

Committee Daily Bulletin



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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agrarian Reform	HBs 114 & 3051	Reps. Baguilat and Bag-ao	Mandating the completion of the land acquisition and distribution (LAD) component of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) pursuant to RA 6657, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, as amended	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rene Relampagos (1st District, Bohol), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on HBs 114 and 3051 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary Rafael Mariano does not favor a piecemeal approach to addressing the loopholes and defects in the existing agrarian reform laws. What is needed, he said, is the enactment of a new comprehensive and genuine agrarian reform law that would address the various problems on land acquisition and distribution and farmers' security of tenure, and ensure sufficient support services to the farmer-beneficiaries.</p> <p>Ifugao Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr. stressed that his bill only focuses on the continuation and completion of the LAD component of CARP. He also explained that while a new comprehensive agrarian reform law is commendable, the process of implementing it may be fraught with difficulties and would take a longer time.</p> <p>Commenting on the proposed two-year period within which DAR should be able to complete its task of acquiring and distributing lands under the CARP, Mariano recommended that this provision be removed from the bill. He cited the constitutional mandate of the State to undertake just distribution of all agricultural lands, which he said, will not be attained in a period of only two years.</p> <p>Mariano also suggested that cases or proceedings involving the implementation of the provisions of RA 6657, as amended by RA 9700, or initiated by the issuance of notice of coverage or acceptance of a voluntary offer to sell shall be allowed to proceed to its finality.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Dinagat Islands Rep. Kaka Bag-ao, author of HB 3051, said that she is amenable to the amendments proposed by the DAR Secretary.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu) inquired if it is legal to continue with land distribution even after RA 9700 or the</p>

Continuation... Agrarian Reform				<p>Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension with Reforms (CARPER) Law have already lapsed last June 30, 2014.</p> <p>Rep. Bag-ao informed the Committee that only the budget component of RA 9700 has ended and not the other provisions of the law including the LAD component. This, according to Rep. Bag-ao, is based on the official position of the Department of Justice (DOJ) on the matter.</p> <p>Rep. Arnolfo "Arnie" Teves Jr. (3rd District, Negros Oriental) proposed that the term "just compensation" be clearly defined in the proposed law, stressing that the price of lands covered by the agrarian reform program, should be agreeable to both the landowners and the government.</p> <p>ANAKPAWIS Party-List Rep. Ariel "Ka Ayik" Casilao expressed his objection to the bills.</p>
Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources	HBs 406, 1877, 1878, 3121, 3122 & 3320	Reps. Vargas-Alfonso, Almonte, Amatong, and Acosta	Establishing fish ports in the Provinces of Cagayan, Misamis Occidental, Zamboanga del Norte, and Palawan	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Luis "Jon-Jon" Ferrer IV (6 th District, Cavite), approved the Committee Reports on the six bills.
	HBs 2178 & 4015	Reps. Santos-Recto and Romero	Establishing the National Mariculture Program, providing funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to draft a substitute bill to the two measures.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II (1st District, Zamboanga Sibugay). The resource persons present were requested to participate in the TWG meetings.</p> <p>Priscilla Regaspi, head of the Mariculture Section of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), expressed support for the proposed law. She reported that at present, BFAR has established 67 mariculture zones, 43 of which are already operational.</p> <p>Mariculture involves the production of fish through the use of sea cages, long lines, and other culture structures in marine and coastal areas to grow high-value species, such as bangus, siganid, seaweeds, oysters, mussels, and red snappers.</p> <p>Wilfredo Yap, executive director of Sante Aquaculture Science and Technology Foundation, Inc., expressed support for the bills, adding that the bills will institutionalize the mariculture program in the country. He suggested to include a provision in the substitute bill that will require the local government units (LGUs) to enact an ordinance that will only allow the putting up of sea cages at designated mariculture parks or zones.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon</p>

