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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous People	Consolidated Bill on HBs 575,4545 & Privilege Speech 114	Reps. Panganiban, Rodriguez (M.), Brosas, and Catamco	Providing for a free and culture-sensitive system of registration concerning the civil status of indigenous peoples (IPs)	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Nancy Catamco (2 nd District, North Cotabato), approved the Consolidated Bill on HBs 575, 4545 and 4649 and Privilege Speech 114.
	Consolidated Bill on HBs 2572 & 3221	Reps. Rodriguez (M.) and Panganiban	Extending the period for indigenous cultural communities (ICC)/IPs to exercise the option to secure the title to their ancestral lands under Land Registration Act 496, amending for the purpose Section 12 of RA 8371, otherwise known as the Indigenous People's Rights Act of 1997	The Committee approved the Consolidated Bill on HBs 2572 and 3221.
	HB 394	Rep. Panganiban	Institutionalizing IPs mandatory representation, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 394 in its next meeting.</p> <p>ANAC-IP Party-List Rep. Jose Panganiban Jr. said that his bill seeks to ensure that the ICCs/IPs will be given adequate representation in policymaking bodies and local legislative councils.</p> <p>He disclosed that some IP representatives were not accommodated or recognized by local government units (LGUs) even if they have a certificate of affirmation from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) due to budgetary constraints. This problem, according to Rep. Panganiban, will be addressed by the proposed law which will allocate funds for the remuneration and benefits that will be given to IP mandatory representatives (IPMR).</p> <p>The NCIP, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) will be invited in the Committee's next meeting.</p>
	HR 114	Rep. Panganiban	Urging the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) to include in their federation the organization of IP mandatory representatives (IPMR) for an effective and responsive formulation of national laws and policies	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HR 114 in its next meeting.</p> <p>HR 114 seeks to include the league of IPMRs as a member organization of ULAP in order to protect and promote the interest of IPs, and have an effective networking and consensus building to address issues on local autonomy and governance.</p>

Continuation... Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous People				The resource persons present were requested to submit their respective position papers on the resolution.
Population and Family Relations	HBs 12, 107, 171, 317, 368, 512, 523, 597, 696, 1267, 1687, 1711, 2001, 2167, 2338, 3425, 3448 & 4167	Reps. Belmonte (F.), Alejano, Nogralles (K.A.), Primicias- Agabas, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Barbers, Garbin, Pichay, Deputy Speaker Macapagal- Arroyo, Reps Biazon, Rodriguez (M.) Romualdo, Abueg, Santos- Recto, Espino, Erice, Teves, and Aragonés	Establishing the Philippine national identification system	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sol Aragonés (3rd District, Laguna), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the 18 bills.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Deputy Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga).</p> <p>Rep. Aragonés informed the Committee that a bill with the same subject matter was approved on third reading by the House of Representatives in the 16th Congress.</p> <p>Majority of the Members of the Committee present as well as the resource persons from various government agencies manifested their support for the proposed law. They are one in saying that the national identification system will provide the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplify the processing of public and private transactions with an integrated and secured personal information system; • Provide easy access to private and government services; • Improve the delivery of basic services from government offices; • Facilitate the continuous recording of acts and events concerning the status of persons for effective planning of social development and economic advancement. <p>Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) legal counsel Shyanne Monera described to the body the existing unified multi-purpose ID card (UMID) being issued to members of the Social Security System (SSS), GSIS, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), and Pag-IBIG Fund. She said it must be clarified whether the proposed national ID system will be integrated with the UMID system.</p> <p>Rep. Antonio Tinio (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS) objected to the proposed establishment of a national identification system, arguing that it poses a threat to the civil liberties and will allow the State to limit the rights of the people.</p> <p>The resource persons present were requested to submit their position papers on the bills in time for the TWG's next meeting on March 1, 2017.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Subcommittee on Correctional Reforms (Justice)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 2, 505, 935, 1609, 2009 & 3973	Deputy Speaker Castro, Reps. Yap (V.), Tiangco, Cagas, Acop, and Suansing (E.)	Lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 15 to 12 years of age and increasing the penalty for the exploitation of children for the commission of crimes, amending for the purpose RA 9344, as amended by RA 10630, otherwise known as the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by KABAYAN Party-List Rep. Ron Salo, will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill to the six measures in its next meeting.</p> <p>ACT TEACHERS Party-List Rep. France Castro expressed her opposition to the bill stating that children aged nine to 15 years are still incapable of discernment. She also added that child offenders are most often the victim of opportunistic adults using and abusing them for the latter's own benefit.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Fredenil "Fred" Castro (2nd District, Capiz), principal author of HB 2, conveyed to the TWG that since the age of criminal responsibility was changed to 15 from nine under RA 10630, agencies in charge of ensuring proper child upbringing and guidance became complacent.</p> <p>Through the bill, Deputy Speaker Castro said it is expected that implementors such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), local government units (LGUs), and barangay councils will be more aggressive in their efforts to rehabilitate child offenders, ensuring that they become productive members of the community.</p> <p>Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), author of HB 2009, clarified that the goal of the bill is to promote rehabilitation and not imprisonment. He explained further that while the bill intends to make children in conflict with the law criminally liable, they will only serve the sentence upon reaching the age of 18.</p> <p>Regional Trial Court (RTC) judges from the cities of Makati, Pasig and Quezon expressed concern about the proposal to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility. Makati RTC Judge Cristina Sulit, for one, said that there is no monitoring mechanism to keep track of how these child offenders are dealt with, once convicted. The courts have no data and statistics regarding child offenders below 15 years of age since cases are not filed against them.</p> <p>The TWG agreed on the following amendments to the substitute bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandate the DSWD to create temporary shelters or <i>Bahay Pag-Asa</i> for child offenders across the country, and appropriate funds therefor; • Delete the provision in Section 4 (Serious Crimes Committed by Children) of the bill which, states that any child aged 12 to 17 years who commits serious crimes "shall be

Continuation... Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Subcommittee on Correctional Reforms (Justice)				<p>presumed to have acted with discernment, unless a preponderance of evidence shows that such child acted without discernment;” and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandate the Philippine National Police (PNP) to apprehend and monitor child offenders in coordination with the DSWD.
People’s Participation (Technical Working Group)	HBs 191, 3429 & 3862	Reps. Bravo, Rocamora, and Kaka Bag-ao	Institutionalizing citizen’s participation in the budget process	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Atty. Magis Mendoza from the Office of the Committee Chair, Dinagat Islands Rep. Kaka Bag-ao, terminated its deliberation on HBs 191, 3429, and 3862. The Secretariat will draft the substitute bill to the measures which will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Among the agreements reached during the meeting were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A provision creating Provincial Poverty Reduction Action Team (PPRAT) should be included in the bill; • The civil society organization (CSO) representatives to the PPRAT will be elected every three years; • Elected officials at the national and local levels, and their immediate relatives up to the third degree of consanguinity or affinity, and regular employees of local government units (LGUs) are ineligible to be elected as CSO representatives; • The Regional Poverty Reduction Action Team (RPRAT) will be headed by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) regional director as chairperson, and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) regional director and National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) secretariat representative as vice-chairpersons; and • The implementing rules and regulations (IRR) will be formulated within 90 days after the effectivity of the proposed law. <p>The Committee Secretariat was tasked to draft the budgetary provision of the substitute bill, as well as to refine the bill’s provision on the monitoring and evaluation system for CSO accreditation and participation.</p>
Rural Development (Technical Working Group)	HBs 2258 & 3953	Reps. Enverga and Kho	Institutionalizing the convergence strategy for rural development, providing the implementing mechanisms therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Deogracias Ramos Jr. (2nd District, Sorsogon), will deliberate further on the bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Ramos said a bill with similar subject matter was approved at the Committee level and forwarded to the Committee on Appropriations during the 16th Congress.</p>

