

# Committee Daily Bulletin



17<sup>th</sup> Congress  
First Regular Session

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Appropriations	Substitute Bill to HBs 34, 246, 448, 1428, 1438, 1558, 1764, 1970, 2616, 2990, 3070, 3276 & 3371	Reps. Del Mar, Angara-Castillo, Belmonte (J.C.), Tupas, Belaro, Villafuerte, Zarate, Suansing (E.) Umali, Gatchalian, Primicias-Agabas, Roque (H.), and Rodriguez (M.)	Institutionalizing the national school feeding program for public kindergarten and elementary pupils and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Davao City), approved the Substitute Bill to the 13 bills.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 104, 233, 504, 1505 & 1968	Reps. Tan (A.), Marcoleta, Yap (V.), Alejano, and Suansing (E.)	Establishing a free basic medicine assistance program in all government health facilities nationwide and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to HBs 104, 233, 504, 1505 and 1968.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 1204, 2900, 4366 & 4628	Reps. Yu, Aumentado, Salceda, and Nieto	Strengthening the <i>Balik Scientist</i> Program and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 1204, 2900, 4366 and 4628.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 1890 & 2867	Reps. Defensor and Escudero	Establishing a career guidance and counselling program for all secondary schools and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 1890 and 2867.
	HB 139	Rep. Noel	Mandating the conservation of Gabaldon and other heritage school buildings nationwide, providing penalties for violations thereof, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 139.
	HB 929	Rep. Abaya	Providing for the establishment of the no calls and no text registration system	The Committee approved HB 929 with amendments.
	HB 1530 in consolidation with HBs 2064 & 3157	Reps. Gonzales (A.P.), Villar, and Alejano	Requiring government agencies to indicate the blood type of individuals in the identification cards, certificates, and licenses	The Committee approved HB 1530 in consolidation with HBs 2064 and 3157.
	HB 3222 in consolidation with HBs 1387 & 2822	Deputy Speaker Cayetano, Reps. Vargas and Suansing (E.)	Establishing a national vision screening program for kindergarten pupils and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved with amendments HB 3222 in consolidation with HBs 1387 & 2822.
	HB 4601	Rep. Cua	Mandating the establishment of electronic linkage between the Bureau of	The Committee approved HB 4601 with amendments.

Continuation... Appropriations			Internal Revenue (BIR) and VAT-registered taxpayers utilizing cash register and/or point-of-sale machines	
	Substitute Bill to HB 1234	Rep. Umali	Creating an additional branch of the RTC to be stationed in the Municipality of Bongabong, and four additional branches of the Municipal Trial Court (MTC) to be stationed in the Municipalities of Bansud, Bulalacao, Gloria, and Mansalay all in the Province of Oriental Mindoro, amending for the purpose Sections 14(e) and 30 of BP 129, otherwise known as the Judiciary Organization Act of 1980, as amended, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 1234.
	Substitute Bill to HB 2497	Rep. Sandoval	Creating two additional branches of the MTC in the national capital judicial region to be stationed in Malabon City, Metro Manila, amending for the purpose Section 27 of BP 129, as amended, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 2497.
	HB 198, HB 2433 and Substitute Bills to HBs 451, 991, 2011 & 2029	Reps. Cari, Collantes, Gomez, Chipeco, Deloso-Montalla, and Marcos	Creating additional branches of Regional Trial Courts (RTC) in certain parts of the country	The Committee approved HB 198, HB 2433, and the Substitute Bills to HBs 451, 991, 2011 and 2029.
Bases Conversion (Special Committee)	Substitute Bill to HB 469	Deputy Speaker Abu	Providing for the inclusion of the Fernando Air Base in Lipa City, Batangas in the conversion of military reservations into other productive uses, amending for the purpose RA 7227, as amended, otherwise known as the Bases Conversion and Development Act of 1992	<p>The Committee, chaired by Pasay City Rep. Emi Calixto-Rubiano, approved the Substitute Bill to HB 469 subject to style and amendment. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Raneo Abu (2nd District, Batangas) said that his bill, HB 469, aims to convert the Fernando Air Base (FAB) in Lipa City into a dual-use airport which shall serve the Southern Tagalog Region and shall function as subsidiary airport to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).</p> <p>Armed Forces of the Philippines Real Estate Office (AFPREGO) Assistant Chief William Ilagan objected to the proposed law, arguing that the properties within the FAB were acquired by the government through expropriation for military use, such that there might be legal implications if these will be used for other purposes.</p> <p>Ilagan added that the proposed conversion may compromise the safety and security of the area as well as the internal security operations and future plans of the Philippine Air Force (PAF).</p> <p>Atty. Blaise Mari Alaras of the Legal Service Department, Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), clarified that once a military base is included in the coverage of RA 7227, BCDA will automatically own and administer the property.</p>

Continuation... Bases Conversion (Special Committee)				<p>Reacting to Alaras' comment, Ilagan recommended the inclusion in the bill of a provision stating that the AFP retains ownership of the FAB property, and the BCDA takes charge of administering the property.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Quezon City) if it is possible for the AFP and BCDA to share in the profit arising from the development of the FAB, BCDA Executive Vice President Aileen Zosa replied in the affirmative.</p>
	HB 3685	Deputy Speaker Macapagal- Arroyo	Amending Section 15 of RA 7227, as amended	The Committee deferred its deliberation of HB 3685.
Food Security	HBs 247, 767, 3419 & 3937	Reps. Bordado, Aglipay-Villar, Banal, and Bag-ao	Creating a system of food distribution to address the nutritional needs of the people, providing for its procurement process, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Leo Rafael Cueva (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Negros Occidental), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the four bills.</p> <p>The TWG shall be chaired by Rep. Gil "Kabarangay" Acosta (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Palawan).</p> <p>The bills aim to address both hunger and poverty in the country through a national feeding program and a sustainable livelihood program.</p> <p>Atty. Hanedine Palabras of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said that the PSA cannot create and maintain a database on the most vulnerable groups or individuals as basis for identifying the beneficiaries under the national hunger targeting system (NHTS) as required under the proposed law. She explained that the individual data obtained by the PSA from surveys and censuses are considered confidential information.</p> <p>Palabras mentioned that local government units (LGUs) maintain a community based management system (CBMS) which has data on groups or individuals with the least access to nutrition. She, however, said that the PSA is willing to provide the necessary technical assistance in the implementation of the proposed law.</p> <p>Ma. Elizabeth Salvino, nutrition dietitian of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), recommended the inclusion of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) as one of the agencies that will be tasked to establish the NHTS since the Institute conducts nutrition surveys nationwide.</p> <p>Salvino likewise recommended that the National Nutrition Council (NNC) be designated as the implementing agency of the proposed law instead of creating another body for this purpose. She said that the NNC, the highest policy-making and coordinating body</p>

