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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Health	HRs 444 & 480 & Privilege Speech	Reps. Tan (A.), Suansing (E.), and Leachon	Inquiry into the legality of the procurement process and use of public funds relative to the school-based dengue immunization program of the Department of Health (DOH) as well as the efficacy and safety of the vaccine procured	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), Chair of the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Rep. Angelina “Helen” Tan M.D. (4th District, Quezon), Chair of the Committee on Health, will deliberate further on the three measures in its next meeting.</p> <p>The authors of the measures, Reps. Tan, Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija), and Doy Leachon (1st District, Oriental Mindoro), raised questions on the legality and propriety of the procurement of the dengue vaccines and the efficacy and safety of the vaccines in view of the supposed undue haste the procurement process and the product certification process were undertaken.</p> <p>Health Secretary Paulyn Jean Rosell-Ubial confirmed the observation of Rep. Leachon that the procurement of dengue vaccines is not included in the approved 2015 and 2016 national budget. The Secretary explained that while the DOH’s five-year strategic plan included the procurement of dengue vaccines under the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), it was supposed to be undertaken in years 2017 and 2018.</p> <p>On a similar question by Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), former Health Secretary Janette Garin said the budget for the procurement of the dengue vaccine was taken from agency savings, adding that supplemental work and financial plans are allowed with proper justification and approval from the President.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go inquired why the DOH had to transact with Zuellig Pharmaceutical Company in the procurement of the vaccines instead of directly dealing with the manufacturer, the Sanofi Pasteur, which would have allowed the government to obtain a better deal.</p> <p>Atty. Gerardo Paez of Sanofi Pasteur explained that his company has an existing distributorship agreement with Zuellig Pharma for the marketing of the dengue vaccine in the Philippines. Garin added that just like other international pharmaceutical companies, Sanofi contracted Zuellig as its local distributor for the latter’s adequate logistics and facilities.</p>

Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Health				<p>Rep. Henry Oaminal (2nd District, Misamis Occidental) inquired if the procurement of the dengue vaccine was compliant with the Government Procurement Reform Act (RA 9184).</p> <p>Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC) Executive Director Julius Lecciones said that the procurement for the dengue vaccine was compliant with the law. (PCMC conducted the bidding for the dengue vaccine.)</p> <p>Lecciones also stated that taking into consideration the prices of vaccines both in the global and domestic markets, the price of the dengue vaccine of P1,000.00 per vial is reasonable.</p> <p>Rep. Pimentel informed the Committee that the matter of having a single bidder in government procurement is allowed under Section 36 (Single Calculated/Rated and Responsive Bid Submission) of RA 9184 as long as the bidder meets the eligibility requirements.</p> <p>The resource persons present during the meeting were requested to submit their position papers and other pertinent documents requested by the Members of the Committee.</p> <p>Former DOH Undersecretary Kenneth Hartigan-Go will be invited in the next meeting of the Committee to get his side of the issue on conflict of interest in view of his being the former executive director of Zuellig.</p> <p>Likewise, the Joint Committee will reiterate its invitation to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the DOH's Formulary Executive Council (FEC), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to be present in its next meeting. If they again fail to attend, the Joint Committee will resort to the process of compelling attendance in meetings.</p>
Government Enterprises and Privatization	HB 148	Rep. Del Mar	Creating the Mega Cebu Development Authority, prescribing its powers, functions and duties, providing funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan (1 st District North Cotabato), approved HB 148 subject to style and amendment.
	HB 1418	Rep. Garcia (J.E.)	Creating the Metro Bataan Development Authority, defining its powers and functions, providing funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 1418 subject to style and amendment.
	HB 1419	Rep. Garcia (J.E.)	Creating the Manila Bay Development Authority, prescribing its powers, functions and duties, providing funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved HB 1419 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Strike Revilla (2nd District, Cavite) supports the approval of the bill, saying that the improvement of the Manila Bay will benefit the coastal towns of Cavite.</p> <p>Atty. Kristine Bartolome of the legal division of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) said that the creation of the Manila Bay Development Authority will institutionalize the efforts of the agencies involved in the rehabilitation of the bay.</p>