Continuation... Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources				stressed that mariculture parks should not have adverse effects to the natural marine environment or the ecosystem.
Cooperatives Development	HBs 188, 259, 2285 & 2824	Reps. Bravo (A.), Loyola, Marquez, and Suansing (E.)	Providing for the mandatory appointment of a cooperatives officer in every local government unit (LGU), amending for the purpose RA 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991	<p>The Committee, chaired by AGAP Party-List Rep. Rico Geron, directed the Secretariat to prepare the substitute bill, incorporating therein the pertinent recommendations of the resource persons, and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) Chair Rolando Ravanera expressed support for the proposed law, but suggested that the functions of the CDA personnel and the LGU cooperative officer be clearly delineated in the bill.</p> <p>Civil Service Commission (CSC) Director Prisco Rivera Jr. proposed that instead of a mandatory appointment of a cooperatives officer, a permanent position for this should be created in the first to third class provinces, cities and municipalities. For the fourth to sixth class provinces, cities and municipalities, the creation of such position should be made optional, Rivera added.</p> <p>Based on the position paper submitted by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), COOP NATCCO Party-List Rep. Anthony Bravo Ph.D. said the DBM suggests that the appointment of a cooperative officer be left to the discretion of the LGU, pointing out the additional cost involved, specifically for personnel services, which may prove to be difficult to sustain.</p> <p>Representatives from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and League of Municipalities interposed no objection to the proposed law but expressed concern on the funding requirement.</p>
	HR 256	Rep. Canama	Inquiry into the non-compliance of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) with Section 13 of the joint rules and regulations implementing Article 60, 61 and 144 of RA 9520, also known as the Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008	<p>The Committee terminated its deliberation on HR 256 after the BIR reported that it already issued Revenue Memorandum Circulars (RMC) 54-2016 and 102-2016 to clarify the process for the issuance of certificates of tax exemption (CTE) to cooperatives.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>BIR Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs Jesus Clint Aranas explained the details of the said BIR circulars as he downplayed accusations that the Bureau allegedly refused to grant the tax incentives for cooperatives under RA 9520 or imposed requirements that were difficult for cooperatives to comply.</p> <p>COOP-NATCCO Rep. Sabiniano Canama, author of HR 256, citing complaints from cooperatives, said that the BIR is requiring</p>

Continuation... Cooperatives Development				<p>cooperatives to submit documents aside from those specifically stated in Section 13 of the joint rules and regulations implementing Articles 60, 61 and 144 of RA 9520 issued by the Department of Finance (DOF) and the CDA.</p> <p>The chairperson of the Philippine Federation of Credit Cooperatives (PFCCO), Gloria Futalan, confirmed that cooperatives are complaining that revenue district offices are requiring members of cooperatives to apply for a taxpayer identification number (TIN), which is not included in the list of requirements under the joint IRR, as a prerequisite for the processing of CTEs.</p> <p>Section 13 of the joint IRR only requires four documents in support of the cooperative's application for a CTE, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified true copy of the Certificate of Registration issued by the CDA under the new Cooperative Code; • Certified true copy of the Articles of Cooperation and By-Laws of the cooperative; • Certified true copy of the Certificate of Good Standing from the CDA; and • Copy of the BIR Certificate of Registration of the cooperative. <p>Under RMC 102-2016, Aranas said that revenue district offices (RDOs) shall not deny or put on hold the processing and issuance of the CTE solely on the basis of the non-submission of the TIN of the cooperative members. However, cooperatives are still required to submit the TIN of their members within six months from the issuance of the CTE.</p> <p>RMC 54-2016 provides the guidelines governing the issuance of Certificate of Compliance (COC) in lieu of the Certificate of Good Standing.</p>
Ecology	HR 547	Rep. Batocabe	Inquiry into the implementation of RA 9003, otherwise known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija), will deliberate further on HR 547 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Deputy Ombudsman Gerard Mosquera reported that the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), the agency tasked to implement RA 9003, has filed administrative as well as criminal cases against 50 local government units (LGUs) which involve around 550 mayors, vice mayors, and members of their local councils for violation of RA 9003. About a hundred more cases involving more than a thousand respondents are expected to be filed with the Office of the Ombudsman in June of this year, Mosquera also revealed.</p> <p>Asked by AKO BICOL Party-List Rep. Rodel</p>

