

# 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		
Cooperatives Development	Substitute Bill to HBs 188, 259, 2285 & 2824	Reps. Bravo (A.), Loyola, Marquez, and Suansing (E.)	Making the position of a cooperative officer mandatory in the municipal, city and provincial levels, amending for the purpose Republic Act 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991	The Committee, chaired by AGAP Party-List Rep. Rico Geron, approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to the four measures.
	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 Articles 60, 61 and 144 of RA 9520 or The Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008	The Committee approved the Committee Report on HR 256.
	HR 44	Rep. Bravo (A.)	Inquiry into the establishment of an apex organization of all cooperatives as a unifying body of the cooperative movement	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised relative to HR 44 in its next meeting.</p> <p>COOP NATCCO Party-List Rep. Sabiniano Canama inquired if the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) solely crafted the draft guidelines on the creation of an apex organization for cooperatives that was submitted to the Committee.</p> <p>CDA Board Administrator Eulogio Castillo answered in the affirmative.</p> <p>Rep. Geron, however, reminded the CDA that in the Committee's previous meeting, the instruction was for the CDA to consult the stakeholders to get their inputs on the proposed apex organization, and thereafter create a technical working group that will prepare the draft guidelines.</p> <p>Rep. Geron stressed that the CDA should conduct consultations first before submitting to the Committee the guidelines.</p>
Games and Amusements	HB 4843	Rep. Batocabe	Strengthening the Games and Amusements Board (GAB)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Gus Tambunting (2nd District, Parañaque City), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on HB 4843.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Mark Aeron Sambar (Party-List, PBA).</p> <p>AKO-BICOL Party-List Rep. Rodel Batocabe, principal author of HB 4843, said his bill intends to strengthen and expand the regulatory powers and supervisory functions of the GAB over</p>

Continuation... Games and Amusements				<p>professional sports, other allied activities and other forms of amusement.</p> <p>Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), co-author of HB 4843, added that GAB was created by virtue of an executive order in 1948, thus the need to enact a law that will update the agency's powers and functions to effectively perform its mandate.</p> <p>Rep. Randolph Ting (3rd District, Cagayan) raised concern about the proliferation of illegal cockfighting in his district and asked GAB if it has a program in place to curb this illegal activity.</p> <p>GAB Chair Abraham Kahlil Mitra replied that the power to regulate cockfighting, including the issuance of permits, has already been devolved to the local government units (LGUs) pursuant to the Local Government Code of 1991(RA 7160).</p> <p>Commenting on the proposed creation of an anti-illegal gambling unit (AIGU), GAB's Legal Services Chief Ermar Benitez said that the agency already has an existing AIGU in charge of preventing the existence and proliferation of illegal bookie joints and other organized forms of illegal gambling in professional sports and amusement games.</p> <p>Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City) expressed concern that AIGU's activities might pose a challenge to law enforcement agencies and other agencies with primary jurisdiction over the conduct of surveillance and search and seizure operations against perpetrators of illegal gambling activities.</p> <p>Rep. Henry Oaminal (2nd District, Misamis Occidental) suggested that a funding provision be included in the bill.</p>
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Food Security (Special Committee)	HBs 1102, 1547 & 2908	Rep. Castelo	Creating the Office of National Food Security and appropriating P20 billion therefor to be sourced from the funds of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO)	<p>The Joint Committee, co-presided by Rep. Virgilio Lacson (Party-List, MANILA TEACHERS), Vice Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Leo Rafael Cueva (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Negros Occidental), Chair of the Special Committee on Food Security, created a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on the five bills.</p> <p>Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Quezon City), author of HBs 1102, 1547 and 2908, underscored the importance of creating an office that would ensure the availability and accessibility of food to the poor to address the growing problem of hunger and malnutrition especially in far-flung areas of the country.</p> <p>Director Antonio Gerundio of the Department of Agriculture (DA) suggested that one of the concerns that the proposed food security council should look into is the looming shortage of farmers considering that the younger generation including most children of farmers in the country are not anymore inclined to engage in farming. He explained that the current average age of</p>
	HB 4223	Rep. Romero	Strengthening food security, establishing the Food Security Council	
	HB 4361	Rep. Espino	Providing for a framework for food security, establishing for the purpose a Food Security Authority and appropriating funds therefor	

Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ Food Security (Special Committee)				<p>farmers in the country is 57 years old.</p> <p>Also in support of the bills were representatives from the Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), and Commission on Human Rights (CHR). Both DAR and CHR suggested that the various bills promoting the right to adequate food which are pending with the Committee on Human Rights be consolidated with the bills creating a food security agency.</p> <p>Mariano Bautista, executive assistant at the Office for Legal Affairs, Civil Service Commission (CSC), said that there may be duplication of functions between the National Food Authority (NFA) and the proposed food security body. However, if the intention of the bills is to replace the NFA, the welfare of the affected employees shall be taken care of pursuant to RA 6656 or the law protecting the security of tenure of civil service officers and employees in the implementation of government reorganization.</p> <p>PAGCOR Senior Executive Liaison Officer Ramon Stephen Villaflor and PCSO lawyer Leah Christine Jimenez said that their respective offices already support several programs of the government as mandated by various laws, thus they may not be able to provide for the funding requirement under HBs 1102, 1547, and 2908.</p> <p>Atty. Augusto dela Cruz of the Office of the President (OP) declined to give the OP's official position on the bills until it has consulted with the concerned departments and agencies.</p>
Health	HBs 1517 & 4274	Reps. Adiong and Aggabao	Upgrading the AmaiPakpak Medical Center in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur and the Southern Isabela General Hospital in Santiago City, Isabela, respectively, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon) approved HBs 1517 and 4274 subject to style and amendment.
	HB 1869	Deputy Speaker Hernandez	Establishing the SOCKSARGEN General Hospital in the Municipality of Surallah, Province of South Cotabato, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 1869 subject to style and amendment.
	HB 2987	Deputy Speaker Andaya	Providing for the conversion of the Bicol Sanitarium in the Municipality of Cabusao, Province of Camarines Sur and expansion of its services to become the Bicol Regional Geriatric Medical Center and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 2987 subject to style and amendment.
	HBs 3666, 3750 & 4434	Reps. Martinez, Lobregat, and Malapitan	Increasing the bed capacity of Valenzuela Medical Center in Valenzuela City, Zamboanga City Medical Center in Zamboanga City, and Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital and Sanitarium in Caloocan City, respectively, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HBs 3666, 3750 and 4434 subject to style and amendment.

Continuation... Health	HB 4949	Rep. Velasco-Catera	Renationalizing all hospitals located in the Province of Marinduque, placing the same under the direct control, management, and supervision of the Department of Health (DOH), appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 4949 subject to compliance with the requirements of the Department of Health (DOH).
	HB 180	Rep. Albano	Providing compassionate and right of access to medical cannabis and expanding research into its medicinal properties	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to draft a substitute bill to HB 180.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Mario Vittorio “Marvey” Mariño (5<sup>th</sup> District, Batangas).</p> <p>Department of Health (DOH) Program Manager Jasmin Peraltado underscored the need to put in place precautionary measures in order to prevent any abuse in the use of cannabis or marijuana.</p> <p>Jorge Ignacio, chair of the Cancer Institute of the Philippine General Hospital (PGH), recommended that physicians should undergo training in order to know the proper handling of cannabis as well as its possible side effects.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon suggested a review of RA 9165 (or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002) which considers marijuana as a dangerous drug.</p> <p>The Philippine Cannabis Compassion Society, a group of cannabis advocates, presented a video of Rhythm Star Adams who recovered from infantile spasms when treated with cannabis in the United States.</p> <p>Amelia Roselle, a cancer patient, testified that she is now cancer-free after being treated with cannabis also in the US.</p> <p>Representatives from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) expressed their support for the bill.</p> <p>The stakeholders present were requested to submit to the Committee their position papers on the bill.</p>
	HBs 225,1975 & 5120	Reps. Roque (H.), Santos-Recto, and Salo	Establishing a universal health care (UHC) system for all Filipinos, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to draft a consolidated bill on HBs 225,1975 and 5120.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by the Chairperson herself, Rep. Tan.</p> <p>Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1st District, Ilocos Norte) informed the Committee that one of the priority legislative agenda of the present administration is the passage of the UHC bill.</p> <p>Representatives from the DOH, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE),</p>