Continuation... Food Security				<p>on nutrition, needs only to be strengthened to be more effective.</p> <p>FNRI Senior Researcher Ana Rita Ramirez confirmed that the FNRI, as the lead agency in food and nutrition research and development, provides nutrition statistics and the nutritional status of various population groups based on a nationwide nutrition survey it conducts every five years.</p> <p>Melissa Santiago-Yan, deputy executive director of the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), informed the Committee of an existing manual for negotiated procurement that can be adopted under the proposed law.</p> <p>Representatives from the NNC, Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Agriculture (DA), and Landbank of the Philippines (LBP) expressed support for the proposed law.</p>
Housing and Urban Development	Substitute Bill to HBs 82, 160, 1613, 2783, 3135, 3936, 4124 & 4213	Reps. Benitez, Belmonte (J.C.), Villarin, Rodriguez (I.), Revilla, Bag-ao, Salo and Vargas	Establishing an on-site, in-city, or near city resettlement program for informal settler families in accordance with a people's plan and mandating relocating local government units (LGUs) to provide other basic services and livelihood components in favor of the recipient LGU, amending for the purpose RA 7279, as amended, otherwise known as the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill with amendments.
	HB 159	Rep. Belmonte (J.C.)	Strengthening the right of government to expropriate land for socialized housing, amending for the purpose Sections 9, 10, & 11 of RA7279	The Committee approved the Committee Report on HB 159.
	House Joint Resolution (HJR) 3	Rep. Benitez	Ordaining a glossary of significant housing terminologies for adherence by the key shelter agencies, other appropriate agencies of government,, and other housing and urban development stakeholders	<p>The Committee directed the Secretariat to prepare a substitute resolution, incorporating therein the pertinent inputs of the resource persons, and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Representatives from the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, (HUDCC), Home Guarantee Corporation (HGC), National Housing and Finance Corporation (NHFC), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH); as well as the Organization of Socialized Housing Developers of the Philippines (OSHDP) and United Nations (UN) Habitat Philippines expressed their support to the joint resolution. They promised to submit their position papers on the measure in due time.</p> <p>Project Manager Mark David Ablang from the Department of Finance (DOF) said that the</p>

Continuation... Housing and Urban Development				<p>DOF is still reviewing and validating some financial terms used in HJR 3 that need to be clearly defined. The DOF promised to submit its position paper on the matter as soon as possible.</p> <p>Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PDIS) Vice President Marife Ballesteros interposed no objection to the resolution. However, Ballesteros recommended that the glossary of terms be no longer categorized into two (national and operational terminologies) saying that a single definition should apply to both.</p>
Information and Communications Technology	HBs 1946 & 3052	Reps. Santos- Recto and Yap (V.)	Expanding the coverage and strengthening the powers of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), amending for the purpose RA 7925, otherwise known as the Public Telecommunications Policy Act of the Philippines	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Victor Yap (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Tarlac), agreed to refer HBs 1946, 3052 and 3876 to its Subcommittee on Telecommunications, chaired by Rep. Francis Gerald Abaya (1<sup>st</sup> District, Cavite), to study further and consolidate the bills.</p> <p>The Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Cristina "Chiqui" Roa-Puno (1<sup>st</sup> District, Antipolo City), presided over the meeting to allow the Committee Chair to sponsor his bill, HB 3052.</p> <p>Rep. Yap said that his bill seeks to amend RA 7925 by expanding and strengthening the NTC's powers and authority to regulate telecommunications companies (telcos) and other industry-related entities, including value-added services, such as the internet, mobile phone and broadband network services. Rep. Yap added that the proposed law will allow NTC to ensure that the services of telcos will be more accessible and affordable, and at par with international standards, while upholding consumer welfare and a fair competitive market.</p> <p>BUHAY Party-List Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr. said that all corporations and not only a few must be given equal opportunity to engage in telecommunications business that will lead to better and improved services for the benefit of the consumers.</p> <p>NTC Deputy Commissioner Edgardo Cabarios welcomed the proposed amendments to RA 7925, and suggested that HB 2871, also authored by Rep. Yap, be included in the deliberations as it also proposes amendments to RA 7925, particularly on promoting open access in data transmission.</p> <p>Director (OIC) Analiza Ite-Manito of the Compliance and Monitoring Division of the Department of Justice (DOJ) suggested that a separate provision on offenses and penalties be included in the consolidated bill.</p> <p>Commissioner Johannes Benjamin Bernabe of the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC), National Chair Estrellita Juliano-Tamano of the Federation of International</p>
	HB 3876	Rep. Zarate	Expanding the powers of the NTC in classifying short messaging service and internet services as utilities imbued with public interest and providing penalties for violations thereof, amending RA 7925	

