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17th 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 52, 347, 461, 1252, 1599, 2589 & 2634	Rep. Bag-ao, Deputy Speaker Quimbo, Reps. Tugna, Biazon, Baguilat, Rodriguez (M.), and Villarín	Instituting a national land use and management policy, providing the implementing mechanisms therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles (1 st District, Davao City), approved the Substitute Bill to the seven measures.
	Substitute Bill to HB 438	Rep. Bravo (A.)	Establishing a comprehensive system for registration and licensing of social welfare and development agencies and accreditation of social welfare and development programs and services, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 438.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 440, 748, 848, 953, 982, 1345, 1971, 2550, 3407, 3428, 3530, 3826, 3968, 4552 & 4738	Deputy Speaker Quimbo, Reps. Aglipay-Villar, Villarica, Ocampo, Fortun, Acop, Suansing (E.), Romualdez, Aragonés, Cortuna, Unabia, Revilla, Herrera-Dy, Rodriguez (M.), and Brosas	Instituting the Magna Carta of Day Care Workers and providing funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to the 15 measures.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 535, 545, 1907 & 3447	Reps. Gonzaga, Sambar, Angara-Castillo, and Primicias-Agabas	Establishing a sports complex known as the National Sports Training Center and providing funds for the acquisition of property, construction of facilities, including the administration, maintenance, and management of the same	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill with amendments.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 2860 & 4783	Reps. Sarmiento (E. M.) and Salceda	Establishing a framework for the selection of national performing arts companies, designating for the purpose	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 2860 and 4783.

Continuation... Appropriations			certain performing arts genres and appropriating funds therefor	
HB 3443	Rep. Primicias-Agabas		Creating an additional branch of the Regional Trial Court in the first judicial region to be stationed in the Municipality of Asingan, Province of Pangasinan, further amending for the purpose Section 14, paragraph (a) of Batas Pambansa 129, also known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980, as amended, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 3443.
HBs 921, 1143, 3363, 3420, 3488, 4142, 4306, & 4790	Reps. Abaya, Alejano, Rodriguez (M.), Banal, Escudero, Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, and Rep. Robes		Amending certain sections of RA 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the 10 measures in another meeting.</p> <p>House Members underscored the need to amend RA 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act to address delays and allegations of corruption in the procurement process.</p> <p>Among the suggestions made by the House Members are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow exceptions to the absolute prohibition against any reference to brand names in the specifications of products to be procured; • Authorize the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) to provide a longer period for the winning bidders to enter into contract with the procuring entity or agency; (The current time frame within which the winning bidder should be able to enter into a contract with the procuring entity/agency is only 10 days.) • Revise the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) to clearly outline and define the parameters and procedures to be observed in foreign-funded and local government units' procurement; and • Review the eligibility requirements of bidders in order to participate in the procurement process; and • Review the Commission on Audit's (COA) findings of violations of the procurement process that sometimes result in disallowances or cases against the procuring agency/entity or the winning bidder.
