

# Committee Daily Bulletin



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

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. I No. 89  
March 14, 2017

COMMITTEE MEETINGS					
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION	
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR			
Basic Education and Culture	Substitute Bill to HBs 1890 & 2867	Reps. Defensor and Escudero	Establishing a career guidance counselling program for all secondary schools and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Evelina Escudero (1st District, Sorsogon), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HBs 1890 and 2867.	
	HB 139	Rep. Noel	Mandating the conservation of Gabaldon and other heritage school buildings nationwide, providing penalties for violations thereof, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Committee Report on HB 139.	
	HB 385	Rep. Mangaoang	Separating the Rizal National High School of Arts and Trades-Santor Extension in the Municipality of Rizal, Province of Kalinga from the Rizal Provincial National School of Arts and Trades, converting it into an independent national high school to be known as Santor National High School, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the 11 bills and the corresponding Committee Reports.	
	HBs 1640 & 3510	Rep. Tambunting	Separating the Don Bosco High School and San Antonio High School from the Parañaque National High School in Parañaque City, converting them into independent national high schools and appropriating funds therefor		
	HBs 2091 & 4486	Reps. Cerilles and Cari	Establishing national high schools in the Provinces of Zamboanga del Sur and Leyte and appropriating funds therefor		
	HBs 2506, 2507, 2508 & 3438	Rep. Martinez	Establishing national high schools and an elementary school in the City of Valenzuela and appropriating funds therefor		
	HB 4840	Rep. Almario	Establishing an integrated school in Licop, City of Mati, Province of Davao Oriental to be known as Licop Integrated School and appropriating funds therefor		
	HB 5059	Rep. Cosalan	Converting the Bokod National high School Daklan extension to Daklan National high School and appropriating funds therefor		
	HB 217	Rep. Villarica	Instituting inclusive education and establishing the inclusive education learning resource centers for children and youth with special needs in all public		The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the fourteen bills.

Continuation... Basic Education and Culture			schools divisions, providing for standards and guidelines, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>Among the issues raised during the meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High cost involved in establishing and operating SPED centers;</li> <li>• Lack of clear cut standards, policies, and programs relative to SPED; and</li> <li>• Inadequate number of therapist and other specialized personnel to man SPED centers.</li> </ul> <p>Rep. Eric Martinez (2nd District, Valenzuela City) urged the Committee to visit the SPED Center in Valenzuela City which could serve as a model in establishing SPED centers nationwide. He boasted of the Center being considered as one of the best SPED centers in the country.</p> <p>The resource persons present were requested to submit their position papers on the bills.</p>
	HBs 74, 320, 741, 1709, 1969, 2236, 3646 & 4625	Reps. Vargas, Primicias-Agabas, Aglipay-Villar, Biazon, Suansing (E.), Revilla, Antonino, and Deputy Speaker Andaya	Establishing special education (SPED) centers for children with special needs (CSNs) in all public schools divisions, providing for standards and guidelines, and appropriating funds therefor	
	HBs 2218 & 4034	Deputy Speaker Arroyo and Rep. Belaro	Providing for the creation of municipal SPED centers for the deaf-mute and blind children, appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 2704	Rep. Castelo	Establishing SPED centers for CSNs in every local government unit (LGU) and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 2954	Rep. Acharon	Establishing at least one SPED center for each school division and at least three SPED centers in big school divisions for CSNs, creating the implementing machinery thereof, providing guidelines for government financial assistance and other incentives and support	
	HB 4488	Rep. Olivarez	Establishing at least one SPED center for every component city and at least two SPED centers for every highly urbanized city	
	HB 3563	Rep. Salo	Enhancing the Philippine basic education system by focusing on the development of critical thinking, craftsmanship and character (3Cs) among the learners, amending for the purpose RA 10533, otherwise known as the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to study further HB 3563.</p> <p>Department of Education (DepEd) Undersecretary Dina Ocampo signified the DepEd's support to the proposed law which is also within the ambit of the K to 12 Program.</p> <p>Dr. Tere Atienza, dean of the Graduate School of the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), and Father Jonathan Bitoy, dean of Claret School, also manifested their support to the bill, saying that the 3Cs will help develop the child at a young age to prepare him for the future.</p> <p>Referring to the bill's title, Rep. Escudero suggested that the word "craftsmanship" be changed to "competency-based learning."</p> <p>The stakeholders were requested to submit their position papers on the bill.</p>
Energy	HB 27	Rep. Umali	Amending Sections 3 (a) and 4 of PD 1865, by increasing the penalties for prohibited acts, such as adulteration of petroleum products, which is inimical to public interest	The Committee, chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune HB 27.