Continuation... Ecology				<p>Batocabe, author of HR 547, on the penalties that will be imposed against LGUs for violating the law, Mosquera said that violators are penalized with a minimum of 30 days but not more than 60 days of imprisonment for criminal cases, and dismissal from the service and perpetual disqualification from public office for administrative cases.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Jennifer Austria Barzaga (4th District, Cavite) on how the Office of the Environmental Ombudsman (OEO), which is headed by Mosquera, was able to narrow down the list of erring LGUs from 500 to 50, Mosquera said that the following criteria were followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LGUs are situated in areas that would be greatly affected due to non-compliance with RA 9003; and • The LGUs are capable of complying with the law but refused or intentionally neglected their responsibilities. <p>The Secretariat was directed to invite the representatives from the LGUs who have pending cases before the OEO for violation of RA 9003.</p>
Government Enterprises and Privatization	HBs 40, 436, 2445, 3534, 3560, 4107 & 4578	Reps. Yap (A.), Bravo (A.), Vergara, Salon, and De Venecia	Amending PD 1467, as amended by RA 8175, otherwise known as the Revised Charter of the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC)	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan (1st District, North Cotabato), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG), to be chaired by Rep. Arthur Yap (3rd District, Bohol), to consolidate the seven bills.
	HB 381	Rep. Mangaoang	Creating the Chico River Basin Development Authority (CRBDA), defining its powers, functions and responsibilities, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to fine-tune HB 381.
Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. w/ Energy	Consolidated Bill on HBs 122 & 357	Reps. Lobregat and Rodriguez (M.)	Creating the Mindanao Power Corporation and providing funds therefor	The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan (1st District, North Cotabato), Chair of the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization, and Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, Chair of the Committee on Energy, approved in principle the consolidated version of the two bills.
Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. w/ Transportation	HBs 123, 358, 1653, 2066, 3159 & 4987	Reps. Lobregat, Rodriguez (M.), Angara-Castillo, Villar, Yu, and Aglipay-Villar	Creating the Mindanao Railways Corporation, prescribing its powers, functions, and duties, and providing for the necessary funds for its operation	The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan (1st District, North Cotabato), Chair of the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization, and Rep. Edgar Sarmiento (1st District, Samar), Vice Chair of the Committee on Transportation, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the seven bills.
	HB 3909	Rep. Zubiri	Creating the Mindanao Railways Authority, prescribing its powers, functions and duties, amending for the purpose RA 4156, as amended, and appropriating funds therefor	
	HBs 250, 1867, 2037 & 4182	Reps. Bordado, Montoro,	Amending certain provisions of RA 4156, or the law creating the Philippine National Railways (PNR)	The Joint Committee will deliberate further on the four bills in its next meeting.

<p>Continuation... Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. w/ Transportation</p>		<p>Sarmiento (C.), and Tambunting</p>		<p>The PNR was requested to submit to the Committee a copy of its current financial status as well as the result of the evaluation of PNR's performance and viability conducted by the Governance Commission on Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations (GCG).</p> <p>PNR Assistant General Manager Diosdado Silva informed the Committee that the PNR is 49% privately-owned and 51% government-owned. Because of this, Silva explained that much of the revenues generated by the PNR go to the private investor which should have been used to improve the delivery of its services to the public.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go chided the PNR for its failure to perform its mandate of providing an efficient railway system. He underscored the intent of the Joint Committee to "overhaul" the law which created the PNR, in line with the bills at hand.</p> <p>Rep. Manuel Zubiri (3rd District, Bukidnon) averred that the PNR should encourage private sector investment and not merely rely on government funding to improve its services.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Raneo Abu (2nd District, Batangas) recommended that the PNR should focus on expanding and developing the country's railroad networks and relieve itself of the function of operating the railway system which can well be done by private concessionaires.</p>
	<p>HBs 687 & 4105</p>	<p>Reps. Del Mar and Radaza</p>	<p>Amending certain provisions of RA 6958, otherwise known as the Charter of the Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority (MCIAA)</p>	<p>The Joint Committee agreed to create a TWG, to be chaired by Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte), to consolidate HBs 687 and 4105.</p> <p>Rep. Raul del Mar (1st District, Cebu City), author of HB 687, informed the Committee that a similar bill was approved on third reading by both Houses during the 16th Congress and was transmitted to the Office of the President only to be vetoed by then President Benigno Aquino. The presidential veto was based on provisions in the Constitution and the Local Government Code which prohibit elective officials from being appointed or designated to any public office or position during their tenure. A provision of the bill in question designates the governor of Cebu and the Mayor of Lapu-Lapu City as members of the MCIAA Board. However, Rep. del Mar opined that the designation of these two local officials in the MCIAA Board in ex-officio capacity is allowed by law and jurisprudence.</p> <p>Supporting Rep. del Mar's position, Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu) stressed that the participation of the provincial governor of Cebu and the mayor of Lapu-lapu City in the Board cannot be underestimated since they know what is best for the locality.</p>

Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples	HR 527	Rep. Casilao	Inquiry into the logging operations of DM Consunji, Inc. (DMCI) under 12 contracts of Integrated Forestry Management Agreement (IFMA) covering 102,954 hectares of land in Daguma Mountain Range, Sultan Kudarat that triggered human rights abuses against the Lumad national minority communities	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Nancy Catamco (2nd District, North Cotabato), agreed to request the Committee on Rules for change of referral of HR 527 to the Committee on Human Rights.</p> <p>After hearing the comments of resource persons, the Committee determined that the resolution aptly falls under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Human Rights.</p> <p>During the meeting, Eric Raz, provincial legal officer of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Sultan Kudarat office, narrated the alleged human rights violations committed against the Lumads in the course of operation of Silvicultural Industries Inc., managed and controlled by Victor Consunji of DMCI. Silvicultural Industries' project under the IFMA covers 27,530 hectares of land within the ancestral domain of the Dulangan Manobo communities and Teduray tribes across five municipalities in the Province of Sultan Kudarat.</p> <p>Raz said the DMCI's logging operations have displaced the Lumads and the company is being blamed for the disappearance of Datu John Calaba, leader of the Manobo group. Calaba, who actively opposed the logging and mining activities of the DMCI, was last seen inside the DMCI compound before his disappearance.</p> <p>Director Mayumi Natividad of the Forest Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (FMB-DENR), claimed that the DENR has no record of alleged human rights abuses of DMCI against the Lumads.</p> <p>Commission on Human Rights (CHR) legal officer Eunice Manahan said the CHR Region 12 has already conducted an investigation of Calaba's case and a resolution is now pending with the Regional Director for his signature. She promised to provide the Committee with a copy of the said resolution.</p>
	HR 545	Rep. Tinio	Investigation into the threats, harassment, and vilification of students and teachers of the Center for Lumad Advocacy and Services (CLANS) Lumad School Diya Menuwa in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat and their community leaders by the police, military and representatives of national government agencies and the local government	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 545 in its next meeting.</p> <p>As stated in HR 545, the Lumad School Diya Menuwa, a community school serving about a thousand Manobo students and run by the CLANS, is being tagged by the police and the military as a school for the New People's Army (NPA) and not recognized by the government.</p> <p>Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Undersecretary Maria Lourdes Turalde-Jarabe said the DSWD is still waiting for the report of its field office regarding the alleged threat, harassment and vilification of students and teachers of the Lumad school.</p>

Continuation... Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples				<p>Philippine National Police (PNP) Provincial Director Augusto Marquez said that the PNP has not received any such complaint up to this time.</p> <p>The Department of Education (DepEd) will be invited in the next meeting of the Committee to determine whether the CLANS Lumad School Diya Menuwa in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat is accredited by the DepEd.</p>
Legislative Franchises	Substitute Bill to HB 1422	Rep. Cosalan	Renewing the franchise granted to Satellite Paging Systems Philippines, Inc. (SPSPI) (presently known as Now Telecom Company, Inc.) under RA 7301, as amended by RA 7940, or the law granting SPSPI a franchise to construct, establish, operate and maintain radio paging systems and trunked radio systems within the Philippines for a period of 25 years renewable for another 25 years from the effectivity of the Act	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Franz "Chicoy" Alvarez (1 st District, Palawan), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 1422.
	Substitute Bill to HB 3864	Rep. Go (M.)	Amending and renewing the franchise granted to Beta Broadcasting System, Inc. to construct, install, establish, operate, and maintain radio broadcasting stations in the Philippines	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 3864.
	Substitute Bill to HB 4668	Rep. Romualdo	Renewing the franchise granted to Sarraga Integrated and Management Corporation (SIAM) under RA 7478 to construct, install, operate, and maintain for commercial purposes, radio and television broadcasting stations in the Philippines	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 4668.
	HB 4989	Rep. Del Mar	Renewing the franchise granted to Word Broadcasting Corporation under RA 7485, or the law granting Word Broadcasting Corporation, formerly Filipinas Broadcasting Association, Inc. (as amended on July 20, 1991), a franchise to construct, install, operate, and maintain for commercial purposes radio broadcasting and television stations in the Visayas and Mindanao for another 25 years from the effectivity of this Act	The Committee approved HB 4989 with amendments.
	HB 4879	Rep. Abayon	Renewing for another 25 years and amending the franchise granted to Gateway U.H.F. Television Broadcasting Inc., now Gateway Television Broadcasting Inc., doing business under the name and style Hope Channel Philippines, under RA 7223	The Committee approved HB 4879 with amendments.
	HB 4515	Rep. Oaminal	Granting Ignite Telecommunications, Incorporated a franchise to construct, install, establish, operate, and maintain telecommunications system throughout the Philippines	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 4515 in its next meeting.</p> <p>National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) Deputy Commissioner Edgardo Cabarrios conveyed the NTC's support to the proposed law, emphasizing the need to attract more players in the telecommunications industry given the growing demand for its products and services.</p>