Continuation... Information and Communications Technology				<p>Cable TV and Telecommunications Association of the Philippines (FICTAP), Executive Director Liza Garcia of the Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA), and Vice President Mary Grace Mirandilla-Santos of the Internet Society-Philippines Chapter (ISOC-PH) expressed support for the bills.</p> <p>Representatives of Smart Communications, Inc. and Globe Telecom promised to submit their respective position papers on the bills.</p> <p>Rep. Yap invited all stakeholders present including telecommunications industry players to participate in the deliberations on the proposed law at the subcommittee level. They were also requested to submit their position papers on the bills.</p>
Muslim Affairs	HB 2623	Rep. Atienza	Creating a Muslim Trade and Cultural Center of the Philippines in the City of Manila, as the capital of the Philippines, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by AMIN Party-List Rep. Sitti Djalia Turabin-Hataman, approved HB 2623 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>BUHAY Party-List Rep. Jose Atienza Jr., author of the bill, explained that the establishment of a Muslim Trade and Cultural Center in Manila, the capital of the Philippines, can help the country better understand and appreciate the Muslim way of life. He highlighted the importance of rediscovering the country's Muslim heritage and generating an awareness and appreciation of the Muslim culture.</p> <p>Representatives from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCFM) manifested their support for the bill.</p> <p>Asked by Manila City Administrator Ericson Alcovendaz on the proposed location of the Center, Rep. Atienza identified the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) complex as a possible site.</p> <p>NCFM Regional Director Camad Edres recommended the Golden Mosque compound in Manila as an alternative location in case the CCP cannot accommodate the proposed center.</p>
Natural Resources	HB 1618	Rep. Zarate	Declaring as closed to mining application those areas declared by local government units (LGUs) as no mining zones, amending for the purpose RA 7942, also known as the Philippine Mining Act of 1995	The Committee, chaired by BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate, approved HB 1618. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.
	HB 2852	Rep. Tejada	Declaring the Province of North Cotabato as a mining-free zone and providing penalties for violation thereof	The Committee approved HB 2852. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.
	HB 4799	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Declaring the City of Cagayan de Oro a mining-free zone	The Committee approved HB 4799, with amendments. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.

Continuation... Natural Resources				The Committee agreed that gravel, sand and other non-metallic minerals will be excluded from the coverage of the proposed law.
	HB 2165	Rep. Amante	Providing for the mandatory domestic processing of all mineral ores, amending for the purpose RA 7942	The Committee will deliberate further on HBs 2165, 2915 and 3229.
	HBs 2915 & 3229	Reps. Paduano and Matugas	Promoting the development of minerals processing and in the process banning the export of iron, nickel, chromite, manganese, black sand, and other strategic metallic ores	<p>Juancho Pablo Calvez, chief of the Metallurgical Technology Division of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), expressed support for the proposed law, but suggested that the intended ban on the export of unprocessed mineral ores should not apply to all mining activities, and must be imposed gradually.</p> <p>Board of Investments (BOI) Governor Lucita Reyes said that promoting value adding activities and developing downstream industries in the mining sector are among the objectives of the Philippine Development Plan and Executive Order 79, which aims to institutionalize and implement reforms in the mining sector.</p> <p>Reyes advised the Committee that before the country pursues domestic processing and bans exports of raw mineral ores, it must be able to manage the transition period, ensure steady supply of raw materials, and define the role of government agencies and other stakeholders.</p> <p>The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) was directed to submit an assessment report of the previous Philippine Development Plan covering the period 2011-2016.</p> <p>The other resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the proposed law.</p>
HB 488	Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo	Prescribing the standards for responsible mining	<p>The Committee deferred consideration of HB 488.</p> <p>Rodolfo Velasco Jr., chief of the MGB's Mine Safety, Environment and Social Development Division, interposed no objection to the proposed law, but he reminded the Committee that the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 (RA 7942) and its implementing rules and regulations (IRR) already provide the standards for responsible mining.</p> <p>The resource persons present during the meeting were requested to submit their respective position papers before the next scheduled meeting.</p>	
People's Participation	Substitute Bill to HBs 191, 3862, 3429 & 1388	Reps. Bravo (A.), Bag-ao, Rocamora, and Vargas	Institutionalizing citizen's participation in the budget process	<p>The Committee, chaired by Dinagat Islands Rep. Kaka Bag-ao, approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 191, 3862, 3429 and 1388.</p> <p>The Substitute Bill will be referred to the</p>

Continuation... People's Participation				Committee on Appropriations for the consideration and approval of the bill's appropriations provision.
	HB 568	Rep. Canama	Enhancing participatory governance by providing an avenue for civil society organizations (CSOs) to assist in the local decision-making process and through the establishment of a people's council in every local government unit (LGU), prescribing its powers and functions	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 568 in another meeting.</p> <p>Vice President Maria Leonor "Leni" Robredo, who attended the meeting, shared the best practices of Naga City, in the Bicol Region in participatory governance, highlighting the establishment of the Naga City People's Council.</p> <p>The Vice President underscored the importance of promoting inclusive governance through meaningful participation of the informal sector, organized groups, and individual citizens. She added that people's participation provides a venue for household and individuals to engage in local governance and measure the performance of the local government.</p> <p>Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1<sup>st</sup> District, Ilocos Norte) urged the Committee to make sure that the heads of government agencies and departments personally attend committee meetings and not just send their representatives to attend in their behalf. He added that if the second highest executive official of the country was able to take time to attend a congressional meeting, the officials of the agencies and departments could also do the same.</p>
	HB 569	Rep. Canama	Providing for people's direct participation in funding charitable institutions and other development-oriented civil society organizations through a percentage of their personal income tax	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 569 in another meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Bag-ao informed the Committee that the Department of Finance (DOF), based on the position paper submitted to the Committee, opposes the proposed law citing the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The bill violates Section 29 of the Constitution which states that "no money shall be paid out of the Treasury except in pursuance of an appropriation made by law."</li> <li>• The accreditation of organizations which may receive donations may become a problem given the difficulty of assuring the credibility and proper qualification of private charitable institutions or civil society organizations (CSOs).</li> <li>• Given the very broad definition of CSOs and the process of directly allocating funds to the recipient organizations, the proposed law may pose administrative difficulties in monitoring such transactions and may give rise to transparency issues.</li> <li>• There are already provisions in the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) that provide incentives to taxpayers to encourage contribution</li> </ul>