Continuation... Energy				<p>The TWG will be chaired jointly by Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2nd District, Oriental Mindoro), author of HB 27, and 1-CARE Party-List Rep. Carlos Roman Uybarreta.</p> <p>Rep. Uybarreta, who sponsored the bill on behalf of Rep. Umali, said that the bill seeks to impose stiffer penalties to curtail the adulteration of petroleum products which is harmful to the environment and to the health and well-being of the people.</p> <p>Based on studies, Rep. Uybarreta disclosed that air pollution in Metro Manila is primarily caused by emissions from vehicles mostly using institutionally adulterated diesel (IAD).</p> <p>SAGIP Party-List Rep. Rodante Marcoleta sought confirmation from the resource persons present in the meeting of the findings of studies identifying IAD as the main cause of air pollution in Metro Manila.</p> <p>BioSyn Resources Inc. chief executive officer Deo Reloj Jr. explained that in usual refinery operations, straight-run diesel is blended with light cycle oil, a waste product in gasoline production. However, it accelerates the formation of carbonaceous and resinous deposits in the vehicle's fuel injector tips, piston tops and valves, resulting in inefficient combustion or smoke belching.</p> <p>The Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association (IPPCA) informed the Committee that its members - Flying V, SeaOil, and UniOil - have already reported to the Department of Energy (DOE) as early as 2015 the result of the tests they conducted with their retail gasoline stations which showed that their fuel were blended with methanol at various concentrations. According to IPPCA representative Tanya Samillano, the use of methanol, which is a highly toxic and corrosive substance, violates the Philippine national standard (PNS) for fuels.</p> <p>The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the DOE gave their views and comments relative to the bill.</p> <p>The resource persons present were requested to submit their position papers on the bill for the TWG's consideration.</p>
Foreign Affairs	HR 646	Rep. Bertiz	Inquiry into the persistent delays in the issuance of passports to Filipino applicants and the utilization of the passport revolving fund	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Linabelle Ruth Villarica (4th District, Bulacan), terminated its inquiry relative to HR 646. The Secretariat was directed to draft the corresponding Committee Report incorporating therein the Committee's recommendations.</p> <p>Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Assistant Secretary Frank Cimafranca presented the current state of DFA's passport delivery services. He made the following suggestions to</p>

Continuation... Foreign Affairs				<p>expedite DFA's passport processing system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue an Executive Order providing for the reorganization of the field offices of DFA's Office of Consular Affairs (OCA);</li> <li>• Increase the validity of passports from five to 10 years, thereby amending RA 8239 or the Philippine Passport Act of 1996;</li> <li>• Provide sufficient resources and capacity-building for personnel involved in the passporting services; and</li> <li>• Update and streamline the passporting processes and requirements.</li> </ul> <p>Cimafranca clarified that there is no delay as far as printing of passports is concerned. This was concurred with by Director Omar Alexander Romero of the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO).</p> <p>KABAYAN Party-List Rep. Harry Roque Jr. inquired whether there is an available data proving that there are no delays in the printing of passports.</p> <p>Information Technology (IT) Manager Noabell Domingo of the APO Production Unit answered in the affirmative, and promised to submit pertinent documents to the Committee. APO, an agency attached to the PCOO and is one of the three government entities authorized to print passports and other accountable forms, was contracted by the DFA to print the Philippine e-passports.</p> <p>Director Jonathan Uy of the Public Investment Staff of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) disclosed that apart from the joint venture contract executed between DFA and APO, the latter also entered into a contract with the United Graphic Expression Corporation (UGEC).</p> <p>Rep. Henry Oaminal (2nd District, Misamis Occidental) questioned the legality of APO's contract with UGEC, saying that it might have violated the government procurement law.</p> <p>In response, APO-UGEC Joint Venture Lawyer Aileene Sanguir explained that the joint venture with UGEC was proper since its purpose was only to upgrade and modernize the printing system of APO.</p> <p>Rep. Ma. Theresa Collantes (3rd District, Batangas) stressed the need to establish more consular offices across the country to speed up the issuance of passports.</p>
Good Government and Public Accountability	Privilege Speech 179	Rep. Barbers	On the alleged controversy surrounding the audit of legitimate mining companies	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), will deliberate further on the issues raised by Rep. Robert "Ace" Barbers (2nd District, Surigao del Norte) in his privilege speech delivered last month.