Continuation... Government Enterprises and Privatization	HB 1554	Rep. Go (M.)	Creating the Baguio City, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba and Tublay Development Authority (BLISTTDA), defining its powers and functions and providing funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 1554 subject to style and amendment.
	HB 3762	Rep. Enverga	Creating the Northern Quezon Development Authority (NQDA) in the Province of Quezon and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 3762. Department of Agriculture (DA) Region IV-A Regional Director Arnel de Mesa manifested his support for the bill.
	HB 4495	Rep. Savellano	Creating the Northern Luzon Growth Quadrangle Development Authority, prescribing its powers and functions and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 4495.
	HB 202	Deputy Speaker Abueg	Providing for the allocation of funds received from the utilization of offshore natural resources, creating for the purpose the Provincial Offshore Natural Resources Economic Development Authority (PONREDA), appropriating funds therefor	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune the bill. It likewise agreed to conduct TWG meetings jointly with the Committees on Natural Resources and Energy.
	HB 2122	Rep. Zamora (R.)	Establishing the National Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Development Authority (NRRDA) as the central planning and implementing agency on the early recovery and rehabilitation of disaster-stricken areas in the Philippines, providing funds therefor	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to study further HB 2122. Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. (1st District, Surigao del Sur) informed the Committee that he filed a similar bill, HB 596, which seeks to establish the Philippine Emergency and Disaster Management Authority (PEDMA) that will consolidate the country's emergency and disaster management efforts. The bill is referred to the Committee on National Defense. Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Deputy Administrator Kristofer Purisima said that the OCD is in the process of finalizing a bill that will amend RA 10121, or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010. One of the provisions in the amendatory bill, Purisima said, is the proposed creation of a Civil Defense Authority that will raise the status of the OCD to the level of a department.
HB 2279	Rep. Roque (H.)	Creating the Spratly Islands Development Authority	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to consolidate HBs 2279 and 4975.	
HB 4975	Rep. Yap (V.)	Creating the West Philippine Sea Authority, prescribing its powers and functions, and appropriating funds therefor	Rep. Sacdalan suggested the use of the term "West Philippine Sea" instead of "Spratly Islands" to expand the scope of the proposed law. Rep. Harry Roque Jr. (Party-List, KABAYAN) proposed to conduct an ocular inspection and a public hearing at the Kalayaan Group of Islands. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, Major General Guillermo Molina Jr., requested that he be included as member of the TWG.	
HB 564	Rep. Castelo	Creating the Metropolitan Quezon Development Authority and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee deferred its consideration of HB 564.	

Continuation... Government Enterprises and Privatization	HB 1659	Rep. Angara- Castillo	Creating the Benham Rise Development Authority (BRDA), defining its powers and functions, providing funds therefor	The Committee deferred its consideration of HB 1659.
	HB 4622	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Creating the Metro Cagayan de Misamis Development Authority (MCMDA), defining its powers and functions, providing funds therefor	The Committee deferred its consideration of HB 4622.
Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (Special Committee)	HR 769	Rep. Zarate	Urging President Rodrigo Duterte to continue the peace negotiations between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), considering the unprecedented and significant advances made on the substantive agenda of the negotiations for the benefit of the Filipino people	The Committee, chaired by Tawi-Tawi Rep. Ruby Sahali, adopted HR 769 subject to style and amendment and subsequently approved the corresponding Committee Report.
Public Information	HB 1030	Rep. Castelo	Regulating the work schedule and other terms of engagement governing cinema/radio/television/theater and other media personnel who are covered by a service or talent contract and providing penalties for violations thereof	<p>The Committee, chaired by ACT TEACHERS Party-List Rep. Antonio Tinio, will deliberate further on HB 1030 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City) said that his bill, HB 1030, seeks to regulate the number of working hours and other terms of engagement of cinema, radio, television, theater, and other media personnel who are covered by a talent or service contract. He said that in particular, the bill puts a cap on the work hours of these personnel who are usually compelled to work for long hours to meet deadlines or cut back on production costs. This backbreaking job takes its toll on the health of these workers.</p> <p>Nicanor Bon, chief of the Policy and Program Development Division of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), said that the Department has issued an advisory in 2016 which provides that the working hours of media personnel or talents shall not exceed eight hours a day. But, if they are required to work beyond eight hours, the maximum actual hours of work shall not exceed 12 hours in any 24-hour period.</p> <p>Representatives from the <i>Kapisanan ng Brodkaster ng Pilipinas</i> (KBP) and Radio Mindanao Network (RMN) expressed support for the bill.</p> <p>The officials of TV networks and talents and personalities involved in the radio, movie and TV industry will be invited to attend in the Committee's next meeting.</p>
Public Order and Safety	HB 2728	Rep. Alejano	Ordaining the modernization of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to study further HB 2728.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by ABANG LINGKOD Party-List Rep. Jose Stephen Paduano.</p> <p>MAGDALO Party-List Rep. Gary Alejano said that his bill, HB 2728, aims to establish fire stations and emergency medical services in all local government units (LGUs), among other things.</p> <p>BFP Legislative Liaison Officer Mario Teope recommended that the mandate of the BFP be</p>

