body of the cooperative movement	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rico Geron (Party-List, AGAP), will deliberate further on the issues raised relative to HR 44 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) Chair Orlando Ravanera said that the establishment of an apex organization of cooperatives boosts the chances of cooperatives to achieve sustainable global competitiveness. He added that an apex organization will strengthen the representation of the cooperative movement in the various consultative mechanisms of the government.</p> <p>Hamilcar Rutaquio, chair of the Philippine Cooperative Center (PCC), said that the PCC has been functioning as the apex organization of the country's cooperatives since March 1997, although it was not established by law to function as such.</p> <p>Philippine Federation of Credit Cooperatives (PFCCO) Chair Gloria Futralan supported the cooperatives' call to have an apex organization. She underscored the need to come up with a set of guidelines that will clearly identify the membership and purpose of the apex organization. She also suggested that the issue on whether or not the apex should still be registered with the CDA must also be resolved.</p> <p>The CDA was tasked to create a technical working group that will prepare the draft guidelines which will be submitted to the Committee for its consideration.</p>
Health	Substitute Bill to HBs 338 & 447	Reps. Villarín and Belmonte (J.C.)	Strengthening the provision of emergency health care services to patients, further amending for the purpose Batas Pambansa Bilang 702, or the law prohibiting the demand of deposits or advance payments for the confinement or treatment of patients in hospital and medical clinics in certain cases	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan M.D. (4 th District, Quezon), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HBs 338 and 447 subject to style and amendment.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 760,761, 765, 875, 888, 899, 1340, 1662, 1805, 2512, 2928, 3105, 3358, 3564, 3643 & 3967	Reps. Aglipay-Villar, Espina, Tan (A.), Villaraza-Suarez, Villafuerte, Angara-Castillo, Eriguel, Montoro, Deputy Speaker Garin, Reps. Baguilat, Rodriguez (M.), and Antonio	Strengthening the national and local health and nutrition programs for pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls, infants and young children in the first 1,000 days, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to the 16 bills subject to style.
	HB 282	Rep. Dalog	Increasing the bed capacity of the Luis Hora Memorial Regional Hospital in the Province of Mountain Province, from 100 to 200 beds, upgrading the service facilities and professional health care therein and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 282.

Continuation... Health	HB 419	Rep. Escudero	Converting the Dr. Fernando B. Duran Sr. Memorial Hospital (formerly Sorsogon Provincial Hospital) in the Province of Sorsogon from secondary to tertiary level hospital under the full administrative and technical supervision of the Department of Health (DOH), increasing its bed capacity from 100 to 250 and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 419.
	HB 606	Rep. Eriguel	Upgrading the services and facilities of the La Union Medical Center in the Municipality of Agoo, Province of La Union by increasing its bed capacity to 200 and establishing a trauma center therein, authorizing the increase of its personnel and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 606 with amendment to increase the bed capacity of La Union Medical Center from 200 to 300 as manifested by Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma.
	HB 874	Rep. Espina	Establishing a 200-bed capacity provincial hospital and relocation of the existing Biliran Provincial Hospital to Barangay Larrazabal, Municipality of Naval, Province of Biliran and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 874 subject to style and amendment.
	HB 1678	Rep. Revilla	Establishing a 100-bed hospital in Barangay Habay 2 in the City of Bacoor, Province of Cavite to be known as the Bacoor District Hospital and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 1678.
	HB 1846	Rep. Abueg	Upgrading the Narra Municipal Hospital in the Municipality of Narra, Province of Palawan into 100-bed capacity to be known as Governor Alfredo M. Abueg Sr. Memorial Hospital and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 1846.
	HB 2043	Rep. Garcia (J. E.)	Upgrading the Bataan Provincial Hospital in the Province of Bataan into a Level III teaching and training tertiary hospital, renaming the same as Bataan General Hospital and Medical Center, amending for the purpose RA 8561 and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 2043 subject to style and amendment.
	HB 2849	Rep. Cuaresma	Increasing the bed capacity of Veterans Regional Hospital in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya from 200 to 500, upgrading its services, facilities and professional health care, authorizing the increase of its medical personnel, changing its name to Region II Trauma and Medical Center and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 2849.
	HB 3426	Rep. Dalipe	Upgrading the Mindanao Central Sanitarium into a tertiary level hospital and increasing the bed capacity for general care services to 300 and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 3426.