Continuation... People's Participation				<p>to certain private and public organizations.</p> <p>Rep. Bag-ao requested the bill's authors, COOP NATCCO Party-List Reps. Sabiniano Canama and Anthony Bravo, to study the bill further in light of the DOF's comments.</p>
Population and Family Relations	HBs 865, 2989, 4708 & 4980	Reps. Yap (V.), Gatchalian, Antonino, and Batocabe	Providing protection to the elderly against abuse, neglect and exploitation, and prescribing penalties for violation thereof	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sol Aragonces (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Laguna), agreed to consolidate HBs 865, 2989, 4708 and 4980. The consolidated version will be presented in the Committee's next meeting for consideration and approval.</p> <p>The representatives from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), Commission on Human Rights (CHR), Confederation of Older Persons Association of the Philippines (COPAP), Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE) Inc., and Federation of Senior Citizens Association of the Philippines (FSCAP) expressed support for the proposed law.</p> <p>The DSWD, NAPC and CHR also presented their respective programs on the care and protection of the elderly.</p> <p>Chief Superintendent Elmer Jamias of the Philippine National Police (PNP) also expressed support for the measures, but suggested that the penalty provision of the proposed law should conform to the provisions of the Revised Penal Code.</p> <p>Department of Justice (DOJ) State Counsel Wilberto Tolitol promised to submit the DOJ's position paper next week.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit data concerning cases of abuse of the elderly.</p>
	HB 4569	Rep. Batocabe	Providing for the creation of a council for the welfare of older persons	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 4569 upon the submission by the resource persons of their respective position papers.</p> <p>AKO BICOL Party-List Rep. Rodel Batocabe said that Section 11 (Appropriations) of the bill may be deleted, suggesting that the budgetary requirement for the operations of the proposed Council for the Welfare of Older Persons (CWOP) may be included in the DSWD's annual budget proposal.</p> <p>DSWD Undersecretary Florita Villar expressed no objection to Rep. Batocabe's suggestion.</p>
Public Works and Highways	HB 1426	Rep. Yap (M.)	Establishing the Negros Occidental first engineering district office in the Province of Negros Occidental and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Celso Lobregat (1<sup>st</sup> District, Zamboanga City), approved the bill.</p>

Revision of Laws	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 Committee chaired by Rep. Marlyn Primicias-Agabas (6<sup>th</sup> District, Pangasinan), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 3605.</p> <p>Section 13 (Suspension and Loss of Benefits) of RA 3019 is being amended to exempt an incumbent public officer from the imposition of a preventive suspension order who is being charged with an offense he supposedly committed in his previous Office.</p> <p>Rep. Vicente “Ching” Veloso (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Leyte), chair of the technical working group (TWG) created to fine-tune HB 3605, presented the output of the TWG.</p> <p>Rep. Veloso pointed out that since the Sandiganbayan does not have the authority to issue preventive suspension orders against judges, it should also not have this power over Members of Congress, citing applicable legal provisions and jurisprudence and the equal protection clause in the Constitution.</p>
	HB 4661	Majority Leader Fariñas	Declaring December 8 of every year as a special non-working holiday in the entire country to commemorate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary	<p>The Committee approved HB 4661.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p>
	HB 4500	Rep. Tambunting	Declaring February 23 of every year as National Rotary Day and a regular working holiday	<p>The Committee approved HB 4500.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p>
	HBs 2268 & 2325	Reps. Bag-ao and Relampagos	Declaring special working holidays in the Provinces of Dinagat Islands and Bohol	<p>The Committee approved HBs 2268 and 2325.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Reports.</p>
	HB 2580	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Declaring December 16 of every year as the Sendong Memorial and Disaster Preparedness Day in Cagayan de Oro City and Iligan City	<p>The Committee approved HB 2580.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p>
	HBs 1637, 1865, 1928, 2028, 2039, 2097, 2110, 2112, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2221, 2270, 2483, 2484, 2615, 2618, 2692 & 2747	Deputy Speaker Garcia, Reps. De Venecia, Uy (J.), Marcos, Sarmiento (C.), Calixto-Rubiano, Deputy Speaker Abueg, Reps. Mangudadatu (Z.), Gonzales, Cueva, Majority Leader Fariñas, Reps. Mangudadatu (S.), Bautista-Bandigan, and Alonte-Naguiat	Declaring special non-working holidays in certain parts of the country to commemorate special events	<p>The Committee approved the 20 bills.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Reports.</p>
	HB 2290	Rep. Eusebio	Declaring July 2 of every year as a special non-working holiday in Pasig City, to be known as the Anniversary Day Of Pasig City	<p>The Committee deferred consideration of HB 2290.</p> <p>The National Historical Commission of the</p>

Continuation... Revision of Laws				Philippines (NHCP) conveyed its objection to the bill citing the absence of historical basis for this declaration.
Transportation	HBs 725 & 3825	Reps. Dalog and Revilla	Prohibiting the collection of fees from passengers for the use of sanitary facilities located in the land transportation terminals, stations, stops and rest areas	The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, approved HBs 725 and 3825.  The Secretariat was directed to prepare the substitute bill and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HBs 72, 706, 2477 & 3642	Reps. Vargas, Angara-Castillo, Castelo, and Laogan	Institutionalizing the grant of student fare discount privileges on all public transportation systems	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the four bills and incorporate therein the recommendations of the Members and the resource persons present in the meeting.  Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), author of HB 2477, believed that the grant of discount to students would redound to the benefit of the economy since the savings that will be earned by both the parents and the students will be diverted to the purchase of other commodities.  ANG KABUHAYAN Party-List Rep. Dennis Laogan, author of HB 3642, added that the savings earned could be spent on essential school requirements such as books and other materials.
	HBs 755 & 2742	Reps. Aglipay-Villar and Biazon	Providing for the mandatory installation of closed-circuit television (CCTV) or surveillance (security) camera in every bus being operated for public utility in the country	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate HBs 755 and 2742, as well as two other bills (HBs 592 and 2305), which have the same subject matter, upon their referral to the Committee.  HBs 592 and 2305, respectively filed by Reps. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr. (Party-List, BUAHAY) and Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Quezon City), were earlier referred to the Committee on Public Order and Safety. A request for a change of referral will be made with the Committee on Rules.  Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, author of HB 2742, requested that the provision in his bill requiring the mandatory installation of dashboard cameras in private vehicles be included in the consolidated bill.  DIWA Party-List Rep. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar, author of HB 755, said that the proposed law would serve as a deterrent to the commission of crimes.
Ways and Means	HBs 4688 & 4774	Reps. Salceda & Cua	Amending certain sections of RA 8424, otherwise known as the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended	The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, will deliberate further on the 52 bills which seek to amend certain sections of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 (RA 8424) in its next meeting.
	HBs 20, 35, 39, 57, 103, 137, 295, 333, 403, 411, 466, 562, 1536,	Deputy Speaker Quimbo, Reps. Del Mar, Yap (A.), Tinio, Tan (A.), Noel, Suansing (H.),	Restructuring/adjusting the income tax rates imposed on individuals and corporations, amending certain sections of RA 8424, as amended	Department of Finance (DOF) Undersecretary Karl Chua presented the merits of the comprehensive tax package under HB 4774, which the DOF endorses. Chua emphasized