House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 2	Rep. Abaya		Reconvening the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee created under Section 74 of RA 9184 for the purpose of formulating the necessary implementing rules and regulations (IRR) for foreign-funded procurement activities of the government	
HR 282	Minority Leader Suarez		Investigation into the implementation of RA 9184	<p>Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Benjamin Diokno expressed his objection to proposals to reform or amend RA 9184, explaining that it may weaken rather than strengthen the government procurement law. He said that the GPPB can instead revise the law's IRR to address certain shortcomings.</p> <p>GPPB-Technical Support Office Executive Director Dennis Santiago informed the Committee that the revised IRR, which provides an omnibus guidelines on the alternative methods of</p>

Continuation... Appropriations				<p>procurement, was approved in August 2016 but took effect only last October 2016.</p> <p>The DBM was requested to submit a copy of the revised IRR of the procurement law.</p> <p>The Committee Secretariat was directed to prepare a matrix of the 10 measures and invite representatives from COA to attend the Committee's next meeting.</p>
Energy	HB 651	Rep. Oaminal	Withdrawing certain tax exemption privileges granted to the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), amending for the purpose Section 9 of Republic Act 9511 or the law granting the NGCP a franchise to engage in the business of conveying or transmitting electricity	<p>The Committee, chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, will deliberate further on HB 651 in its next meeting.</p> <p>The Department of Finance (DOF), National Transmission Commission (TransCo), and Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) support the bill.</p> <p>ERC Legal Counsel Grace Santos also suggested the amendment of Section 14 (Applicability Clause) of RA 9511 to require the NGCP to pay regulatory fees and all other fees pursuant to the Public Service Law or Commonwealth Act 146.</p> <p>TransCo was requested to submit a copy of its concession agreement with the NGCP.</p>
	HR 212	Rep. Velasco	Inquiry into whether or not the NGCP has complied with the required level of ancillary services to maintain reliable operation of the transmission system	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised relative to HR 212 in its next meeting.</p> <p>The Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Carlos Roman Uybarreta (Party-List, 1-CARE), presided over the deliberations on HR 212 to allow Rep. Velasco to sponsor his resolution.</p> <p>Rep. Velasco said the intermittency of renewable sources of energy like wind, solar and hydroelectric creates challenges in maintaining the stability of the grids. This necessitates the procurement of ancillary services to support the transmission of capacity and energy from resources to loads.</p> <p>NGCP Engineer Lizaflor Bacani-Kater discussed the NGCP's ancillary services or the "required regulating, contingency, and dispatchable reserves" to maintain the stability of the grids. She said the NGCP procures ancillary services from qualified generation companies based on the Ancillary Services Procurement Agreement (ASPA) approved by the ERC.</p> <p>The Committee requested the NGCP and ERC to submit documents pertinent to ancillary services. The Manila Electric Company (MERALCO) was likewise requested to submit its comments to HR 212.</p>
	HR 280	Minority Leader Suarez	Investigation into the extent of participation of foreigners in the ownership and operations of the NGCP	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised relative to HR 280 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Minority Leader Danilo Suarez (3rd District, Quezon) wants a review of the ownership and</p>

Continuation... Energy				<p>control exercised by a Chinese entity over a vital national industry, the NGCP.</p> <p>The NGCP, a private company that operates, maintains and develops the country's power transmission network, is owned by a consortium composed of the foreign-owned State Grid Corporation of China (40%) and two Filipino-owned companies - One Taipan Holdings Corp. (30%) and Calaca High Power Corp. (30%).</p> <p>Minority Leader Suarez said that he will file a measure that will require the buy back of the 40 percent ownership of the NGCP for national security reasons. He also questioned the involvement of three Chinese nationals in the operations of the NGCP.</p> <p>NGCP Assistant Corporate Secretary Ronald Concepcion said the three Chinese nationals are members of the NGCP Board who oversee the management of the NGCP with regard to finance and audit.</p> <p>TransCo President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Melvin Matibag said the NGCP might have violated the Anti-Dummy Law because it allowed the Chinese nationals to participate in the corporation's operation, management, and financial concerns.</p> <p>Rep. Henry Oaminal (2nd District, Misamis Occidental) requested the presence of the president or chief executive officer of the NGCP in the Committee's next meeting to personally answer the questions raised by the Members.</p>
	HB 1223 & 1224	Rep. Umali	Prohibiting the planting of high-growing species of plants and trees, and the construction of any structure under or within the right-of-way clearance of all power transmission lines and providing penalties for violation thereof	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate and harmonize the three bills.</p> <p>The TWG will be co-chaired by Reps. Uybarreta and Reynaldo Umali (2nd District, Oriental Mindoro).</p>
	HB 3351	Rep. Uybarreta	Ensuring the continuous and uninterrupted transmission of power, promoting public safety and protecting the integrity and reliability of the nationwide transmission and distribution system, and providing penalties thereof	<p>The NGCP, TransCo, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (PHILRECA), and MERALCO support the bills.</p> <p>Rep. Uybarreta underscored the importance of properly maintaining the transmission line's right-of-way (ROW) to ensure uninterrupted transmission of power and public safety.</p> <p>NGCP officials acknowledged that it is the obligation of the corporation to make sure that there are no obstructions within the perimeter of the transmission lines. However, they said that accessing the areas where the transmission lines are located is difficult due to right-of-way issues.</p> <p>The NGCP, TransCo and the National Power Corporation-Small Power Utilities Group (NPC-SPUG) were requested to submit an inventory of ROW contracts they signed, pending ROW cases, and future expansion projects.</p>

Continuation... Energy				Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1 st District, Lanao del Norte) suggested that the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Philippine National Police (PNP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and the leagues of provinces, municipalities and cities be invited in the TWG meetings to present their respective positions on the bills.