	HB 4679	Rep. Pichay	Increasing the bed capacity of the Adela Serra Ty Memorial Medical Center in Tandag City, Province of Surigao del Sur from 200 to 500 beds, upgrading its service and facilities, authorizing the increase of its medical personnel and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 4679 with amendment to increase the bed capacity of Adela Serra Ty Memorial Medical Center from 200 to 1,000.

<p>Continuation... Health</p>	<p>HBs 53, 253, 538, 581, 663, 1106, 1804, 1973, 2023, 2511, 2674, 3146, 3161, 3536, 3978 & 4276</p>	<p>Reps. Bag-ao, Roque, Yap, (V.), Deputy Speaker Cayetano, Reprs. Baguilat, Eriguel, Suansing, Marcos, Angara-Castillo, Tan (A.), Alejano, Tambunting, Deputy Speaker Garin, Reprs. Villarín and Salo</p>	<p>Strengthening the Philippine comprehensive policy on human immunodeficiency virus(HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) prevention, treatment, care and support, and establishing the Philippine National HIV and AIDS Program, revising for the purpose RA 8504, otherwise known as the Philippine AIDS Prevention and Control Act of 1998 and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the 16 bills.</p> <p>The TWG, to be chaired by Rep. Jose Enrique “Joet” Garcia III (2nd District, Bataan), will include as members representatives from the different government agencies and civil society organizations (CSOs). The first TWG meeting will be held on March 1, 2017.</p>
<p>Housing and Urban Development</p>	<p>HB 83</p>	<p>Rep. Benitez</p>	<p>Constituting an Administrative Capital City Planning Commission for the purpose of studying the feasibility of relocating the capital and seat of government of the Philippines and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Alfredo “Albee” Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on HB 83.</p> <p>Rep. Benitez called for the immediate passage of the bill saying that the proposed Administrative Capital City Planning Commission will facilitate the development of a comprehensive plan to relocate government agencies and establish an administrative capital city outside Metro Manila. He mentioned several countries that have successfully relocated their capital.</p> <p>According to Rep. Benitez, a major concern that his bill will address is the increasing number of informal settler families (ISFs) in Metro Manila which already account for nearly 600,000 of the 1.5 million ISFs in the country. Government-owned properties located in Metro Manila that will be vacated by government agencies can then be used as relocation sites for the ISFs, he added.</p> <p>Rep. Winston “Winnie” Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City) said that the passage of the bill into law will also ease traffic congestion in Metro Manila.</p> <p>Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) Deputy Secretary General Avelino Tolentino III expressed support for the measure. He reported that HUDCC is currently identifying and mapping government lands in Metro Manila that can be used for vertical housing projects for ISFs.</p> <p>Tolentino suggested that the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) may include capital relocation in the Philippine Development Plan.</p> <p>To jumpstart the housing projects for ISFs, Malabon City Rep. Federico “Ricky” Sandoval II suggested that the Committee, through its Chair, recommend a higher budget allocation for low cost housing projects in Metro Manila during the deliberations of the national budget for 2018.</p>

Legislative Franchises	HB 1941	Rep. Espino	Granting the Gulf Waves Communications Corporation (GWCC) a franchise to construct, install, establish, operate and maintain radio and television broadcasting stations throughout the Philippines	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Franz “Chicoy” Alvarez (1st District, Palawan), approved HB 1941 subject to style and amendment. The Committee secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2nd District, Pangasinan) expressed support for the bill, citing the importance of having a broadcasting station in Pangasinan.</p> <p>Atty. Nelson Gayo, president of the Pangasinan Gulf Waves Communications Corporation, said that his company has complied with all the documentary requirements to support its legislative franchise application.</p>
	HB 4464	Deputy Speaker Henandez	Renewing the franchise granted to Subic Broadcasting Corporation (SBC) under Republic Act 7511 or the law granting the SBC a franchise to construct, install, operate and maintain radio and television broadcasting stations in the Philippines for another 25 years	<p>The Committee approved HB 4464 subject to style and amendment. The Committee secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Atty. Camilo Correa, general counsel of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), expressed no objection to the bill.</p>
	HB 1422	Rep. Cosalan	Renewing the franchise granted to Satellite Paging Systems Philippines, Inc. (SPSPI) (presently known as Now Telecom Company, Inc.) under RA 7301, as amended by RA 7940, or the law granting SPSPI a franchise to construct, establish, operate and maintain radio paging systems and trunked radio systems within the Philippines for a period of 25 years renewable for another 25 years from the effectivity of the Act.	<p>The Committee deferred its consideration of HB 1422 pending Now Telecom’s submission of the documentary requirements to the Committee and to SEC.</p> <p>This, after Correa informed the Committee that Now Telecom has not yet filed with the SEC its general information sheet (GIS) for the years 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2015, as well as its financial statement from 2010 to 2015.</p> <p>Likewise, on the query of Rep. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL), Committee Secretary Portia Silang said that Now Telecom has failed to submit the documents previously requested by the Committee.</p> <p>Rep. Johnny Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur) stressed that franchise applicants should promptly comply with all the requirements set by the Committee.</p> <p>Benguet Rep. Ronald Cosalan, author of HB 1422, averred that Now Telecom has already submitted the basic documentary requirements. Nevertheless, he asked Now Telecom to submit all other documents required by the Committee.</p>