Continuation... Public Order and Safety				<p>expanded to include provision of disaster rescue and emergency medical services.</p> <p>The BFP was requested to submit to the Committee its position paper on the bill. It was likewise asked to submit a list of LGUs with no fire trucks at their disposal.</p>
	HB 3037	Rep. Roque (H.)	Providing for safe access in fire emergencies	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to deliberate further on HB 3037.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Juliet Marie de Leon Ferrer (4th District, Negros Occidental).</p> <p>AKBAYAN Party-List Rep. Harry Roque Jr. said that his bill, HB 3037, requires window bars installed in residential homes to be equipped with quick release mechanism so that residents are not trapped inside their homes in case of fire.</p> <p>Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary Jesus Hinlo said that the BFP should be required to inspect residential houses to check compliance with fire safety standards.</p>
	HB 3499	Rep. Vargas	Providing for the compulsory disclosure of fire safety standards and measures in campus buildings	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 3499 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Commission on Higher Education's (CHED) Local Student Assistance Division Chief Nena Asingjo expressed support for the bill.</p> <p>Asingjo suggested that the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) be included in the coverage of the bill. She added that the BFP and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) should conduct fire safety inspection of buildings inside the school campus.</p>
	HB 4109	Rep. Chipeco	Strengthening the People's Law Enforcement Board (PLEB), further amending for the purpose RA 6975, otherwise known as the Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990, as amended	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to deliberate further on HB 4109.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Renato "Kuya Jojo" Unico Jr. (1th District, Camarines, Norte).</p> <p>Rep. Joaquin Chipeco Jr. (2nd District, Laguna), author of HB 4109, said that his bill grants the PLEB the sole and exclusive jurisdiction over all administrative cases filed against any member of the Philippine National Police (PNP) assigned in a particular city or municipality.</p> <p>Established by virtue of RA 6975, the PLEB is the central receiving entity for any citizen's complaint against the officers and members of the PNP.</p> <p>Hinlo said that the lack of proper training of PLEB members to hear cases hinders them from performing their duties well. Another problem, Hinlo said, is the absence of guarantee on the continuity of the program since there is no regular office that takes over the responsibility at the end of every term of the appointing officer.</p> <p>DILG Undersecretary Hinlo suggested that the</p>

Continuation... Public Order and Safety				<p>National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) should provide proper training to PLEB members to ensure proper handling of cases. He added that PLEB members should be lawyers.</p> <p>The PNP, NAPOLCOM and DILG were requested to submit their position papers on the bill for consideration by the TWG.</p>
Suffrage and Electoral Reforms	Substitute Bill to HBs 45, 743, 1371, 1372, 1373, 2486, 2487, 4539 & 5019	Deputy Speaker Quimbo, Reps. Aglipay-Villar, Tan (A.), Suansing (E.), Rodriguez (M.), and Speaker Alvarez	Providing for early voting for qualified senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PWDs) in national and local elections	<p>The Committee, chaired by CIBAC Party-List Rep. Sherwin Tugna, approved the substitute bill to the nine measures, subject to style and amendment, and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to amend Section 2 (Early Voting) of the substitute bill, specifying that polling places will include accessible public schools, government offices, and private establishments.</p> <p>Commission on Elections (COMELEC) Chair Andres Bautista said that the COMELEC is one with the bill's intention of enhancing the voting process to make it more convenient for voters especially for the senior citizens and PWDs. He, however, warned that early voting for these two sectors, although doable, would involve huge budgetary and logistical requirements, and might even pose a threat to the security of the ballots. He explained that the ballots cast during the early voting will have to be kept secured at some place until the counting of all the ballots after the election day itself.</p> <p>COOP-NATCCO Party-List Rep. Anthony Bravo averred that the concerns of COMELEC may be addressed in the crafting of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) should the bill become a law.</p>
Veterans Affairs and Welfare	HB 1128	Rep. Alejano	Providing for the payment of arrears in the veterans' pensions and benefits mandated pursuant to RA 7696, as amended, or the law standardizing and upgrading the benefits for military veterans and their dependents, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2nd District, Pangasinan), agreed to draft a substitute bill to the two measures incorporating therein the comments and suggestions of the resource persons.</p> <p>Administrator Ernesto Carolina of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) recommended the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sale of government properties, especially those that have historical and sentimental value to the veterans, should not be an option in raising funds for the payment of pension arrears; • To have ready sources of funds, give priority to the lease, development or use of the properties of agencies under the Office of the President that were already deactivated or dissolved, including the Philippine Veterans Investment Development Corporation (PHIVIDEC), Panay Railways, Inc., and PHIVIDEC Panay Agro-Industrial Corporation; and • Utilize part of the proceeds of the properties sold, leased or developed for the development and maintenance of heritage, heroic and historical shrines, parks and other places promoting the heroic deeds of the veterans.
	HB 1262	Rep. Biazon	Mandating the use of proceeds from the development, lease or use of certain government properties for payment of pensions and other benefits of the veterans	