Good Government and Public Accountability	HR 708	Rep. Bondoc	Inquiry into the grossly disadvantageous and highly irregular lease agreement between the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) and Vanderwood Management Corporation (Vanderwood)	<p>The Committee, chaired by, Rep. Johnny Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), will deliberate further on the issues raised relative to HR 708 in its next meeting.</p> <p>The contract involves the lease of a 6,500- square meter area within the Museo ng Maynila Complex by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) from Vanderwood Management Corporation (Vanderwood). The leased area is part of the 12,666-square meter property being leased by Oceanville Hotel and Spa Corporation (Oceanville) from the City of Manila, which is the owner of the entire complex.</p> <p>Rep. Juan Bondoc (4th District, Pampanga), author of HR 708, asserted that the lease agreement between PAGCOR and Vanderwood was highly irregular and grossly disadvantageous to the government due to the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lease agreement runs counter to RA 9184 (or the Government Procurement Reform Act) which requires that the lessor must have absolute ownership over the property to be leased. In this case, the City of Manila is the lessor, as the owner of the property, with Oceanville Hotel and Spa Corporation as the lessee. Vanderwood is only a sub-lessee of the property it subsequently leased to PAGCOR; • The Commission on Audit (COA) disallowed the P234 million rental payments of PAGCOR to Vanderwood because the premises to be leased was not yet existing at the time of the execution of the contract; and • PAGCOR's Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) proceeded with the bidding despite failure of Vanderwood to submit some of the required documents. <p>Vanderwood Chair Manuel Sy and Oceanville Chair Simon Paz made the following clarifications, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The payment of advance rentals and security deposit will only be applied upon completion, turn-over and occupation of the facility. • Vanderwood also issued a check amounting to P234 million to PAGCOR to secure the payments made by PAGCOR in case Vanderwood fails to complete the project as stipulated in the contract. • No government money was used in the construction of the gaming facility that will be leased by PAGCOR.

Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability				<p>Asked by Speaker Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez (1st District, Davao del Norte) if Vanderwood is willing to rescind the contract based on the findings of the COA, Sy replied in the negative. He argued that the contract was done in good faith and that the company had already invested so much in the project. Sy mentioned that the facility will be ready for occupancy by PAGCOR within two weeks.</p> <p>As to the status of the contract, PAGCOR Chair Andrea Domingo informed the Committee of cases filed before the Regional Trial Court of Manila questioning the validity of the contract.</p> <p>PAGCOR was requested to submit to the Committee a copy of its lease contract entered with Vanderwood as well as other pertinent documents.</p>
Human Rights	HRs 687 & 634	Speaker Alvarez and Rep. Casilao	Investigation into the violent shooting of farmers belonging to the Madaum Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association, Inc. (MARBAI) by the security guards and personnel of Lapanday Foods Corporation (LFC) in Barangay Madaum, Tagum City, Davao Del Norte	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2nd District, Zambales) will deliberate further on the issues raised in HRs 687 and 634 in its next meeting.</p> <p>The call for inquiry stemmed from the violent eviction of agrarian reform beneficiaries in Davao del Norte from the land awarded to them under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).</p> <p>At the outset, DAR Secretary Rafael Mariano apprised the Committee of the powers and functions of DAR over all matters concerning the implementation of CARP including its jurisdiction over agrarian reform disputes.</p> <p>DAR Undersecretary Luis Meinrado Pangulayan narrated the events that eventually led to the shooting incidents in December 2016 allegedly perpetrated by the security personnel of LFC, which lays claim to the 145-hectare plantation in Barangay Madaum, Tagum City, Davao Del Norte.