Continuation... Health				<p>Philippine Charity Sweeptakes Office (PCSO), Philippine Gaming and Amusement Corporation (PAGCOR), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) expressed their support for the proposed law.</p> <p>The stakeholders present were requested to submit to the Committee their position papers on the bills.</p>
Housing and Urban Development	HB 1722	Rep. Biazon	Creating a Local Housing Board in all cities and first to third class municipalities, providing for its powers and functions	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair, Lapu-Lapu City Rep. Aileen Radaza, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune HB 1722.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by the author himself, Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon.</p> <p>Rep. Biazon said that his bill aims to create a Local Housing Board in all cities and first to third class municipalities nationwide to ensure the proactive implementation of housing programs at the local level. He added that the proposed measure envisions to provide an administrative machinery to effect the full implementation of RA 7279 or the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992 as well as cope with the fast pace of urbanization in the country.</p> <p>Representatives from the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC), Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF), Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP), Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC), and the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association Inc. (SHDA) expressed their support for the bill. They said that the proposed law recognizes the important role of local government units in achieving the housing objectives of the government.</p> <p>However, resource persons from the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations, Inc. (CREBA), Organization of Socialized Housing Developers of the Philippines (OSHDP), and the National Real Estate Association (NREA) raised some issues and concerns regarding the creation of local housing boards especially the regulatory powers being vested in it. They promised to submit their comments and recommendations for the consideration of the TWG.</p>
Information and Communications Technology	HB 1957 in consolidation with HBs 515, 616, 660, 1954, 2836, 3055 & 3250	Reps. Tambunting, Herrera-Dy, Roman, Elago, Santos-Recto, Baguilat, Yap (V.) and Primicias-Agabas	Mandating the provision of free Wi-fi internet access in public areas	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Victor Yap (2nd District, Tarlac), approved HB 1957 in consolidation with HBs 515, 616, 660, 1954, 2836, 3055 and 3250. Thereafter, the Committee approved the corresponding Committee Report subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1st District, Ilocos Norte) informed the Committee that one of the priority agenda of the present administration is the passage of the free Wi-fi internet access bill.</p>

Continuation... Information and Communications Technology				In support of the bill were representatives from the government and the private sector, namely: DICT, National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), League of Cities, Philippine Association of Private Telecommunications Companies (PAPTELCO), Philippine Cable Television Association, Inc. (PCTA), GLOBE Telecom, Smart Communications, Inc., and the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT).
Legislative Franchises	Substitute Bill to HB 4879	Rep. Abayon	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Gateway U.H.F Television Broadcasting, Inc., presently known as Gateway Television Broadcasting, Inc. and doing business under the name and style of Hope Channel Philippines, amending for the purpose RA 7223 or the law granting the Gateway U.H.F Television Broadcasting, Inc. a legislative franchise	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Franz "Chicoy" Alvarez (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Palawan), approved the substitute bill and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HB 4989	Rep. Del Mar	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Filipinas Broadcasting Association, Inc. presently known as Word Broadcasting Corporation, under RA 7485 or the law granting Filipinas Broadcasting Association, Inc. a legislative franchise	The Committee approved the substitute bill and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HB 4849	Rep. Belmonte (R.)	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Omninet Philippines, Inc. under RA 7298, or the law granting Omninet Philippines, Inc. a franchise to establish, install, maintain, lease, and operate wire and/or wireless telecommunications system, lines, circuits, and stations within and without the Philippines	The Committee approved the bill subject to style and amendment and compliance with the Committee's template for franchise bills.
	HB 4290	Rep. Tejada	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Notre Dame Broadcasting Corporation under RA 8109 or the law granting the Notre Dame Broadcasting Corporation a franchise to construct, install, operate, and maintain radio broadcasting stations in the Philippines for religious, educational, and cultural as well as for commercial purposes	The Committee approved the bill subject to style and amendment and compliance with the Committee's template for franchise bills.
	HB 2617	Rep. Umali	Renewing and amending the franchise granted to Innove Communications Inc. (formerly Isla Communications Co.) under RA 7372	The Committee approved the bill subject to style and amendment and compliance with the Committee's template for franchise bills.  ACTS-OFW Party-List Rep. Aniceto "John" Bertiz III raised the issue of the SIM cards purchased by overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and seafarers four years ago which never functioned when they reached the countries of their destination. He said that complaints were filed in relation to that issue but were never acted upon by the management of Innove Communications, Inc., also known as Globe Telecom.  Some Members of the Committee urged Globe