Continuation... Veterans Affairs and Welfare				<p>Maria Teresa Taguiang, Philippine Consul General in Osaka-Kobe, Japan, explained that the properties of the Philippine government in Japan, which include those that are located in Roponggi, Nampeidai, and Fujimi in Tokyo and Noniwacho and Obanoyama in Kobe are being used as residence of the Ambassador, site of the Philippine Embassy, or under a service and development agreement with a fixed term of 53 years.</p> <p>Taguiang said that the proceeds from the service development agreement are directly transmitted to the service development fund under the Department of Finance (DOF).</p> <p>HB 1128, authored by MAGDALO Party-List Rep. Gary Alejano, provides that the properties in Japan which were given by the Japanese government to the Philippines under the Reparations Agreement will be subject to sale, lease, or development, the proceeds of which shall be used to pay the arrears in veterans' pension and benefits.</p> <p>Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) Director Dominador Chiong Jr. said that the income from the lease and development of the VMMC should be used to improve the quality of its service being provided to the veterans and their dependents.</p> <p>Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) Executive Vice President Aileen Zosa supports the bill, saying that 2% of BCDA's revenues is allocated to programs promoting the welfare of the veterans.</p> <p>Carolina, however, denied that the veterans ever received any amount representing the 2% share in BCDA's income.</p> <p>The resource persons present were requested to submit their position paper on the proposed law.</p> <p>Also during the meeting, the Committee adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Economic Affairs (Technical Working Group)	HBs 4389, 4468, 4501 & 4787	Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, Reps. Salceda, Yap (A.), and Belmonte (F.)	Further amending Commonwealth Act No. 146, otherwise known as the Public Service Act, as amended	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), will deliberate further on the bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>HB 4389, authored by Deputy Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga), is used as the working draft in the TWG's deliberations on the bills.</p> <p>In response to the comments from resource persons, the TWG agreed, among others, to delete Section 2, Paragraph D-III of HB 4389, which enumerates the public services that will not be considered as public utility.</p>

<p>Continuation... Economic Affairs (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>Early on, Secretary Rodolfo Salalima of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) expressed his objection to the exclusion of telecommunications, transportation, and broadcasting from the definition of public utilities. He emphasized that the said sectors should remain as public utilities because they are imbued with public interest and provide necessary services to the public.</p> <p>Rep. Salceda explained that by limiting the definition of public utilities to the operations of electric power transmission and distribution, water pipeline distribution, and sewerage pipeline system only, the proposed law aims to attract more foreign direct investments (FDIs) in other public services to help propel the country's economy.</p> <p>The 1987 Philippine Constitution restricts full foreign ownership of corporations engaged in the operation of public utilities.</p>
<p>Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Subcommittee on Correctional Reforms (Justice)</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 (E.)</p>	<p>Establishing social reintegration programs for children at risk or In conflict with the law</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by KABAYAN Party-List Rep. Ron Salo, terminated its discussion on the draft substitute bill to the six bills, incorporating therein the pertinent recommendations of the resource persons. The substitute bill will be presented to the Subcommittee on Correctional Reforms for its consideration.</p> <p>The determination on whether to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 12 or 9 years of age shall be voted upon by the Subcommittee in its meeting tomorrow, February 22.</p> <p>The TWG agreed on the following amendments to the substitute bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the title of the bill to "An Act Establishing Social Reintegration Programs for Children at Risk or In Conflict with the Law," in order to emphasize the importance of rehabilitation and reintegration of children and not just lowering their minimum age of culpability; • Authorize licensed foster parents to take custody of the child in case parents, guardians, or nearest relatives cannot be located or if they refuse to take custody of the child; and • Include the mandatory training of the Philippine National Police (PNP), local government units (LGUs), and barangay officials to better perform their responsibilities under the proposed law. <p>Juvenile Justice Welfare Council (JJWC) Executive Director Tricia Clare Oco said that such trainings are already being conducted for the PNP, LGUs and barangay officials.</p>