</p> <p>Pangulayan said that the victims of the violence are members of the MARBAI, who were original members of the Hijo Employees Agrarain Reform Beneficiaries Cooperation I (HEARBCO-1) but formed another cooperative when they did not agree with the supplementary agreement between HEARBO-1 and LFC in relation to their original agrarian venture agreement (AVA) covering the period 1999-2009.</p> <p>The subject of the AVA was a 450-hectare Hijo Plantation in Davao Del Norte awarded in 1996 to the tillers, who formed HEARBCO-1, on the basis of Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOAs)</p> <p>A 2013 amicable settlement between MARBAI and HEARBCO-1, facilitated by the DAR Provincial Adjudicator, led to the allocation of a portion of the plantation to MARBAI, which is the 145-hectare San Isidro (SANID) area.</p> <p>Meanwhile, LFC filed a case with the Regional Court in Davao City questioning the compromise</p>

<p>Continuation... Human Rights</p>				<p>agreement between the two groups, claiming that it violates the prior AVA between HEARBCO-1 and LFC.</p> <p>Pangulayan stressed that the decision of the RTC to assume jurisdiction over the case is invalid considering that the agrarian reform dispute is not within its jurisdiction but of the DAR Adjudication Board (DARAB) pursuant to the agrarian reform law.</p> <p>Speaker Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez (1st District, Davao del Norte), author of HR 687, inquired on the status of the cease and desist order (CDO) issued by the DAR against LFC in December 2016, and if the road lots within the property in dispute are covered by the CLOAs issued to the members of the HEARBCO-1.</p> <p>Pangulayan replied that DAR already sent a letter to the RTC branch in Davao to recognize the CDO issued by DAR saying that the latter has the jurisdiction on the matter. He added that DAR is also coordinating with the Philippine National Police (PNP) on the case.</p> <p>Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer Jocelyn Ceno of DAR-Davao del Norte added that the Department already issued a notice of coverage and acquisition of the subject road lots but it is still pending with the Landbank of the Philippines (LBP) for land valuation and computation of just compensation.</p> <p>Speaker Alvarez asked the DAR to enforce the CDO it issued and to facilitate the implementation of the notice of coverage and acquisition of the road lots in order to prevent LFC from barricading the roads in the area.</p> <p>The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) stated that it will conduct a separate investigation of the shooting incident and provide the Committee with its report.</p> <p>Region XI Police Chief Superintendent Manuel Gaerlan said that the PNP already conducted an investigation on the case. He promised to provide the Committee with a copy of the report.</p> <p>A video of the two shooting incidents in the plantation was shown during the meeting. Witnesses and victims of the incident gave their respective testimonies before the Committee, and so with the representative of LFC.</p>
<p>Public Order and Safety</p>	<p>Substitute Bill to HBs 176, 1348 & 3837</p>	<p>Reps. Nograles (K.A.), Acop, and Herrera-Dy</p>	<p>Defining and providing for stiffer penalties on the offense of illegal and indiscriminate discharge of firearms, thereby amending Article 254 of Act 3815, as amended, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code, and RA 10591, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), approved with amendment the Substitute Bill to HBs 176, 1348 and 3837.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Horacio Suansing Jr. (2nd District, Sultan Kudarat), chair of the technical working group</p>

Continuation... Public Order and Safety				(TWG) that crafted the substitute bill, reported that the TWG has extensively discussed the bill with representatives from concerned agencies who provided their inputs and recommendations.
Revision of Laws	HBs 2794, 3400, 3404, 3526, 3710, 3721 & 4272	Reps. Bataoil, Vergara, Cortes, Tan (A.), Uy (J.), Go (M.), and Acosta	Declaring special non-working holidays in various parts of the country to commemorate special events	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Marilyn Primicias-Agabas (6 th District, Pangasinan), approved the seven bills and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HBs 3189, 3196, 3282, 3459, 3548, 3718, 3765, 4154 & 4616	Reps. Biron, Duavit, Roman, Ortega (P.), Relampagos, Enverga, Bolilia, and Ramirez-Sato	Declaring non-working holidays in various parts of the country to commemorate special events	The Committee approved the nine bills subject to the submission of required documents.