Continuation... Ways and Means	1601, 1604, 1656, 1657, 1696, 1945, 1950, 2347, 2427, 2544, 3259 & 3360	Zarate, Abellanosa, Tiangco, Deputy Speaker Abu, Reps. Castelo, Herrera-Dy, Baguilat, Angara-Castillo, Rodriguez (M.), Santos-Recto, Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, Reps. Javier, Pineda, Aglipay-Villar, and Deputy Speaker Garin		that broadening the tax base and lowering the tax rate will result in an equitable tax system.
	HBs 183, 362 & 4299	Reps. Olivarez, Zamora (M.), and Cortuna	Increasing the age ceiling for a qualified dependent, amending Section 35 of RA 8424, as amended	Representatives from the government side, namely, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), National Tax Research Center (NTRC), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and Department of Budget and Management (DBM) expressed their support for the comprehensive tax package.
	HBs 363, 997, 1326, 1522, 2140, 3734 & 4068	Reps. Zamora (M.), Campos, Gatchalian, Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, Reps. Cuaresma, Cortuna, and Zubiri	Increasing the personal and additional income tax exemptions for each qualified taxpayer and dependent, amending for the purpose Sec. 35 of RA 8424, as amended	Likewise, the stakeholders present, namely, Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX), Philippine Medical Association (PMA), Philippine Nurses Association (PNA), Nutritionist-Dieticians' Association of the Philippines (NDAP), Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters Inc. (PAMURI), Chambers of Customs Brokers, Inc. (CCBI), Tax Management Association of the Philippines (TMAP), Sentro ng mga Nagkakaisa at Progresibong Manggagawa (SENTRO), Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA), and Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), manifested their support for the proposed tax reforms. However, some of them made the following recommendations:
	HBs 1000, 1002, 2154, 2599, 2600, 2601 & 3668	Reps. Campos, Pineda, Santos-Recto, and Tambunting	Excluding overtime pay, 13 <sup>th</sup> month pay, performance-based bonus, and night differential pay from the computation of taxable income, amending for the purpose Sec. 32 of RA 8424, as amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed top income tax rate for compensation earners of 35% is very high and must be adjusted to 30% to be more competitive with the country's ASEAN neighbors; and</li> <li>The proposed 8% income tax rate for self-employed and professionals must be made optional if the gross receipts do not exceed the P3 million threshold and must be in lieu of the percentage tax.</li> </ul>
	HB 1272	Rep. Biazon	Including medical expenses as allowable tax deductions for individual taxpayers, amending for the purpose Sec. 34 of RA 8424, as amended	Rep. Cua and Deputy Speaker Romero "Miro" Quimbo (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Marikina City) requested the DOF to present to the Committee an accurate study on the possible impact of the proposed measures on government revenues.
	HB 1660	Rep. Angara-Castillo	Providing for tax deductions for family requirements including payments for tertiary education tuition and allied expenses as well as interest payments for a first home mortgage, amending for the purpose Sec. 34 of RA 8424, as amended	The BIR was asked to furnish the Committee with data on the number of taxpayers in the following income brackets: below P3 million, above P3 million but not more than P5 million, above P5 million but not more than P10 million, and above P10 million.
	HB 1705	Rep. Biazon	Exempting from tax allowances and benefits granted to public school teachers, including those in the state colleges and universities (SUCs)	The stakeholders present were requested to submit their position papers on the bills.
	HB 1803	Rep. Gasataya	Amending Sec. 35, Paragraph B (4) of RA 8424, as amended	Rep. Cua informed the Members of the Committee and the stakeholders present that the Committee is scheduled to conduct a public hearing on March 1, 2017 on the comprehensive tax package.
	HB 3327	Rep. Ocampo	Granting tax deductions to parents and legal guardians of children with special needs	
	HB 3741	Rep. Rep. Marcoleta	Including incidental expenses in the exercise of profession as additional	

Continuation... Ways and Means			allowable deductions from the taxable of income of teachers	
	HB 4134	Rep. Bag-ao	Amending Sections 24, 34 and 110 of RA 8424, as amended, by reducing the income tax liabilities of individuals	
	HB 4696	Rep. Villafuerte	Amending Section 24 of RA 8424, as amended	
Youth and Sports Development	HB 2649	Rep. Gatchalian	Providing for the Magna Carta of the out-of-school youth	<p>The Committee, chaired by ABONO Party-List Rep. Conrado Estrella III, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to study further HB 2649. The TWG will be headed by Committee Vice Chair and Kalinga Rep. Allen Jesse Mangaoang.</p> <p>PBA Party-List Rep. Mark Aeron Sambar asked the resource persons on the existing programs of their respective agencies for out-of-school youth (OSY).</p> <p>Nena Asingjo, chief education program specialist of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), said that the Commission is already implementing programs and providing financial packages for the OSY, which include the Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP), Ladderized Education Program (LEP), and Student Financial Assistance Program.</p> <p>Public Attorney Meizelle Antonio of the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) manifested her support for the bill, adding that the PAO provides free legal assistance to any indigent person including OSY.</p> <p>Jose Sandoval, head of the Employment Service and Program Monitoring Division of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), opined that the powers and responsibilities of the proposed Out-Of-School Youth Welfare Council (OSYWC) as stated in Section 29 of HB 2649 are also the functions of the National Youth Commission (NYC).</p> <p>Sandoval advised the Committee to thoroughly review the provisions of the bill to avoid overlapping of functions between the NYC and the proposed OSYWC, and duplication of government assistance programs.</p> <p>NYC Commissioner Paul Pangilinan also suggested that an inventory of existing government programs for the OSY be conducted to avoid duplication of programs. He further said that the proposed OSYWC should be integrated with the Local Youth Development Council and Local Youth Development Office, which are provided for under RA 10742 or the <i>Sangguniang Kabataan</i> Reform Act of 2015.</p>