Continuation... Legislative Franchises				<p>Rep. Jose Atienza Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY) cautioned against a malpractice in the industry where the franchise grantee, unable to comply with the terms and conditions of its franchise, sells or assigns the same to either of the two major telecom entities, thus ending into a duopoly situation. He sought an assurance that the franchise applicant has sufficient funding and enough manpower to sustain its business.</p> <p>Rep. Harry Roque emphasized that any change in the ownership and capital structures of a franchisee should not be made without prior notice and approval of Congress.</p> <p>Rep. Henry Oaminal (2nd District, Misamis Occidental), author of HB 4515, recognizing the concerns of some Committee Members, expressed his willingness for a continuing deliberation on the franchise application of Ignite Telecommunications, Inc.</p>
	HB 4849	Rep. Belmonte (R.)	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Omnet Philippines Inc. under RA 7298, or the law granting Omnet Philippines, Inc. a franchise to establish, install, maintain, lease and operate wire and/or wireless telecommunications systems, lines, circuits and stations within and outside the Philippines	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 4849 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Ricardo "RJ" Belmonte Jr. (Party-List, SERBISYO SA BAYAN), author of HB 4849, informed the Committee that the franchise granted to Omnet Philippines Inc. will expire in March 2017.</p> <p>Rep. Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP) inquired if it is possible for a corporation to continue operating while waiting for the renewal of its franchise.</p> <p>Cabarrios replied in the affirmative, citing the case of the Philippine Telegraph & Telephone Company (PT&T). The Committee only needs to issue a letter to the NTC to that effect.</p> <p>Rep. Belmonte requested the Committee to issue a letter to the NTC authorizing Omnet Philippines Inc. to continue its operation while the application for the renewal of its franchise is not yet acted upon.</p>
Transportation	HB 168	Rep. Velasco-Catera	Requiring all traffic lights to be equipped with audible traffic signals and push buttons for the benefit of persons with disabilities, the elderly, and pregnant women	The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, agreed to defer the discussion on the measures to have them consolidated with other measures on sustainable transportation pending with the Committee.
	HB 2101	Rep. Calixto-Rubiano	Defining pedestrian safety guidelines and providing penalties for violations thereof	The bills' authors agreed with the Committee's decision.
	HB 649	Rep. Pancho	Prohibiting the use of modified exhaust pipes (open/loud pipe) of motorcycles and providing penalties for violation thereof	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune the bill.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Gavini "Apol" Pancho (2nd District, Bulacan), author of HB 649.</p> <p>Rep. Pancho said that his bill seeks to ban the use of modified/open tail pipes for</p>

Continuation... Transportation				<p>motorcycles, which produce high noise levels, in order to safeguard the health and welfare of the citizens. He added that the bill would complement existing laws controlling noise pollution and establishing the standards for acceptable noise levels.</p> <p>Assistant Secretary Edgar Galvante, head of the Land Transportation Office (LTO), and Senior Superintendent Antonio Gardiola Jr., chief of the Philippine National Police-Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG), expressed support for the bill. Gardiola further suggested that the bill should not be limited to motorcycles alone, but to tricycles and other motor vehicles as well.</p> <p>Rodel Pablo, president of the Motorcycle Development Program Participants Association, Inc. (MDPPA); Edwin Go, president of Motorcycle Dealers Association of the Philippines (MDAP); and Arturo Sta. Cruz, director of the Motorcycle Philippines Federation (MPF) expressed support for the bill.</p> <p>Pablo proposed that the United Nations' noise emission standards should be adopted.</p> <p>The resource persons present were invited to participate in the TWG's deliberations on the proposed law.</p>
	HB 2337	Rep. Calixto-Rubiano	Amending RA 10054, otherwise known as the Motorcycle Helmet Act of 2009	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG, to be chaired by BUHAY Party-List Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr., to fine-tune the bill.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento manifested that HB 126, authored by Rep. Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City), which also seeks the amendment of RA 10054 and pending with the Committee on Local Government should be included in the TWG's deliberations once the request of the author for the transfer of its referral to the Committee on Transportation is given due course.</p> <p>Pasay City Rep. Emi Calixto-Rubiano, author of HB 2337, explained that the required wearing of helmet by motorcycle riders unwittingly allowed criminal elements to conceal their identity, particularly with the use of tinted face covers, as they carry out their criminal activities. The escalation of crimes associated with riding in tandem assassins, robbers, and the like, prompted the solon to propose an amendment to the Motorcycle Helmet Act, by requiring the use of helmets with untinted or transparent face covers to show the face of the driver and the back rider.</p> <p>The LTO and PNP-HPG expressed support for the bill.</p>