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	<p>The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, will deliberate further on HBs 4688 and 4774 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Cua clarified that the discussion in today’s meeting will focus on the bills’ provisions pertaining to the value-added tax (VAT). Both bills aim to expand the VAT base by limiting exemptions to raw food and other important sectors like education and health.</p> <p>Department of Finance (DOF) Undersecretary</p>
	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	

<p>Continuation... Ways and Means</p>				<p>Karl Chua explained that the rationale for lifting some VAT exemptions is to have a fair and balanced approach in taxation where everyone will be able to contribute their share in the country's economic growth. He, however, said that other VAT exemptions such as those granted to senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PWDs) will remain.</p> <p>The resource persons from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Bureau of Customs (BOC), and the National Tax Research Center (NTRC) concurred with the proposal of the DOF saying that too many exemptions will lead to tax base erosion and higher foregone revenues.</p> <p>On the other hand, Reps. Anthony Bravo, PhD. (Party-List, COOP NATCCO) and Rico Geron (Party-List, AGAP) opposed the removal of VAT exemptions granted to cooperatives, stating that cooperatives play a crucial role in addressing the financial needs of the poor, which banks cannot provide.</p> <p>Rep. Manuel Zubiri (3rd District, Bukidnon) suggested that the proposal to remove VAT exemptions for cooperatives be implemented in pilot areas first to assess its viability.</p> <p>The housing sector, represented by officials from the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), National Real Estate Association (NREA), and Organization of Socialized Housing Developers of the Philippines (OSHDP), expressed their opposition to the lifting of the VAT exemption for socialized housing.</p> <p>HUDCC Deputy Secretary General Patrocinio Jude Esguerra III claimed that removing the VAT exemption would cause the increase in the selling price of housing units to the detriment of minimum wage income earners who intend to purchase their own homes.</p> <p>Likewise, the representatives from the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc. (PHILEXPORT), and Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan (AFAB) objected to the removal of VAT exemptions granted to indirect exporters and local suppliers.</p> <p>Speaker Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez (1st District, Davao del Norte) and Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1st District, Ilocos Norte) directed the representatives of the government agencies to inform their respective heads to personally attend the Committee meetings, as alter egos of the President, and not simply to send their representatives.</p>
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ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Southern Tagalog Development (Special Committee)	Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Isidro Rodriguez Jr. (2nd District, Rizal), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p> <p>The Committee has jurisdiction over "all matters directly and principally relating to the development of the Southern Tagalog area inclusive of those affecting agricultural areas, tourism, economic and industrial estates and processing areas therein."</p> <p>Rep. Rodriguez said that the Committee will oversee the implementation of laws, projects and programs affecting Region IV-A, which includes the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon (CALABARZON), and Region IV-B, which includes the provinces of Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan (MIMAROPA). In particular, the Committee will undertake the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee the implementation of Republic Act 10879 or the law establishing the Southwestern Tagalog Region to be known as the MIMAROPA Region; and • Discuss the status of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) Phase 2, development plans for the Laguna Lake, and the rehabilitation of the coconut industry in CALABARZON and MIMAROPA. <p>Rep. Rodriguez said that in the next Committee meeting, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) will conduct a briefing on the regional development agenda for CALABARZON and MIMAROPA to give the Committee a general overview of the government's plans and projects for Southern Tagalog.</p> <p>Rep. Joaquin Chipeco Jr. (2nd District, Laguna) asked the Committee to invite in its next meeting the head of the Laguna Lake Authority to shed light on the cancellation of the Laguna lake project.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Dangerous Drugs (Technical Working Group)	HBs 3809 & 1257	Reps. Barbers and Biazon	Strengthening and intensifying the campaign against illegal drug trafficking, amending for this purpose certain sections of RA 9165	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Robert "Ace" Barbers (2nd District, Surigao del Norte), will deliberate further on HBs 1257 and 3809.</p> <p>Rep. Arnolfo "Arnie" Teves Jr. (3rd District, Negros Oriental) expressed reservation on the provision of HB 3809 stating that a person found in possession of dangerous drugs is "deemed to have been engaged in selling, trading, dispensation, administration, delivery, distribution and/or transportation of dangerous drugs."</p> <p>Rep. Barbers requested the representatives from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), Philippine National Police (PNP), Department of Justice (DOJ), and Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) to submit their comments on the said provision.</p>