<p>Continuation... Youth and Sports Development</p>				<p>Celestino Millar, chief of the Policy and Planning Division of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), expressed his support for the bill. He, however, said that because of its inadequate number of personnel, TESDA may not be able to effectively monitor the progress of the OSYs enrolled in their programs, as required in Section 17 of the bill.</p> <p>Representatives from the Departments of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Health (DOH), and Trade and Industry (DTI) interposed no objection to the bill.</p> <p>Rep. Ruwel Peter Gonzaga (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Compostela Valley) commented that Section 32 (Penalties) of HB 2649 does not specifically define the elements of the crime to constitute an offense and warrant a penalty.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Cristal Bagatsing (5<sup>th</sup> District, Manila), Senior Manager Narisa Portia Sugay of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) answered that PhilHealth has no system to determine how many OSYs are covered by the government's health insurance.</p> <p>Rep. Bagatsing requested DSWD to come up with a database of OSY per region, and assist PhilHealth in identifying the OSY which are under its program.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their position paper on the proposed measure.</p>
	<p>HB 4052</p>	<p>Rep. Relampagos</p>	<p>Youth Empowerment Act</p>	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to study further HB 4052, which will be headed by Rep. Mangaoang.</p> <p>Rep. Rene Relampagos (1<sup>st</sup> District, Bohol), author of HB 4052, said that the proposed law aims to expand the participation of the youth sector in local governance.</p> <p>When asked whether HB 4052 intends to replace the <i>Sangguniang Kabataan</i> (SK), Rep. Relampagos answered in the affirmative.</p> <p>Rep. Christopher "Toff" Vera Perez de Venecia (4<sup>th</sup> District, Pangasinan) suggested that the age of youth should be from 15 to 30 years old, instead of 15 to 24, as stated in Section 3 (Definition of Terms) of the bill.</p> <p>Pangilinan reported that the Philippine Youth Development Plan 2017-2022 is expected to be completed by March this year. He said that the Plan is a product of a series of consultations with agencies concerned and youth organizations in different regions.</p> <p>Rep. Relampagos questioned the process involved in the crafting of the Philippine Youth</p>

Continuation... Youth and Sports Development				Development Plan, stressing that all major stakeholders and youth organizations should be included in the planning.  Rep. De Venecia requested the NYC to present to the Committee the Philippine Youth Development Plan 2017-2022 in another meeting.  The resource persons were requested to submit their position papers on the proposed law.
	HB 1579	Rep. Vargas	Instituting the Youth Legislators Program	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to study further HB 1579, which will be headed by Rep. Mangaoang.
	HB 2971	Rep. Ermita-Buhain	Establishing a Youth Development and Training Center in every city and municipality in the country, amending for the purpose RA 8044, otherwise known as the Youth in Nation-building Act and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee deferred its consideration of HB 2971 in view of the request of Rep. Elenita Milagros "Eileen" Ermita-Buhain (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Batangas), author of HB 2971, to further study the proposed law, especially its funding requirement.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Subcommittee on Correctional Reforms (Justice)	Substitute Bill to HBs 2, 505, 935, 1609, 2009 & 3973	Deputy Speaker Castro, Reps. Yap (V.), Tiangco, Cagas, Acop, and Suansing (E.)	Establishing social reintegration programs for children at risk or in conflict with the law	<p>The Subcommittee on Correctional Reforms, chaired by Rep. Henry Oaminal (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Misamis Occidental), will deliberate further on the substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1<sup>st</sup> District, Ilocos Norte) stressed that the proposed law, which is a priority bill of President Rodrigo Duterte, will only restore the minimum age of criminal responsibility provided for under the Revised Penal Code.</p> <p>GABRIELA Party-List Rep. Arlene Brosas opposed the bill, arguing that children in conflict with the law should be considered as victims and not criminals. She suggested that instead of lowering the age of criminal liability, the government should fully implement the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006 (RA 9344).</p>
	<i>Motu Proprio</i> inquiry		Allegations of special privileges granted to inmates detained at the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Custodial Center for testifying during the congressional hearings on the proliferation of drug syndicates in the New Bilibid Prison (NBP)	<p>The Subcommittee will continue this inquiry in its next meeting.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Oaminal said that the Subcommittee was tasked to conduct an inquiry into reports that high profile inmates transferred from the NBP to the AFP Custodial Center enjoy lavish lifestyles.</p> <p>This information is contained in a confidential memorandum dated December 9, 2016 prepared by Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) Legal Office Chief Alvin Herrera Lim. The memorandum also stated that the Philippine</p>