Youth and Sports Development	HB 583	Deputy Speaker Cayetano	Providing for the Magna Carta of Student-Athletes	<p>The Committee, chaired by ABONO Party-List Rep. Conrado Estrella III, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune HB 583.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by the Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Cristina "Chiqui" Roa-Puno (1st District, Antipolo City).</p> <p>Cynthia Hernandez, supervising education program specialist of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), lauded the intent of the bill. However, Hernandez suggested that RA 10676 or the Student-Athletes Protection Act, which has the same intent as the bill's, be revisited.</p> <p>Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte) commented that despite the passage of RA 10676 in 2014, its implementing rules and regulations (IRR) have not yet been promulgated.</p> <p>The Committee directed the CHED and the Department of Education (DepEd), in consultation with the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), to craft and promulgate the IRR of RA10676 not later than 90 days from today.</p> <p>The Committee requested the resource persons present to submit their respective position papers on the bill.</p>
	HB 3244	Rep. Sambar	Creating the national, provincial, city, and municipal sports development councils	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune HB 3244.</p> <p>Rep. Roa-Puno was again designated to head the TWG.</p> <p>PSC Commissioner Celia Kiram conveyed the PSC's support to the proposed law. However, she requested the Committee to look into the possibility of creating plantilla or permanent positions for sports coordinators in order to ensure the continuity of sports programs and activities.</p> <p>The Committee requested the resource persons present to submit their respective position papers on the bill.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Higher and Technical Education (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs1583, 1942, 2635, 2771, 3427, 3452, 4701,	Reps. Vargas, Santos-Recto, Gatchalian, Salceda, Tan (S.), Villarin, Revilla, Elago, Batocabe,	Promoting universal access to tertiary education by providing for free tuition and other school fees in state universities and colleges (SUCs) and state-run technical vocational institutes and strengthening the Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST),	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by the Committee Chair herself, Rep. Ann Hofer (2nd District, Zamboanga Sibugay), will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill.</p> <p>During the meeting, the members of the TWG discussed the following provisions of the bill:</p>

<p>Continuation... Higher and Technical Education (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>4800, 813, 4341, 2596, 33, 1091, 3149, 181, 1228, 3704, 4256, 4483, 578, 290, 2458, 2472, 1590, 2984, 3193, 3852, 2137, 4146, 4147, 1089, 1432, 1445, 3708, 1486, 1956, 2138, 2590, 3959, 898, 2166, 2951, 3472, 3586, 1367, 806, 1810, 1195, 1433, 2819, 3388, 4298, 4825, 4944, 4226, 1067, 1447 & 3707</p>	<p>Villanueva, Del Mar, Lanete, Alejano, Crisologo, Umali, Romualdez, Belaro, Castelo, Panganiban, Romero, Yap (A.), Geron, Fuentebella, Antonio, Espino, Salon, Barbers, Lazatin, Bolilia, Abayon, Tambunting, Lacson, Tan (A.), Herrera-Dy, Deputy Speaker Macapagal- Arroyo, Reps. Loyola, Suansing (E.), Cortuna, Cua, Nogralles (K.A.), and Roman</p>	<p>amending for the purpose RA 10687, or the UniFAST Law, and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1 (Short Title); • Section 2 (Declaration of Policy); and • Section 3 (Definition of Terms). <p>Rep. Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City) raised the concern of Fr. Karel San Juan, president of the Zamboanga Basilan Sulu Tawi-Tawi Association of Private Schools (ZAMBASULTAPS), who wrote a letter to Rep. Lobregat opposing the proposed law saying that making tuition fees free in SUCs will result in the exodus of students from private schools, including even those who can well afford college education. Fr. San Juan also stated in his letter that the proposed law will also affect the employability of faculty members of private higher education institutions (HEIs), Rep. Lobregat said.</p> <p>On the other hand, Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), author of HB 2771, said that the proposed law will not affect the financial sustainability of private schools, explaining that rich families would still prefer to enrol their children in private schools rather than transferring them to SUCs. Rep. Salceda further said that the proposed law will increase the number of college graduates in the country.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to formally submit their proposed amendments to the draft substitute bill.</p>
<p>Population and Family Relations (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 12, 107, 171, 317, 368, 512, 523, 597, 696, 1267, 1687, 1711, 2001, 2167, 2338, 3425, 3448 & 4167</p>	<p>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, Deputy Speaker Abueg, Reps. Santos-Recto, Espino, Erice, Teves, and Aragones</p>	<p>Establishing the Filipino identification system</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Deputy Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga), discussed the provisions of the draft substitute bill.</p> <p>Under the bill, the proposed Filipino ID Card (FilID) refers to the non-transferrable identification document to be issued to every citizen registered under the Filipino Identification System or the FilSys.</p> <p>Among the agreements reached during the meeting were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) shall administer the collection of records and information of individuals enrolled in the FilSys and manage the FilSys. • The Philippine Embassies and Consular Offices will be removed from the list of agencies to implement the proposed law; and include instead the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). • Filipinos residing abroad shall register and secure their FilID card at designated offices in their respective areas. • The whole Section 8 (Support to Local Government Units) of the draft substitute bill shall be deleted;