Continuation... Legislative Franchises				Telecom to act immediately on the complaints otherwise they will be constrained to have HB 2617 tabled when the Committee on Rules deliberates on the bill.
Muslim Affairs	HB 968	Rep. Turabin-Hataman	Declaring the first day of February of every year as National Hijab Day	<p>The Committee, chaired by AMIN Party-List Rep. Sitti Djalia Turabin-Hataman, approved HB 968 with amendment.</p> <p>As defined in the bill, a “hijab” is a “veil that covers the head and chest, which is particularly worn by a Muslim female beyond the age of puberty in the presence of adult males outside of their immediate family.”</p> <p>The intent of the bill is to raise awareness about why Muslim women wear the hijab and stop the discrimination against them.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HB 2623	Rep. Atienza	Establishing a Muslim Trade and Cultural Center of the Philippines in the City of Manila, being the capital of the Philippines, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 2623. The bill will be forwarded to the Committee on Appropriations for review of its funding provision.
	HB 3599	Rep. Zarate	Declaring March 6 of every year as Bud Dahu Day in commemoration of the Bangsamoro people’s resistance to foreign occupation, their continuing quest for peace and self-determination, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on HB 3599.</p> <p>BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate said that his bill, HB 3599, aims to rectify the historical injustices against the Moros with the proper narration of incidents that led to the massacre that took place at the crater of Mount Bud Dahu in Jolo, Sulu from March 5 to 8, 1906. The Bud Dahu incident was not a battle as claimed by Americans, but a brutal massacre of the Tausugs, including women and children, in their defiance of foreign occupation. Rep. Zarate believes that the victims deserve to be included among the country’s list of martyrs and for the government to hold commemorative activities in their honor.</p> <p>Representatives of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), UP Institute of Islamic Studies, and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) expressed support for the bill.</p> <p>Also supporting the bill is ARMM’s Assemblywoman Nedra Burahan of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regular District of Sulu, who believes that the passage of the measure would educate younger generation of the sacrifices of their ancestors. She suggested that the bill include a provision that would mandate the inclusion of the Moro History course in the country’s school curriculum.</p> <p>Rep. Turabin-Hataman also suggested to highlight in the bill the specific role played by the Tausugs in the Bud Dahu incident.</p> <p>Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) legal consultant on Shari’ah Law Jaime Ramirez lauds the intent of the bill to give due justice and honor to the forgotten</p>

Continuation... Muslim Affairs				Tausugs. He strongly pushed for the filing of a separate bill that will obligate the American government to provide compensation for the heirs of the victims of the Bud Dahu massacre.
North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)	HB 4571	Rep. Dalog	Abolishing the Baguio-Bontoc Halsema Highway National Toll Road and terminating the collection of toll fees along this highway	<p>The Committee, chaired by Mountain Province Rep. Maximo Dalog, approved HB 4571. However, the approval comes with the Committee's directive to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to resolve the problem on the fate of the 12 plantilla-position personnel manning the toll gates in the event the toll fees will be abolished.</p> <p>Rep. Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1st District, Ilocos Sur) sat as the presiding officer during the meeting to allow Rep. Dalog to explain and defend his bill.</p> <p>Rep. Dalog argued that the collection of toll fees along the Baguio-Bontoc Halsema Highway should be stopped anyway the proceeds of the toll are not used for the repair and maintenance of the road, but are remitted to the National Treasury. He also informed the Committee that the local governments of Mountain Province and the Province of Benguet have passed several resolutions expressing their strong support to HB 4571.</p> <p>DPWH Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) Regional Director Nerie Bueno said that, although the toll fees collected are remitted to the National Treasury, the DPWH can request for a special fund for the repair and maintenance of the Baguio-Bontoc Halsema Highway subject to the approval of the President.</p> <p>Benguet Rep. Ronald Cosalan and Baguio City Rep. Mark Go expressed concern about the plight of the would-be displaced 12 personnel assigned to man the toll gates upon the abolition of the toll fees. Rep. Cosalan urged the DPWH to absorb the 12 personnel so that they will not be rendered jobless as a result of this proposed law.</p> <p>DPWH-CAR Legal Counsel Maria Dionesia Guillermo expressed regret that the affected personnel could not be absorbed by the DPWH because they are "non-technical personnel."</p> <p>The Committee agreed that the DPWH should address this problem.</p>
	HB 4570	Rep. Dalog	Terminating the collection of toll fees along the portion of the Benguet road (Kennon road) from Klondykes Spring to Camp Six, repealing for the purpose EO 34, series of 1954, as amended	The Committee will deliberate further on HB 4570 in another meeting.
People's Participation	HB 249	Rep. Bordado	Creating a system of partnership between local governments and civil society organizations (CSOs) through the establishment of a people's council in every local government unit (LGU), prescribing its powers and functions.	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair, San Jose del Monte City Rep. Florida "Rida" Robes, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) tasked to prepare a Substitute Bill to HBs 249 and 568, using HB 249 as the reference bill.</p> <p>Rep. Gabriel Bordado (3rd District, Camarines</p>