<p>Continuation... Dangerous Drugs (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>PDEA Compliance Service Director Helen Maita Reyes explained that the filing of cases against apprehended persons in possession of dangerous drugs is based on the result of the laboratory test which will determine the weight and quantity of the illegal substance.</p> <p>Rep. Teves also objected to the provision holding the owners of leased properties liable if the lessees use these properties as clandestine drug laboratories.</p> <p>Rep. Barbers, however, said that upon the enactment of the bill into law, lessors will be presumed involved in the illegal drug trade if their property is used as a clandestine drug laboratory since the proposed law will already require the lessors to submit an affidavit certifying that they have inspected their property and that the property is not used for unlawful purposes.</p> <p>The resource persons present were requested to submit their position on the matter.</p> <p>The Committee will invite associations involved in leasing properties to hear their side.</p>
<p>Economic Affairs (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 69 & 2510</p>	<p>Reps. Salceda and Cua</p>	<p>Collective Investment Schemes (CIS) Law</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte), terminated its deliberation on the draft Substitute Bill to HBs 69 and 2510. The substitute bill will be presented to the mother Committee for consideration and approval.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to finalize the bill, incorporating therein the recommendations of the resource persons present during the meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), author of HB 69, emphasized that the proposed law would not only establish a competitive environment for the CIS industry but would also provide protection to the investing public.</p>
<p>Justice (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 2, 505, 935, 1609, 2009 & 3973</p>	<p>Deputy Speaker Castro, Reps. Yap (V.), Tiangco, Cagas, Acop, and Suansing</p>	<p>Lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 15 years of age to 12 years of age for certain offenses, amending for the purpose RA 9344, as amended by RA 10630</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN), will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>The members of the TWG discussed the proposed amendments to some of the provisions of the substitute bill.</p> <p>Juvenile Justice Welfare Council (JJWC) Executive Director Tricia Clare Oco proposed to incorporate in the bill a provision that will set clear parameters for the protection of children. She also said that in proving that a child offender acted with discernment, the child should undergo professional assessment for at least seven days.</p>

Continuation... Justice (Technical Working Group)				The TWG agreed to invite family court judges and prosecutors in its next meeting to enlighten the Committee on certain provisions in the bill that need to be clarified.
Revision of Laws (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HB 3605	Speaker Alvarez	Amending Section 13 of RA 3019, as amended, otherwise known as the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso (3rd District, Leyte), agreed to draft a new bill that will replace the Substitute Bill to HB 3605. The new bill, which intends to repeal Section 13 of RA 3019, will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration.</p> <p>The agreement was reached after hearing the comments of the resource persons present as well as the sentiments of the Committee Members present during the meeting.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Veloso said that repealing Section 13 of RA 3019 stresses the fact that the Sandiganbayan does not have the power to preventively suspend Members of the Judiciary and Congress pending the litigation of criminal cases against them. Citing Supreme Court rulings and existing laws, Rep. Veloso added that preventive suspension is an administrative measure to prevent the respondent from intimidating or influencing witnesses.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Salvador Belaro Jr. (Party-List, 1-ANG EDUKASYON) on the relevance of Sec. 13 of RA 3019, Deputy Ombudsman Gerard Mosquera explained that the intent was to preserve the integrity of the anti-graft court in hearing cases involving public officials.</p> <p>Mosquera went on to say that the issuance of preventive suspension will disallow possible tampering of evidences and influence or intimidation of witnesses especially during the first 90 days of trial. He believed that the authority to issue preventive suspension may apply on the criminal aspect of the case.</p> <p>Department of Justice (DOJ) State Counsel Luz Macasinag argued that the rule on preventive suspension should apply to all public officers pursuant to the "equal protection clause" provided for under the Constitution.</p>