	HBs 196, 2607, 4720 & 5122	Deputy Speaker Quimbo, Reps. Santos-Recto, Castelo, and Primicias-Agabas	Amending RA 9645, also known as the commemoration of the founding anniversary of <i>Iglesia ni Cristo</i> Act	The Committee directed its Secretariat to prepare the substitute bill and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HB 4490	Rep. Almonte	Declaring November 02 of every year as a special non-working holiday in the Province of Misamis Occidental to commemorate the "Araw ng Misamis Occidental"	The Committee directed its Secretariat to prepare the substitute bill and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HB 4972	Rep. Oaminal	Declaring November 02 of every year a special non-working holiday in the Province of Misamis Occidental in celebration of its founding anniversary	
	HB 4209	Rep. Gomez	Declaring November 05 of every year as special non-working public holiday in the City of Ormoc, Province of Leyte to be known as Ormoc Flash Flood Memorial Day	The Committee deferred its deliberation on HBs 4209 and 4383. Rep. Primicias-Agabas said that the authors need to respond to the comment of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) manifesting its objection to the bills. In its position paper submitted to the Committee, the NHCP noted that the event being commemorated is a natural disaster which occurs on a regular basis every year. The bill, if approved, will set a precedent for other localities to seek the declaration of special non-working holidays to commemorate similar calamities, regardless of magnitude and effect, the NHCP added.
	HB 4383	Rep. Romualdez	Declaring November 08 of every year a special non-working public holiday in the Eastern Visayas region to be known as the "Yolanda Commemoration Day"	
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development	HB 3335	Rep. Noel	Promoting the development of entrepreneurship skills among government employees to inspire innovativeness and to ensure their productivity even beyond government service	The Committee, presided by ANG KABUHAYAN Party-List Rep. Dennis Laogan, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune HB 3335. Rep. Laogan said that a bill with similar subject was approved on third reading during the 15 th and 16 th Congress.

<p>Continuation... Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development</p>				<p>Rep. Victoria Isabel Noel (Party-list, AN WARAY), author of HB 3335, said that her bill aims to provide assistance and opportunities for government employees to venture into entrepreneurial activities after their retirement in the government service through the establishment of cooperatives, savings and loans associations and entrepreneurial training programs while still in public service. She clarified that the bill does not promote the conduct of entrepreneurial activities that will conflict with the performance of the employees' regular duties and functions.</p> <p>Director Rafael Marco of the Human Resource Relations Office, Civil Service Commission (CSC), lauded the intent of the bill. He suggested that the bill should indicate that Section 7 (Prohibited Acts and Transactions) of RA 6713, otherwise known as the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, be observed in the implementation of the proposed law. This will ensure that in-service entrepreneurial activities will not interfere with the delivery of public service.</p> <p>Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Assistant Secretary Christopher Naga recommended that such entrepreneurial training should be offered to the employee at least two years prior to his or her retirement, and that an in-house business tutor or coach should be designated per government agency.</p> <p>Reivin Ambojia, Junior Management Associate of the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), recommended that instead of creating a new body, the CSC should spearhead the implementation of the proposed law in coordination with concerned government agencies.</p> <p>The bill proposes the creation of a Coordinating Council on the Government Employees' Entrepreneurship Development Program, composed of representatives from various government agencies and public sector unions, tasked to prepare a comprehensive plan to develop the entrepreneurial capabilities and skills of employees and to monitor the implementation of this proposed law.</p> <p>Commenting on a provision in the bill which allows government financial institutions (GFIs) to become sources of financing for the entrepreneurial projects of employees, Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) Assistant Vice President Visitacion Domingo said that only viable or income-generating projects should be financed.</p> <p>Representatives from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Confederation of Independent Union in the Public Sector (CIU), Public Services Labor Independent Confederation (PSLINK), and the Philippine Government Employees' Association (PGEA) expressed their</p>
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Continuation... Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development				support for the bill. They were requested to submit their position papers on the bill.