Continuation... People's Participation	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 LGU, prescribing its powers and functions (Reps. Sabiniano Canama)	<p>Sur), author of HB 249, noted that RA 7160 or the Local Government Code was passed more than two decades ago, and since then, no other law has been enacted that strengthens the participation of civil society organizations in the task of nation-building.</p> <p>Director Marlonfritz Broto of the Performance and Project Management, Office of the Cabinet Secretary (OCS), recommended the inclusion of the terms "non-government organizations (NGO)" and "people's council" in the bill's definition of terms, and to identify the powers of the proposed Local People's Council separate from its duties and responsibilities.</p> <p>The representatives from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS) cited memorandum circulars issued by the DILG which already implement some of the provisions in the bills such as the process for registration of CSOs and the participation of NGOs in the Provincial Board, City Council or Municipal Council.</p> <p>May Bayta, certification officer of the Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC), suggested that the accreditation of NGOs that will be represented in the local councils should be lodged with the DILG in order to avoid favoritism or nepotism. Bayta claimed that only those NGOs which are closely associated with elected local government officials are allowed to participate in local legislation or decision-making process.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their position papers on the bills.</p>
	HB 1598	Rep. Baguilat	Providing for the accreditation of non-government organizations (NGOs) and peoples organizations (POs) eligible to access government funds and for the system of accountability and transparency in the use of these funds	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 1598 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Ifugao Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr., author of HB 1598, explained that his bill prescribes a set of criteria for the accreditation of NGOs and POs seeking eligibility to implement publicly-funded programs and projects to ensure accountability and transparency in the use of government funds.</p> <p>The representatives from the government sector and CSOs gave their comments and recommendations regarding the bill. They were later requested to submit to the Committee their position papers on the bill.</p>
Public Works and Highways	HBs 163, 348, 778, 1346, 1944, 2727 & PS 163	Rep. Belmonte (F.), Deputy Speaker Quimbo, Reps. Salceda, Acop, Santos-Recto,	Institutionalizing and strengthening Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Celso Lobregat (1<sup>st</sup> District, Zamboanga City), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the seven measures.</p> <p>The TWG will be headed by the Chair himself.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go asked about the status of implementation of projects under the</p>

<p>Continuation... Public Works and Highways</p>		<p>Alejano, and Gonzales (A.D.)</p>		<p>PPP and the problems encountered relative to its implementation.</p> <p>PPP Center Executive Director Ferdinand Pecson presented the PPP projects that are complete and operational, under construction, on pre-construction stage, and still for public bidding.</p> <p>Pecson said that the delays in the implementation of PPP projects occur in various stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the preparation stage, when projects are not well planned;</li> <li>• During the procurement stage, when certain information (e.g. project specifications and cost) needed by the project proponent are not readily available and the process of “due diligence” takes time to complete; and</li> <li>• During the implementation stage, when there are unresolved issues concerning right-of way and the resettlement of informal settlers.</li> </ul> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Gus Tambunting (2nd District, Parañaque City), Pecson said that the PPP Center gauges the success of the PPP projects by the kind of feedback it gets from the public. He was also proud to note that the Philippine PPP scheme is now being recognized internationally as the PPP Center gets to be invited in other countries, like Myanmar and Peru, to discuss how PPP works.</p> <p>Rep. Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales Jr. (3rd District, Pampanga) requested the PPP Center and the agencies involved in the implementation of PPP projects to provide him with updates on these projects and actions taken to address the problems affecting project implementation, which are the subject of his recent Privilege Speech.</p> <p>In his privilege speech delivered in January of this year, Rep. Gonzales mentioned several infrastructure projects under the PPP arrangement that have remained stalled despite efforts of the present administration to fast-track their implementation as they are seen to propel economic growth.</p> <p>Rep. Gonzales underscored the need to address the causes of delays in project completion, such as right-of-way acquisition issues; stringent requirements; delayed release of crucial certificates or permits; lack of project assessors, lawyers, and engineers among concerned government agencies; and delayed project evaluation.</p> <p>The concerned agencies promised to provide Rep. Gonzales with their respective status reports on the matter at the soonest possible time.</p> <p>Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Albay),</p>
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Continuation... Public Works and Highways				<p>author of HB 778, said his bill intends to strengthen the PPP Center which plays a major role in moving the country forward towards achieving economic growth through the development of various infrastructure projects. HB 778 also recognizes the important role of the private sector in nation building, thus proposing amendments to RA 6957 (or the law authorizing the financing, construction, operation and maintenance of infrastructure projects by the private sector) to establish a more robust cooperation between the public and private sectors.</p> <p>Rep. Salceda requested the PPP Center to submit a list of programs under the Philippine National Development Plan that may be undertaken through the PPP scheme.</p> <p>The PPP Center, Departments of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Transportation (DoTr), and Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), and Manila North Tollways Corporation ((MNTC) gave their support to the proposed measure.</p> <p>The stakeholders present were requested to submit pertinent documents for consideration by the TWG.</p>
Reforestation (Special Committee)	HR 382	Rep. Yu	Inquiry into the alleged irregularities and wrong policies in the implementation of the National Greening Program (NGP) with the end in view of assessing the effectivity of the program	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Noel Villanueva (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Tarlac), will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 382 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Divina Grace Yu (1<sup>st</sup> District, Zamboanga del Sur), author of HR 382, disclosed that some of the NGP partner-organizations in the list of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said that they are unaware of their supposed participation in the program. Rep. Yu further questioned the implementation of the NGP, expressing doubt on the DENR's capability to achieve the objectives of the program.</p> <p>The NGP, implemented by virtue of Executive Order (EO) 26 issued on February 24, 2011, is a multi-billion peso project which aims to grow 1.5 billion trees in 1.5 million hectares nationwide within a period of six years or from 2011 to 2016. The program is anchored on the government's goal of reducing poverty, ensuring food security, conserving the environment and biodiversity, and enhancing climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Joseph Stephen Paduano (Party-List, ABANG LINGKOD), Director Nonito Tamayo of the DENR's Forest Management Bureau (FMB), explained that the seedlings planted in identified NGP areas are nurtured for three years to ensure the plants' survival.</p> <p>Jesusa Gauang, state auditor at the Commission on Audit (COA), reported that based on the yearly audit of the NGP, problems on the monitoring and implementation of the program,</p>