<p>Continuation... Population and Family Relations (Technical Working Group)</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Privacy Commission will be included in the list of agencies that will craft the proposed law's implementing rules and regulations (IRR). <p>Joseph Desunia, assistant legislative liaison officer of the Social Security System (SSS), suggested additional information including the marital status of the cardholder that must be included in the proposed FilID.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo pointed out that each issuing agency should be able to determine what information they need to include in the ID.</p> <p>Rep. Arnolfo "Arnie" Teves Jr. (3rd District, Negros Oriental) suggested that the existing biometric data with the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) be used for the FilSys to save time and resources of the government, instead of collecting new biometric information.</p> <p>The Deputy Speaker, on the other hand, said that the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) has a wider database since it now covers 80% of the country's population. PhilHealth Senior Manager Cynthia Corvite said that PhilHealth will compare its database with the PSA's.</p> <p>Cesar Vinuya, project manager of Authoritative Registry and Government Common Platform, Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), said that the Department is now in the process of synchronizing its system with PSA's for the eventual merging of their database in preparation for the implementation of the national ID system.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p>North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>	<p>Briefing by the Department of Agriculture (DA) 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 of the DA on its plans and programs for Regions I and II, and the CAR.</p> <p>Director Carlos Magnaye of the DA's Planning and Monitoring Service briefed the Committee on the thrusts, priorities and key strategies of the DA, with the following goals: making food available and affordable, increasing the income of farmers and fisherfolk, and increasing the resilience of agricultural products to climate change risks.</p> <p>DA Region I Executive Director Valentino Perdido, DA Region II Project Coordinator Freddie Corsino, and DA CAR Executive Director (OIC) Lorenzo Caranguian discussed the programs and projects of the DA in their respective regions.</p> <p>Rep. Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1st District, Ilocos Sur) requested</p>

<p>Continuation... North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>		<p>the DA to submit to the Committee a report identifying the areas suitable for rainwater harvesting to guide Representatives in pursuing similar projects in their respective districts.</p> <p>Rep. Baby Aline Vargas-Alfonso (2nd District, Cagayan) inquired if there is a particular unit in the DA that validates the requirements of municipalities relative to the implementation or construction of small water impounding projects (SWIP).</p> <p>DA Region II Executive Director Lucrecio Alviar Jr. said that the DA's regional engineering section validates and evaluates these projects as well as other agricultural infrastructure projects. However, Alviar said this unit is undermanned and urgently needs additional agricultural engineers to effectively do its job.</p> <p>As regards the question of Rep. Dalog regarding the DA's program on the production and distribution of seedlings to farmers, Perdido and Caranguian said that they have set up stations for seedling production in their respective regions.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go remarked that the high incidence of cancer among Filipinos may be attributed to the country's continued use of chemicals on crops especially on vegetables. He asked the DA if it has a program aimed at reducing the use of these harmful chemicals and instead promoting the organic method of producing crops.</p> <p>Caranguian said that since the enactment of RA 10068 (or the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010), the DA has been encouraging farmers to shift to organic farming. However, he said that due to high demand for vegetables, the DA cannot solely rely on organic farming technology.</p> <p>Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma noted the decrease in the 2018 budget proposal of the DA for farm-to-market road (FMR) projects, which are essential in increasing agricultural productivity.</p> <p>Magnaye said that the DA's budget proposal for 2018 is still tentative and that the Department is still in the process of finalizing the FMR network plan.</p> <p>Having heard the concerns of the Members and the DA representatives, the Committee agreed to file a resolution supporting the creation of an engineering division in every regional office of the DA, as well as a resolution requesting the DA Secretary to increase the budget for FMR projects in Regions I and II and CAR.</p>
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Update by concerned government agencies on the following issues and concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Transportation Office's (LTO) policy on the use of temporary vehicle license plates and its procurement of temporary driver's license cards 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, listened to the briefing conducted by concerned government agencies on several issues and concerns affecting the transport industry.</p> <p>LTO Assistant Secretary Edgar Galvante explained that the LTO's "no registration, no travel" policy prohibits vehicles to run on roads without a valid vehicle registration. He, however, said that the LTO recently issued a memorandum to all LTO accredited automobile dealers stating that the conduction sticker number shall be used as temporary license plate numbers for newly purchased motor vehicles. For motorcycles, used imported and rebuilt motor vehicles, the file number shall be used as temporary license plate number.</p> <p>Galvante added that the conduction sticker is valid for only seven days during which the vehicle can be released and delivered by the dealer to the buyer's residence or any desired place. The conduction sticker does not replace the LTO-issued Certificate of Registration and Official Receipt (OR/CR).</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu) asked the LTO if it is capable of addressing the huge backlog in car registration and the issuance of vehicle license plates.</p>