Suffrage and Electoral Reforms	HB 462	Rep. Tugna	Strengthening the procedure for registration of voters during barangay elections, amending for the purpose RA 8189, also known as the Voter's Registration Act of 1996	<p>The Committee, chaired by CIBAC Party-List Rep. Sherwin Tugna, will deliberate further on HB 462 in another meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Tugna, author of HB 462, stressed the importance of ensuring that voters for barangay elections comply with Article V, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution which requires that eligible voters should have resided in the Philippines for at least one year, and in the place wherein they propose to vote for at least six months immediately preceding the election.</p> <p>Director Teopisto Elnas Jr. of the Election and Barangay Affairs Department, Commission on Elections (COMELEC), interposed no objection to the bill, but recommended some amendments, which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delete the phrase “during barangay elections” from the title of the bill, which shall read as follows: “An Act Strengthening the Procedure for Registration of Voters, Amending For the Purpose Republic Act No. 8189, Also Known as the “Voter’s Registration Act of 1996;” • Disallow the transfer of registration records during the period starting 180 days before a barangay or regular election and 90 days before a special election; • Post the notice of approval of the application for transfer of registration records in barangay, city or municipal halls, and in the office of the election officer; and • Digitize the voter registration records to make the registration process more efficient as well as to minimize the use of paper. <p>The COMELEC was requested to formally submit its proposed amendments to the bill.</p>
	HB 3590	Rep. Villarín	Enforcing the stricter use of biodegradable and non-hazardous election propaganda materials, amending for this purpose RA 9006, or the Fair Elections Act, and Batas Pambansa 881, or the Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee decided to deliberate further on HB 3590 in another meeting.</p> <p>AKBAYAN Party-List Rep. Tom Villarín, author of HB 3590, said that the conduct of elections should be environmentally sound, saying that only non-hazardous, biodegradable and recycled materials should be used by the candidates for their election propaganda materials. He added that his bill provides that non-compliance with this requirement will constitute an election offense punishable under the Omnibus Election Code, in addition to an administrative liability.</p> <p>National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) Secretariat Executive Director (OIC)</p>

Continuation... Suffrage and Electoral Reforms				<p>Eligio Idefonso said that while the bill's intention is commendable, it might not be consistent with some environmental protection measures. He said that, for one thing, limiting campaign materials to just paper means more trees to be felled.</p> <p>Idefonso suggested that the focus should be on the recovery of materials after the election period and penalizing candidates who fail to do so.</p> <p>Eric Jude Alvia, secretary general of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL), agreed with the position of Idefonso.</p> <p>The Department of Health (DOH), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), other concerned agencies, and stakeholders in the plastic industry will be invited in the Committee's next meeting on HB 3590.</p>
Sustainable Development Goals (Special Committee)	HB 4390	Rep. Kho	Establishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Fund to maximize the country's potential toward the achievement of the post 2015 SDGs and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Elisa "Olga" Kho (2nd District, Masbate), will deliberate further on HB 4390 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Kho underscored the need to involve the local government units (LGUs) in efforts to attain the SDGs. The 17 SDGs, which built on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and came into force in January 2016, are a "universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity."</p> <p>Rep. Kho opined that though the Philippines performed satisfactorily in attaining some of the MDGs, the country could have achieved more if there were proper information dissemination and adequate consultations with the LGUs. She explained that the proposed creation of an SDG Fund will involve the LGUs in all aspects of the programs and projects related to the attainment of the SDGs.</p> <p>The SDG Fund will be sourced from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), and proceeds of the "sin taxes."</p> <p>PCSO Legal Department Manager Anna Liza Inciong said that the PCSO already supports several programs of the government as mandated by law, thus cannot fully support the funding requirement of the proposed law. Nonetheless, she informed the Committee that PCSO General Manager Alexander Balutan said the agency is open only to a one-time financial assistance.</p> <p>John Anthony Geronimo, senior economic development specialist of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), opined that the fund sources mentioned in the proposed bill are already being tapped for programs and projects that contribute to the attainment of the SDGs. He said that while the national</p>