Continuation... Reforestation (Special Committee)				<p>as well as the survival rate of the planted trees have been observed.</p> <p>Rep. Arnolfo "Arnie" Teves Jr. (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Negros Oriental) suggested the conduct of an ocular inspection of some NGP areas which will be randomly selected by the Committee.</p> <p>Tamayo was requested to submit the following: a comprehensive NGP accomplishment report per region, province, municipality/city; total number of planted trees in every region; and Geo-tag photos of the NGP areas.</p> <p>The Committee will invite concerned DENR regional directors in its next meeting.</p>
Tourism	HR 737	Rep. Rocamora	Commending the Department of Tourism (DOT) for spearheading the well-planned, coordinated, and executed hosting of the 2016 Miss Universe Pageant	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Lucy Gomez (4 <sup>th</sup> District, Leyte), adopted HR 737.
	HB 1404	Rep. Amante	Providing for the establishment of health facilities in key tourism destinations and providing funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to deliberate further on HB 1404 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Oriental Mindoro), expressing support for the bill, asked the Department of Tourism (DOT) to recommend which government entity should shoulder the cost for the establishment and maintenance of the proposed health facilities.</p> <p>DOT Undersecretary Falconi Millar and Virginia Clavel, head of the Program Advocacy and Monitoring Division of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), also expressed support for the bill. Clavel suggested that the leagues of cities and municipalities be consulted regarding the management of the health centers.</p> <p>Anthony Cu, chief of the Facility Planning and Program Development Division of the Department of Health (DOH), suggested that instead of establishing new health facilities, it is more economical to rehabilitate existing health centers in key tourism areas. He added that the local government units (LGUs) are in a better position to maintain the health centers, with the DOH providing the required equipment and personnel.</p> <p>On the other hand, Rep. Tricia Nicole Velasco-Catera (Party-List, MATA) urged the DOH to take the responsibility of managing the operations and maintaining the proposed health facilities, explaining that the LGUs do not have adequate resources for this additional responsibility.</p> <p>AKO BICOL Party-List Rep. Rodel Batocabe said that aside from the DOH, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) should also be tapped to provide ambulances and medical equipment to the LGUs for the health centers in their respective areas.</p>

Continuation... Tourism				The PCSO and the leagues of cities and municipalities will be invited to attend in the Committee's next meeting.
	HB 3551	Rep. Relampagos	Mandating natural resources and cultural heritage management through tourism with the imposition of environmental fees or "green fees" for the use, preservation, conservation, development, promotion and protection of the country's natural resources and cultural heritage	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 3551 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Rene Relampagos (1<sup>st</sup> District, Bohol), author of HB 3551, said that he filed a similar bill during the 16<sup>th</sup> Congress that went through exhaustive discussion by a technical working group (TWG) created by the Committee for this purpose. The recommendations of the said TWG were included in HB 3551, Rep. Relampagos added.</p> <p>Under HB 3551, environmental fees or "green fees" in the initial amount of P100 shall be imposed on all foreign tourists coming into the country, to be collected in all entry points, such as ports, airports, and terminals, in the province-destinations. Proceeds of the green fees will be used exclusively for the development and conservation of the country's natural resources and cultural heritage.</p> <p>Meriden Maranan, chief of the Caves, Wetlands and Other Ecosystems Division under the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), recommended that the green fees should not be in addition to other fees being charged by LGUs on tourists.</p> <p>Fidel Arcenas Sr., Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) Chief Operating Officer for Administration and Finance, proposed that the green fees be collected through the International Air Transport Association (IATA), by making it as an add-on amount in the cost of plane tickets to be purchased by tourists visiting the Philippines.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to invite IATA in the next meeting.</p>
	HB 981	Rep. Fortun	Declaring Butuan City as a heritage tourism zone and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the amendments to these previously approved bills, as proposed by the authors themselves, Reps. Lawrence "Law" Fortun (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Agusan del Norte) and Leopoldo Bataoil (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Pangasinan).
HB 1020	Rep. Bataoil	Establishing the Lingayen Gulf Marine Ecotourism Park in Lingayen, Pangasinan and appropriating funds therefor		

**TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING**

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HB 2912	Rep. Amatong	Establishing the Philippine Rubber Industry Development Board, defining its powers and functions, and appropriating funds therefor	The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Isagani Amatong (3 <sup>rd</sup> District, Zamboanga del Norte), terminated its deliberations on the Substitute Bill to HB 2912.

<p>Continuation... Agriculture and Food (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>The bill will be presented to the Mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Region IX Director Sitti Amina Jain, who is also the manager of the National Rubber Industry Cluster formed by the DTI, expressed her support for the bill. According to Jain, the proposed creation of the Philippine Rubber Industry Development Board will facilitate the convergence of all efforts of various government agencies and non-government entities engaged in the rubber industry.</p> <p>The Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD) and the Platinum Rubber Development Inc. also support the bill.</p> <p>Philippine Rubber Research Institute (PRRI) Interim Executive Director Rodolfo Galang suggested that the proposed Board be attached to the Department of Agriculture (DA), which should be the lead implementing agency for the proposed law.</p> <p>The other members of the TWG prefer DTI as the lead implementing agency.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p>North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>	<p>Briefing on infrastructure projects in Regions I and II:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPWH projects</li> </ul>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Mountain Province Rep. Maximo Dalog, listened to the briefing conducted by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) on its plans and programs for FY 2017- 2018 for Regions I &amp; II; and on the briefing on the Daang Kalikasan Project.</p> <p>DPWH Region I Regional Director Ronnel Tan presented the current year's programs and projects in the Region, consisting mainly of construction, repair or upgrading of roads and bridges, and their corresponding budget allocation. He also mentioned the status of these projects as to whether they are ongoing, ready for implementation or under the bidding process.</p> <p>Tan also presented the proposed 2018 projects of the DPWH for Region 1, including new projects.</p> <p>DPWH Region II Regional Director Melanio Briosos said that the DPWH has allocated this year P13 billion for Region II for the implementation of projects mostly involving the widening of existing national roads and bridges.</p> <p>Briosos added that for 2018, a budget of P25 billion has been proposed to fund various infrastructure projects for Region II.</p> <p>As regards the programs and projects of the DPWH in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Rep. Dalog said that the matter was already discussed with the Committee by the regional director of DPWH-CAR.</p> <p>The DPWH regional directors responded to the queries raised by the Members of the Committee relative to the status of programs and projects concerning their respective districts.</p>