<p>Continuation... Mindanao Affairs</p>		<p>Capital Region) and Visayas is P718.02 billion and P328.74 billion, respectively.</p> <p>Rep. Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City) questioned DBM's one-year validity limit for department and agency appropriations, arguing that a year is too short to implement a project. Cantor explained that the DBM discourages lapsed allotments to be carried over to the next fiscal year.</p> <p>Rep. Zubiri proposed that DBM should allot more funds to the Commission on Audit (COA) to be able to meet its workforce requirements. He stressed that COA needs more employees to effectively monitor and check the accuracy of agencies' accomplishment reports.</p> <p>The DBM was requested to make a detailed report on the lump sum and special purpose fund under its budget for FY 2016 and 2017.</p> <p>The Department of Health (DOH), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) will present their proposed 2018 budget in the next meeting of the Committee.</p>
<p>North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>	<p>Briefing by the Department of Health (DOH) on its plans and programs for Regions I and II, and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Mountain Province Rep. Maximo Dalog, listened to the briefing conducted by DOH Undersecretary Achilles Gerard Bravo.</p> <p>At the outset, Bravo reported that the funds for the implementation of the DOH Medical Assistance Program (MAP) were already released last week to different hospitals nationwide including those in CAR and Regions I and II. He explained that pursuant to the DOH's new guidelines, funds intended for MAP beneficiaries will be directly released to the DOH-supervised hospitals and other government hospitals that executed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the DOH relative to the program.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Dalog on what services can be covered under MAP, Bravo replied that funds can be used as payment for the cost of a patient's hospital bill, medicines, a percentage of the professional fee of doctors, and other outpatient medical procedures such as dialysis.</p> <p>Kalinga Rep. Allen Jesse Mangaoang asked if the members' benefit claim from the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) will still be deducted from the patient's hospital bill, Bravo answered in the affirmative, adding that MAP will shoulder the remaining balance after the PhilHealth benefit has been deducted.</p> <p>When asked by Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma on the status of the construction of baranggay health stations (BHS), Bravo said that DOH targets to finish the project within the year. He, however, disclosed that the DOH is encountering problems in identifying and acquiring ownership of the properties where BHS will be constructed. He also said that some public schools, identified as BHS sites do not want to accommodate these stations within the school premises. The DOH is already coordinating with the Department of Education (DepEd) to resolve this matter, Bravo added.</p> <p>The DOH was requested to come up with policy guidelines in setting the fees for certain medical procedures and prices of medicines, and to submit a copy of its 2018 budget proposal for North Luzon.</p>

OTHER MATTERS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Public Information	Discussion regarding recent reports that certain government agencies blocked alleged child porn websites in the internet without sufficient basis	<p>The Committee, chaired by ACT TEACHERS Party-List Rep. Antonio Tinio, will continue its discussion on the issues arising from government agencies' blocking of websites or weblinks allegedly containing or showing child porn materials.</p> <p>Rep. Tinio questioned the authority of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) to issue an order to block alleged child porn weblinks. He stressed that Section 19 of the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012 (RA 10175), which empowers the Department of Justice (DOJ) to block certain porn websites, was already struck down by the Supreme Court in the <i>Disini vs. Secretary of Justice</i> case.</p> <p>DOJ Cybercrime Office Director (OIC) Jed Sherwin Uy opined that blocking websites showing child pornography is constitutional and in accordance with existing laws such as RA 9775 or the Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009. Uy promised to submit the DOJ's position paper on the matter within the week.</p> <p>When asked how the Philippine National Police (PNP) came up with the list of alleged child porn weblinks, PNP Anti-Cybercrime Group Director Marni Marcos Jr. said the information came from the National Central Bureau Interpol Secretariat and from complaints received by the PNP itself.</p> <p>Interpol is the world's largest police organization with 190 member countries. Its primary role is to assist law enforcement agencies around the world in combating all forms of transnational crime and terrorism.</p>

Erratum: In the Vol. I No. 70 issue of the Committee Daily Bulletin published on February 8, 2017 on the Committee on Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous People's meeting, the author of HB 3221 should be Benguet Rep. Ronald Cosalan and not ANAC-IP Rep. Jose Panganiban Jr. as reported. Our apologies.