Continuation... Sustainable Development Goals (Special Committee)				<p>government can help finance the localization of the SDGs, the LGUs must likewise be able to raise their own funds for the implementation of local SDG-related programs and projects.</p> <p>Geronimo suggested that in lieu of creating a new funding facility, the government must come up with an improved system that will make the various funding sources earmarked for the attainment of SDGs accessible to the LGUs and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Rommel Rojas, planning officer at the Department of Finance (DOF), said that the DOF does not support the proposal to use the proceeds from sin taxes for the SDG Fund because it may adversely affect the government's Universal Health Care Program, which relies on this tax collections as a fund source.</p> <p>Rep. Kho urged NEDA and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to take the lead role in the realization of the 17 SDGs.</p> <p>1-PACMAN Party-List Rep. Enrico Pineda suggested that the Committee request the government agencies to include in their budget proposals funds for attaining the SDGs.</p> <p>PAGCOR will be invited to attend the Committee's next meeting.</p>
Trade and Industry	HB 2171	Rep. Santos-Recto	Promoting the ease of doing business by mandating the automatic approval of business permit applications after 30 days of inaction and extending the validity period thereof	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ferjanel Biron, M.D. (4th District, Iloilo), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate HBs 2171, 4838, 5031 and 5093.</p> <p>Laguna Rep. Arlene Arcillas, former Sta. Rosa Mayor, and Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista each shared their respective cities' significant improvements in streamlining the issuance of business permits, licenses and clearances.</p> <p>The following government agencies and private sector groups expressed their support for the enactment of a law that will facilitate the conduct of business in the country: Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Civil Service Commission (CSC), National Competitiveness Council, Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc., Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (Phil.) Inc., Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Philippine Chamber of Small Business, Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), Laban Konsyumer, Inc., and Consumers Union of the Philippines. They manifested their respective recommendations on the bills.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong (1st District, Negros Oriental), co-author of HB 4838, recommended that the bill be referred to the Committee on Small Business and</p>
	HB 4838	Rep. Unabia	Expanding the functions of the <i>negosyo</i> centers and requiring the local government units to link up with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for the Philippine business registry databank, amending for the purpose RA 10644, also known as the Go Negosyo Act	
	HBs 5031 & 5093	Reps. Biron and Yap (A.)	Establishing a national policy on ease of doing business, creating for the purpose the Ease of Doing Business Commission	

Continuation... Trade and Industry				<p>Entrepreneurship Development since the bill's objectives in amending RA 10644 fall within the jurisdiction of the said Committee. She added that HB 4838 was the product of roundtable discussions of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development with stakeholders during the previous Congress.</p> <p>Rep. Biron acceded to the request of Rep. Limkaichong.</p>
	HB 3103	Rep. Aglipay-Villar	Designating the month of November as "Buy Pinoy, Build Pinoy Month" to encourage the public and private sectors to give priority to the purchase and utilization of Filipino products, labor, and services	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 3103 in another meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Manuel Zubiri (3rd District, Bukidnon), who sponsored the bill in behalf of the author, said that the bill seeks to promote the development and growth of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and encourage Filipinos to love and buy Filipino-made products.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Economic Affairs (Technical Working Group)	HBs 4389, 4468, 4501 & 4787	Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, Reps. Salceda, Yap (A.), and Belmonte (F.)	Further amending Commonwealth Act No. 146, otherwise known as the Public Service Act, as amended	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), agreed to draft a Substitute Bill to HBs 4389, 4468, 4501 and 4787 and the corresponding Committee Report, incorporating therein the recommendations of the University of the Philippines Law Center (UPLC), Philippine Competition Commission (PCC), and the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP).</p> <p>The substitute bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>PCC Commissioner Amabelle Asuncion suggested that PCC, not the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), should be the agency that should determine and recommend to Congress the classification of a business or service as a public utility.</p> <p>However, Rep. Salceda opined that NEDA should have this responsibility, but it will be done in consultation with PCC.</p> <p>The PCC is a newly-constituted independent quasi-judicial body that is mandated to implement the national competition policy and enforce the Philippine Competition Act (RA 10667).</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, author of HB 4389, agreed with PCC's position, explaining that NEDA is not a regulatory agency but a macro-economic planning agency.</p>