<p>Continuation... North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daang Kalikasan Project</li> </ul>	<p>Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Pangasinan) presented the Daang Kalikasan Project in relation to the bill he filed, HB 5163, that provides for the improvement of the Daang Kalikasan National Road, and in seeking the Committee's support in pushing for a continuing budget allocation for the completion of the project.</p> <p>The Daang Kalikasan Project is a convergence project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), DPWH, and Department of Tourism (DOT), designed to preserve the natural habitat of the area and duplicate the Subic experience.</p> <p>According to Rep. Bataoil, the Daang Kalikasan Project is a 54-kilometer road stretch that will link Region I to Region III through Mangatarem in the Province of Pangasinan and Sta Cruz in the Province of Zambales. He said that project construction already started in Region III upon receipt of the 2016 funds intended for the project. However, Region I will only commence construction this year due to the late release of its funds.</p> <p>Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Zambales), co-author of HB 5163, said that the Daang Kalikasan project would cost P5.3 billion based on a feasibility study. She noted, however, that only P150 million was released in 2016 for the project and another P100 million in 2017. She wondered when the project will ever be completed.</p> <p>Both Reps. Bataoil and Deloso-Montalla urged the continuous allocation of funds for the Daang Kalikasan Project, citing its importance in preserving the last remaining virgin forest in the area, as well as making the place a centerpiece of eco-tourism.</p>
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Updates on the programs and projects relative to the air transportation sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilization plan for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), Clark International Airport (CIA) and Sangley Airport</li> </ul>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, discussed with concerned government agencies the status of their plans and programs aimed at addressing problems affecting the country's air transportation sector.</p> <p>Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) Assistant General Manager Octavio Lina said that the project for the construction of additional rapid exit taxiway (RET) at the NAIA has already been awarded to the winning bidder. Lina said the RET will speed up aircraft take-off and landing time and will increase the current cap of 40 flights per hour schedule at the NAIA. However, Lina revealed that the project was put on hold due to complaints filed by the losing bidders.</p> <p>Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) Deputy Director General Manuel Antonio Tamayo reported that CAAP has a continuing discussion with the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) regarding the transfer of the general aviation services of NAIA either to CIA or Sangley Airport in a bid to decongest the country's main international gateway. He added that, in fact, some local airlines have already started to divert some of their flights to CIA in support of the government's efforts to decongest NAIA.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Surigao del Sur) on the plans of the DOTr for the Sangley Airport in Cavite, DOTr Assistant Secretary Gladys Velasco said that the DOTr has already started the bidding process for the rehabilitation of the airport to accommodate general aviation services. Velasco also mentioned the plan of the Philippine Reclamation Administration (PRA) to develop the airport into an international logistics hub.</p> <p>PRA Board Chair Alberto Agra said that, pursuant to Executive Order No. 629 issued in 2007, the PRA is mandated to convert the Sangley Point in Cavite City into an international logistics hub. Under the same executive issuance, the development will include a modern seaport and airport and will involve the reclamation of portions of Bacoor and Cañacao Bays. Currently, Agra said, the PRA is in the process of evaluating four proposals for the development of Sangley Airport. However, Agra pointed out that there may be some delays in the implementation of the project because of an added layer in the approval process for reclamation projects with the issuance of EO 146 in 2013.</p>

<p>Continuation... Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed PPP projects for the development of five airports: Bacolod-Silay International Airport, Davao International Airport, Iloilo International Airport, Laguindingan Airport, and New Bohol (Panglao) Airport</li>   <li>• Status of the Communications Navigation Surveillance/ Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) Technology System</li>   <li>• Status of the unsolicited proposal for the proposed Bulacan airport</li> </ul>	<p>Under EO 146, the power of the President to approve reclamation projects has been delegated to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board. The PRA, to which this power had been previously delegated, shall now recommend the approval of all proposed reclamation projects to the NEDA Board.</p> <p>On the status of the P2.8 billion budget intended for the construction of the new passanger terminal building at the CIA, Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC) Vice President Lauro Ortile said that the DOTr has yet to release funds for this purpose.</p> <p>Malabon City Rep. Federico "Ricky" Sandoval II expressed dismay at the non-release of said funds, considering that this budget allocation was made under the FY 2015 General Appropriations Act (GAA).</p> <p>The Committee urged the DOTr to expedite the release of the P2.8 billion allotment for the development of the CIA in line with the objective of decongesting the NAIA.</p> <p>Public-Private Partnership Center (PPP Center) Executive Director Ferdinand Pecson said that the DOTr Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) has scheduled a pre-qualification conference on March 13, 2017 for the bidding of the projects to develop these five airports.</p> <p>Speaker Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez (1st District, Davao del Norte) rejects the plan of the DOTr and the PPP Center to go into another set of airport development projects when the country's urgent programs to decongest the NAIA have not yet been realized. The Speaker said that it would be more advantageous for the country to immediately upgrade and develop the Clark International Airport and Sangley Airport, which are seen as the most viable alternative international gateways, than the other airports. He thus strongly urged the DOTr to immediately stop the implementation of the other PPP airport projects and focus on the pending programs at the NAIA, CIA and Sangley Airport.</p> <p>On the status of the CNS/ATM technology system, Tamayo said that it will be fully operational by the end of this year. He explained that the system will enhance the safety, reliability and efficiency of air traffic, thereby reducing flight delays and cancellations and easing air traffic congestion at the NAIA.</p> <p>The CMS/ATM is a computer-based flight data processing system that will enable aircraft operators to meet their planned schedule of departures and arrivals, and adhere to their preferred fligh profiles with minimum constraints and without compromising safety. (Source: CAAP website)</p> <p>Asked by the House Majority Leader, Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas (1<sup>st</sup> District, Ilocos Norte), on the status of unsolicited proposal submitted by San Miguel Corporation (SMC) to build a new international airport in Bulacan, Pecson said that the PPP Center is still in the process of reviewing the documents submitted by SMC.</p> <p>The Majority Leader requested the PPP Center to submit to the Committee a list of proponents of the proposed international airport project in Bulacan, and a copy of unsolicited proposals received by the PPP Center for the building of new international airports in the country.</p>
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