Continuation... Subcommittee on Correctional Reforms (Justice)				<p>National Police (PNP) and BuCor, which have custody of the inmates, claimed that they were just following the instruction of Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II to allow the entry into the facility of electronic gadgets, mobile phones, television sets, and air conditioning units, as well the use of the internet.</p> <p>On the query of Siquijor Rep. Ramon V.A. "Rav" Rocamora as to the veracity of the allegations, BuCor Director Benjamin Delos Santos said that upon inspection of the detention facility, the Bureau saw 10 air conditioning units installed, but these were already dismantled. He stressed, however, that no cell phones were found in the possession of the inmates.</p> <p>Delos Santos explained further that there is a television set installed in the reception area, and a phone which the inmates can use for emergency purposes and for communicating with their lawyers. He added that all calls and messages are logged and monitored by the duty personnel.</p> <p>Ronald Patrick Rubin, chief of the Internal Audit Service, Department of National Defense (DND), clarified that based on the memorandum of understanding between the DND and the Department of Justice (DOJ), the AFP shall take charge of securing the custodial center while the BuCor shall have custody of the inmates.</p> <p>AFP Army Judge Advocate Ukol Paglala stressed that the AFP has no knowledge and control of what is being taken in or out of the custodial center.</p> <p>The PNP <i>Special Action Force (PNP-SAF)</i>, which also provides security in the detention facility, will be invited in the Subcommittee's next meeting to shed light on some of the issues raised.</p>
	<i>Motu Proprio</i> inquiry		On the status of implementation of RA 10575 or the Bureau of Corrections Act of 2013 and the transfer of the NBP to Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija	Due to lack of time, the Subcommittee requested the DOJ and BuCor to just submit their respective reports on the status of implementation of RA 10575 and the transfer of the NBP to Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Energy (Technical Working Group)	HB 3353	Rep. Uybarreta	Institutionalizing the electric cooperatives disaster management fund and providing funds therefor, amending for the purpose certain laws	The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Carlos Roman Uybareta (Party-List, 1-CARE), will deliberate further on HBs 3353 and 4408 in its next meeting, agreeing that HB 3353 will be used as its working draft.  Rep. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO-
	HB 4408	Rep. Uybarreta	Creating an energy disaster trust fund for electric cooperatives (ECs) and providing funds therefor	

Continuation... Energy (Technical Working Group)				<p>BICOL), co-author of HB 4408, said that, as agreed upon by the TWG, the National Electrification Administration (NEA) shall continue to administer the energy disaster trust fund which is intended to finance the projects of the ECs concerning the restoration and rehabilitation of infrastructures damaged by typhoons and other natural calamities.</p> <p>Wendell Ballesteros, general manager of the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. (PHILRECA), suggested that the two bills' funding provision be harmonized, particularly on the source of funding.</p> <p>Replying to the question raised by Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Nueva Ecija), Atty. Grace Santos of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) confirmed that ECs usually pass on the cost of rehabilitating damaged infrastructures to their consumers through increased electricity rates.</p> <p>With regard to the query of Rep. Uybareta, NEA Director Leila Bonifacio said that the ECs may directly receive donations either from local or international donors.</p> <p>Rep. Batocabe suggested that a single agency must receive and administer donations, especially from foreign donors, in times of calamities to ensure that these funds are properly disbursed and accounted for.</p> <p>The resource persons present were requested to submit their position papers on the bills.</p>
Health (Technical Working Group)	HB 918	Rep. Roque (H.)	Establishing a Health Promotion Fund and Health Promotion Commission to oversee the implementation of health promotion in the Philippines	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by MATA Party-List Rep. Tricia Nicole Velasco-Catera, agreed to consolidate HBs 918 and 3657.
	HB 3657	Rep. Tan (A)	Institutionalizing health promotion in the Philippines by establishing a Philippine Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, providing for a health promotion fund	<p>KABAYAN Party-List Rep. Harry Roque Jr., author of HB 918, underscored the importance of mainstreaming health and wellness in all aspects of economic development, rather than to maintain the curative approach of the government wherein funds for health care are spent more on treating sick Filipinos.</p> <p>Among the agreements reached during the meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use HB 918 as the working draft of the TWG in its deliberations on the proposed law;</li> <li>• Establish a "commission" rather than a "center" to give emphasis to the regulatory and policy-making functions of this body;</li> <li>• Adopt the provisions of HB 918 with regard to the composition of the proposed Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Commission (HPDPC) and qualifications of its commissioners; and</li> <li>• Adopt the provisions of HB 3657,</li> </ul>

Continuation... Health (Technical Working Group)				<p>authored by Rep. Angelina “Helen” Tan (4<sup>th</sup> District, Quezon), pertaining to the functions of the HPDPC Advisory Board, its officials and secretariat.</p> <p>The TWG will determine how much of the incremental revenues allocated for health, under RA 10351 or the Sin Tax Reform Law, shall be earmarked for the implementation of the proposed law, after the submission of the resource persons’ position papers on the matter.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Public Works and Highways	Briefing by the Road Board on its mission, vision, organizational set-up, and operations	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Celso Lobregat (1<sup>st</sup> District, Zamboanga City), listened to the presentation of Road Board Project Manager Ruby Socorro Romero on the agency’s mission, vision, organizational set-up, and operations.</p> <p>Romero said that the Road Board was created to ensure the prudent and efficient utilization of the special funds generated from the imposition of the Motor Vehicle User’s Charge (MVUC) or the “Road User’s Tax” on owners of all motor vehicles, pursuant to RA 8794 otherwise known as the MVUC Law.</p> <p>The MVUC is collected upon registration with the Land Transportation Office (LTO), which remits all collections to the Bureau of Treasury (BTr). The BTr classifies the MVUC into four special funds that are deposited in trust accounts as follows: Special Road Support Fund (80% share); Special Road Safety Fund (7.5% share); Special Vehicle Pollution Control Fund (7.5% share); and Special Local Road Fund (5% share).</p> <p>The Road Board is a collegial body composed of the secretaries of the Departments of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Transportation (DOTr), Budget and Management (DBM), and Finance (DOF), as ex-officio members, and three representatives from private transport organizations. The Secretary of DPWH sits as the <i>ex-officio</i> chair of the Road Board. The agency’s functions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring that funds are used solely for road maintenance, for road safety including installation of adequate and efficient traffic lights and road safety devices, and for air pollution control;</li> <li>• Evaluating all funding requests to ensure compliance with the approved guidelines and criteria for MVUC funding;</li> <li>• Endorsing approved projects to the DBM; and</li> <li>• Monitoring project implementation and status of fund collections and expenditures, and preparing periodic status and accomplishment reports.</li> </ul> <p>On the query of Minority Leader Danilo Suarez (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Quezon), Jose Antonio Aguas, chief of staff of Road Board Executive Director Luisito Clavano, said that around half a billion pesos was spent for road monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>Minority Leader Suarez asked the Road Board to submit the contracts it has entered into relative to road monitoring and evaluation to determine if the expenditures were in accordance with existing rules and regulations.</p>