Civil Service and Professional Regulation (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 1123 & 5049	Reps. Alejano and Rodriguez (M.)	Regulating the practice of criminology profession in the Philippines and appropriating funds therefor, repealing for the purpose RA 6506 or the law creating the Board of Examiners for Criminologists in the Philippines	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Divina Grace Yu (1st District, Zamboanga del Sur), terminated its deliberation on the draft substitute bill, agreeing to incorporate therein the proposed amendments of the resource persons.</p> <p>The final draft of the substitute bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval in its next meeting.</p> <p>Board of Criminology Chair Ramil Gabao of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) proposed the following amendments to the substitute bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize the license for criminology as an eligibility for second level positions in law enforcement agencies; and • Authorize the proposed Professional Regulatory Board of Criminologists to have concurrent jurisdiction over criminologists working in the Philippine National Police (PNP). <p>Gerry Caño, president of the Professional Criminologists Association of the Philippines Inc. (PCAP), agreed with the proposal of Gabao to grant the proposed Professional Regulatory Board of Criminologists concurrent jurisdiction over criminologists working in the PNP, but added that this power should extend to all criminologists in other law enforcement agencies such as the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA). He mentioned that a bill similar to HB 5049 has been filed at the Senate.</p>
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FORUM		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Women and Gender Equality jt. w/ Poverty Alleviation	Forum on the dismal working conditions of women workers and land tillers	<p>The Committee on Women and Gender Equality, chaired by DIWA Party-List Rep. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar, and the Committee on Poverty Alleviation, chaired by GABRIELA Party-List Emmi de Jesus, conducted a forum entitled, "Stories Untold: The Dismal Working Conditions of Women Workers and Land Tillers" on March 7, 2017 at the House of Representatives.</p> <p>Rep. De Jesus said that the forum encourages women to join the discussions on issues and concerns affecting women workers and land tillers. She underscored the importance of enacting laws that will improve the lives of women and put a stop to discrimination and exploitation.</p> <p>Avic Gerodias, spokesperson of the <i>Kilusang Manggagawang Kababaihan</i> (KMK), described the dismal working conditions being endured by women workers in the country. Women workers account for more than 15 million of the total workforce based on the 2016 report of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). Out of which, five million are into part-time jobs and more than 10 million are engaged in full-time jobs.</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Women and Gender Equality jt. w/ Poverty Alleviation</p>		<p>Gerodias enumerated the problems generally faced by women workers which include the following: low wages, labor contractualization, work hazards, discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual abuse.</p> <p>Representing women land tillers, Zenaida Soriano, who is the chairperson of the AMIHAN National Federation of Peasant Women, lamented that women engaged in the agriculture sector are paid lower compared to their male counterpart. Soriano also asked Congress to pass the proposed Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill which she believes will put an end to land monopoly and feudal exploitation of farmers.</p> <p>Mary Joan Guan, executive director of the Center for Women Resources (CWR), discussed the CWR's 2017 status report on Filipino women, reiterating the problems being faced by women, as presented by Gerodias and Soriano. She presented statistics showing the distribution of women employment from 1985 to 2015: the number of women in the agriculture and industry sectors have decreased; while those engaged in the service sector have increased from 53.09% to 71.01%. Almost 90% of women in the services sector are employed as domestic helpers, she added.</p> <p>GABRIELA Party-List Rep. Arlene Brosas presented the bills filed in the House of Representatives in the present Congress which aim to improve the welfare of Filipino workers and land tillers.</p> <p>An open forum followed after the presentations of the resource persons.</p> <p>The closing remarks of Rep. Aglipay-Villar, which was delivered on her behalf by her staff, Atty. Florence Tolentino, revolved around the right of a woman to decent work.</p>
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