<p>Continuation... Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Transportation System (ITS) projects 	<p>Galvante answered in the affirmative, explaining that the backlog could be attributed to the dealers' practice of submitting to the LTO the applications for car registration in bulk, and the termination of LTO employees who were under job contracts.</p> <p>At this point, ANGKLA Party-List Rep. Jesulito Manalo presided over the meeting in behalf of Rep. Sarmiento who had to attend another meeting. Rep. Manalo suggested that the LTO and the car dealers should first confer with each other to come up with solutions on the issues.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Malabon City Rep. Federico "Ricky" Sandoval II with regard to issues relating to the issuance of medical clearance for driver's license applicants, Galvante believes that the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) is more competent to accredit doctors for this purpose as it has the record of the latter's qualifications as PMA members. Galvante also informed the Committee that the LTO is looking into reports that some doctors do not actually subject applicants to medical examination and just issue the required medical certificate.</p> <p>The LTO was requested to submit reports or documents on the following :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delayed issuance of vehicle license plates as well as its plan to address the problem; Procurement process for driver's license cards; Qualifications of doctors involved in issuing medical certificates to applicants of driver's license. <p>Department of Transportation (DOTr) Assistant Secretary Mark de Leon reported that the ITS projects, which involve the construction of the south, north and southwest terminals, are intended to reduce vehicular traffic within Metro Manila, particularly on EDSA. The ITS will serve as the beginning and end destinations for provincial buses so that they do not have to traverse EDSA and other roads in the metropolis. Passengers will transfer to in-city modes of transportation such as city buses, rail transits, taxis and others.</p> <p>Not in favor of the ITS projects, Alejandro Yague Jr., executive director of the Provincial Bus Operators Association of the Philippines (PBOAP), and Atty. Michael Salalima of the Southern Luzon Bus Operators Association (SOLUBOA) said that putting up these new terminals and prohibiting provincial buses to ply the city streets are not the solutions to the traffic problems in Metro Manila.</p> <p>Rep. Manalo and AKO BICOL Party-List Rep. Rodel Batocabe requested the DOTr to submit a copy of the concession agreements and the financial and technical studies which served as basis for the approval of contracts.</p> <p>The resource persons present were requested to submit their respective position papers on the matter.</p>
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FORUM		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Climate Change (Special Committee)	Forum on advancing Population, Health and Environment (PHE) Agenda	<p>The Committee, chaired by AKO BICOL Party-List Rep. Christopher Co, held a forum entitled "Advancing Population, Health and Environment Agenda Post Conference of Parties 22 (COP 22) in the Philippines" on March 1, 2017 at the House of Representatives.</p> <p>The forum was conducted in partnership with the National Population, Health and Environment (PHE) Network, Party-List Coalition Foundation Inc., and Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD).</p>

<p>Continuation... Climate Change (Special Committee)</p>		<p>COP 22 stands for the 22nd Conference of the Parties, which is the supreme decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).</p> <p>Rep. Co welcomed the participants and guests to the forum. He said that the forum serves as a venue for discussing plans and recommendations to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. He opined that while there are some adaptation programs being implemented, there is still a need for a more proactive adaptation planning in order to ensure sustainable development.</p> <p>Ifugao Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr. highlighted the importance of recognizing the complex link between people, their health, and the environment in national development initiatives. He added that integrating PHE activities into one program can lead to greater outcomes than implementing the interventions separately in single-sector programs.</p> <p>Reps. Gil “Kabarangay” Acosta (3rd District, Palawan), Rozzano Rufino Biazon (Muntinlupa City), and Rico Geron (Party-List, AGAP) were also present in the forum.</p> <p>Executive Vice President Joan Castro of PATH Foundation Philippines, Inc. (PFPI) explained why the PHE approach is appropriate to the Philippine situation. She stressed that in facing the challenges of climate change, it is important to engage policymakers and local officials in the development of programs and policies on climate change adaptation and social protection.</p> <p>Commissioner Emmanuel de Guzman of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) emphasized that lessening or avoiding the impacts of climate change is a form of social justice. He said that as disaster risk becomes more prevalent, there is a more compelling reason for the government to undertake its duty to reduce the poor’s vulnerability to disaster risks.</p> <p>The other resource speakers during the forum and the topics discussed are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Franklin Diza, division chief of the Environmental-related Diseases Division of the Department of Health (DOH) – impacts of climate change on health, and update on the direction of PHE; • Albert Magalang, division chief of the Climate Change Division of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – the DENR’s programs and activities relative to climate change; • Isagani Serrano, president of <i>Aksyon Klima Pilipinas</i> – civil society organizations’ (CSOs) role in addressing climate change issues; • Dr. Esperanza Cabral, team leader of the National Implementation Team on Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health (RPRH) Law – integrating reproductive health issues in climate change agenda; and • Ramon San Pascual, executive director of Health Care Without Harm-Asia – the effects of low carbon in the lives of the people and adopting the PHE approach. <p>Executive Director Juan Antonio Perez III of the Commission on Population (POPCOM), who delivered the closing remarks, said that the same forum will be replicated in Iloilo to explain the PHE approach to local government units (LGUs).</p>
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