<p>Continuation... Tourism</p>		<p>According to Lim the participatory thrust of the new NES becomes a focal point to ensuring that the local tourists will be the first to enjoy the natural beauty of the country and learn about the value of conserving these natural resources. The strategic framework of the NES are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing and marketing diversified and competitive ecotourism products;</li> <li>• Creating a conducive environment for ecotourism investments;</li> <li>• Maximizing economic benefits for the host communities;</li> <li>• Promoting and developing a culture of ecotourism;</li> <li>• Developing and strengthening partnerships; and</li> <li>• Establishing mechanisms for sustainable financing.</li> </ul>
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Briefing by concerned government agencies on the following issues and concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “No registration, no travel” policy; delayed issuance of registration papers and car plates</li> <li>• Status of procurement of the driver’s license cards</li> <li>• Transfer of the Southwest Integrated Provincial Terminal (SWIPT); and updates on the Integrated Transportation System (ITS) covering South East, South West and North terminals and the unified/common station for the Light Rail Transit (LRT)/Metro Rail Transit (MRT)</li> </ul>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, listened to the briefing conducted by concerned government agencies on the issues and concerns in the transport industry.</p> <p>Land Transportation Office (LTO) Assistant Secretary Edgar Galvante informed the Committee that the LTO has issued a memorandum circular informing accredited dealers that the use of conduction sticker number as temporary license plate number shall be allowed for newly purchased motor vehicles.</p> <p>Galvante said that the conduction sticker shall be valid for seven days which would allow the vehicle to be released from the dealer and delivered to the owner’s residence. However, he added, the owner of the new vehicle cannot use the conduction sticker as replacement for the vehicle license plate unless the car has been duly registered and the owner is able to present the LTO-issued Certificate of Registration and Official Receipt (OR/CR).</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento requested the LTO to submit a report on how to further streamline the processing and issuance of the OR/CR and the issuance of car plates to avoid unnecessary inconveniences experienced by vehicle owners.</p> <p>Galvante reported that the LTO has already purchased three million driver’s license cards with a three-year validity period, costing P187 million, to address the backlogs from 2014 up to early October 2015.</p> <p>As for the procurement of driver’s license cards with five-year validity period, Galvante said the LTO has already started the bidding process this February 2017, qualifying three out of five bidders. Right now, the LTO is just awaiting the resolution of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) declaring the winning bidder, Galvante said. The project entails the purchase of 8.3 million cards amounting to P835 million (or P100 per card).</p> <p>The LTO promised to submit to the Committee a progress report on the procurement of driver’s license cards.</p> <p>Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Director Josefina Faulan apprised the Committee of the transfer of SWIPT to a temporary site, a lot owned by MMDA adjacent to the Hongkong (HK) Sun Plaza along Macapagal Boulevard from its original site at the Uniwide Coastal Mall. Faulan said the transfer would relieve the MMDA from paying the P1.12 million monthly rental, which can be used for the development of the new location.</p> <p>Atty. Michael Salalima of the Southern Luzon Bus Association, anticipating a traffic problem along the new route, requested the MMDA to conduct a dry run and get feedback from bus operators and the riding public before allowing the full operation of SWIPT.</p> <p>Assistant Secretary Mark de Leon of the Department of</p>

<p>Continuation... Transportation</p>		<p>Transportation (DOTr) presented the build-transfer-operate scheme for the Integrated Transportation System covering South East, South West, and North terminals. The members of the Committee questioned the huge budget involved and the onerous and disadvantageous contracts for the construction of the terminals.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento asked the DOTr to submit a copy of these contracts for review by the Committee.</p> <p>Meanwhile, a technical working group (TWG) was created by the Committee to review the concession agreements for the LRT/MRT unified/common station project.</p>
<p>Ways and Means</p>	<p>Update on the implementation of RA 10863, otherwise known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA), which amended the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines (TCCP)</p>	<p>The Committee, presided by Deputy Speaker Sharon Garin (Party-list, AAMBIS-OWA), listened to the report of the officials of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) on the issuance of Customs Administrative Orders (CAOs) implementing the provisions of RA 10863.</p> <p>RA 10863 or the CMTA was signed into law on May 30, 2016 to modernize the BOC's rules and procedures for faster trade, reduce opportunities for corruption, and improve delivery of services and supply chain.</p> <p>For 2016, the BOC was able to issue and implement the following CAOs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 02-2016 – on imported goods with <i>de minimis</i> value not subject to duties and taxes;</li> <li>• 03-2016 – on the establishment of advance ruling system for valuation and rules of origin;</li> <li>• 05-2016 – on the consolidated shipment of duty and tax-free "balikbayan boxes"; and</li> <li>• 06-2016 – on the conditionally tax exempt and/or duty-exempt importation by "returning residents" and overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).</li> </ul> <p>On the other hand, the BOC is still in the process of finalizing the draft CAO which will cover the procedures in the issuance of clearance on accompanied and unaccompanied baggage of travelers and crew, and on the exercise of control over issuances of alert orders, pre-lodgement control order, post-release control order, and controlled delivery order.</p> <p>The BOC has also drafted the CAO that implements the provisions of RA 10845 or the Anti-Agricultural Smuggling Act of 2016 in relation to the provisions of RA 10863.</p> <p>Atty. Althea Acas, project manager and senior policy liaison officer of the BOC, gave her assurance that the BOC will look into the concerns raised by the Members of the Committee, particularly on the following: 1) delayed delivery of balikbayan boxes to intended beneficiaries allegedly due to BOC's tedious screening processes and inadequate facilities; 2) undue delay in the release of legitimate importations because of unfounded issuances of alert orders; and 3) manual scanning of container vans which is a slow process instead of the use of X-ray scanning equipment.</p>