Continuation... Rural Development (Technical Working Group)				<p>He stressed that the proposed law will institutionalize the convergence of programs of various government agencies, especially the Departments of Agriculture (DA), Agrarian Reform (DAR), Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Interior and Local Government (DILG), to ensure countryside development.</p> <p>The Departments of Trade and Industry (DTI), Tourism (DOT), Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), DA, DAR, and DENR expressed support for the bills.</p> <p>The Committee is scheduled to visit and conduct an ocular inspection of the government's largest sustainable convergence initiative project in Piddig, Ilocos Norte, which benefited lowly farmers in the area.</p>
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JOINT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Quality Affordable Medicines Oversight Committee	<p>Approval of the Oversight Committee's Rules of Procedure</p> <p>Update on the implementation of RA 9502, or the Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicines Act of 2008, by the following agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Health (DOH) 	<p>The Joint Congressional Oversight Committee, co-presided by Rep. Ferjanel Biron, M.D. (4th District, Iloilo), Chair of the House Committee on Trade and Industry, and Sen. Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri, Chair of the Senate Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship, approved its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p> <p>RA 9502 or the Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicines Act of 2008 created this congressional oversight committee to ensure the effective implementation of the law.</p> <p>The Joint Congressional Oversight Committee discussed the status of implementation of RA 9502 with concerned government offices and private organizations.</p> <p>DOH Assistant Secretary Agnette Peralta reported that although the competition in medicines has improved in recent years with the entry of generic brands, many drugs in the Philippines are still more expensive compared to those sold in other parts of Asia. She cited a recent study by the DOH which revealed that the drug price reduction efforts had minimal impact especially on the poorest patients due to the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The list of medicines covered by the MDRP (Maximum Drug Retail Price) and GMAP (Government-Mediated Access Price) is limited; • The GMAP is brand-specific, which does not necessarily affect the prices of other brands; and • Even with reduced prices of medicines, the poor could still not afford them, and are still heavily dependent on the free drugs from the government. <p>Peralta also presented both the positive and negative effects of the passage of the Cheaper Medicines Act, among which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in prices of medicines, but only for MDRP/GMAP targeted drugs for hypertension, diabetes, cholesterol, anthelmintics, and common antibiotics; • Substantial increase in awareness, availability and use of cheaper generic drugs; and • No change in prescribing behavior among doctors; and • Consumers correlate low price with poor quality of medicines.

Continuation... Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philippine National Railways (PNR) projects 	Due to lack of material time, Rep. Sarmiento just requested the PNR to submit its report on the status of the PNR projects.
Transportation jt. w/ Games and Amusements	Status of implementation of DO 2016-019 issued by the Department of Transportation (DOTr) transferring general aviation operations from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) to secondary or alternative gateways within four months from October 6, 2016 that the DO became effective	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, Chair of the Committee on Transportation, and Rep. Gus Tambunting (2nd District, Parañaque City), Chair of the Committee on Games and Amusements, listened to the report of the DOTr on the effect of the transfer of the general aviation operations from the NAIA to secondary or alternative gateways.</p> <p>DOTr Undersecretary Bobby Lim said that the implementation of the DO was held in abeyance. The DOTr has yet to categorize the general aviation services that will be transferred to the secondary or alternative gateways.</p> <p>DO 2016-019, issued by the DOTr on October 6, 2016, aims to utilize the secondary or alternative gateways which have remained unutilized or are operating below their capacity by shifting some operations at the NAIA to these secondary or alternative gateways in order to reduce congestion, anticipate future demands, and improve travel expenses. The DO provides that the transfer shall be undertaken within four months from the effectivity of the Order.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento clarified that the meeting was conducted in order to look into the rationale for adopting the policy to transfer the general aviation operations at the NAIA and the capability of Sangley Point, Subic Bay and Clark International airports to accommodate the diverted flights from the NAIA.</p> <p>Rep. Tambunting added that there were also concerns raised by the business sector which will be affected by the implementation of the DO.</p> <p>DOTr Undersecretary Bobby Lim said that the DOTr already met with concerned business groups and that they agreed to come up with a compromise solution to address their concerns.</p> <p>The Joint Committee requested the resource persons present to submit their comments and recommendations relative to the issue at hand.</p>