<p>Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability</p>				<p>Rep. Barbers decried hasty decisions to close mining companies including even those legitimate and responsible ones, without regard to the welfare of mine workers and their families who depend on mining for their livelihood. He also clarified that the issue at hand is not the technical expertise of the mining audit team but the integrity of its members and the audit process itself.</p> <p>Committee Members asked incumbent and former officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) several questions regarding the closure of mines around the country and the basis for such decision.</p> <p>At the outset, former Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Director Leo Jasareno manifested that he was not speaking in behalf of DENR Secretary Gina Lopez because his contract of service as her consultant already expired in December 2016. From what he knew, Jasareno said that the mining companies issued with closure orders were found to have committed major violations of environmental laws which adversely damaged watersheds and caused the siltation of marine areas.</p> <p>MGB Assistant Director Danilo Uykieng reported that out of the 41 operating mining companies reviewed by the mining audit team, 13 companies passed the audit, 22 were issued a closure order, four were suspended, and two were issued a show cause order.</p> <p>Uykieng explained that the closure order once issued is final and the companies involved would no longer be allowed to operate again. On the other hand, a suspension order requires the companies involved to implement corrective measures for their infractions. The mining companies that were issued a show cause order are those which passed the audit but upon review of the Secretary were found to have violated the law.</p> <p>Rep. Barbers chided the DENR, particularly the MGB, for failing to do their job of regulating and monitoring mining activities in the country which should have prevented early on the damage on the environment caused by mining operations.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Ferdinand Hernandez (2<sup>nd</sup> District, South Cotabato) and several Members of the Committee said that the DENR Secretary herself is the only person who can answer most of the questions and issues raised by the Committee.</p> <p>Rep. Pimentel reminded the DENR representatives that the presence of the DENR Secretary is required in the Committee's next hearing, otherwise the Committee will be compelled to issue her a subpoena.</p>
--	--	--	--	--

Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability				The Committee requested the resource persons present to submit their respective position papers. The MGB was likewise requested to submit several documents pertinent to the mining audit.
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Appropriations	HB 3781, in consolidation with HBs 3838, 3871 & 3913	Reps. Nograles (K.A.), Velasco, Almario, and Deputy Speaker Hernandez	Rightsizing the national government to improve public service delivery	<p>The Joint Committee, co-presided by Rep. Virgilio Lacson (Party-List, MANILA TEACHERS), Vice Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles (1<sup>st</sup> District, Davao City), Chair of the Committee on Appropriations, approved HB 3781, in consolidation with HBs 3838, 3871 and 3913, subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Department of Budget and Management (DMB) Secretary Benjamin Diokno presented the salient provisions of the proposed Rightsizing the National Government Act of 2017. He said that the consolidated bill is in line with the President's goal of eliminating redundant, duplicate and overlapping functions and organizations in the Executive Branch.</p> <p>The proposed law will empower the President to merge or abolish agencies as well as implement other measures to improve the efficiency of government operations and enhance the delivery of services. The President is likewise authorized to formulate and provide safety nets for personnel who may be affected by the rightsizing program.</p> <p>According to Diokno, the program will cover all 186 agencies under the Executive Branch with the exception of positions falling under the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teaching and teaching-related positions;</li> <li>• Medical and allied medical positions;</li> <li>• Military and uniformed personnel; and</li> <li>• Positions in government owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs) covered by the Government Commission for GOCCs (GCG).</li> </ul> <p>The Legislature, Judiciary, Constitutional Commissions, Office of the Ombudsman, and local government units (LGUs) may adopt their own rightsizing program.</p> <p>Several House Members manifested their support for the proposed law.</p> <p>On the other hand, Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (COURAGE) National President Ferdinand Gaité objected to the bill, saying that the government has continued to fail in its attempts to streamline the bureaucracy. He suggested that government efforts be channeled to programs that will improve the lives of its employees, such as increasing the minimum wage rate and solving the problem of contractualization.</p>

Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ Appropriations				Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Actuarial Risk Management Division Manager Oliver Flores requested that the funding source of the proposed law be clearly identified in the consolidated bill. Diokno agreed to study the matter.
North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee) jt. w/ Government Enterprises and Privatization	HB 4495	Rep. Savellano	Creating the Northern Luzon Growth Quadrangle Development Authority, prescribing its powers and functions and appropriating funds therefor	The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Mountain Province Maximo Dalog, Chair of the Special Committee on North Luzon Growth Quadrangle, and Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, for the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization, approved HB 4495.
Overseas Workers Affairs	HB 1700	Rep. Villarín	Granting the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) the right to equal protection in money claims, amending for the purpose Section 10 of RA 8042 or the Migrant Workers And Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995, as amended by RA 10022	The Committee, chaired by BUHAY Party-List Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr., approved HB 1700 subject to style and amendment.
	HB 1072	Rep. Lanete	Mandating every Filipino worker bound for deployment to undergo financial and entrepreneurial seminars, making it a requirement for deployment, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee agreed to consolidate HBs 1330 and 1072.  Rep. Scott Davies Lanete (3 <sup>rd</sup> District, Masbate), author of HB 1072, emphasized the importance of providing a literacy program for OFWs to equip them with proper education and training in managing finances and wise investment opportunities.
	HB 1330	Rep. Gatchalian	Amending RA 8042, as amended, further strengthening the pre-departure orientation program for the OFWs	AKBAYAN Party-List Rep. Tom Villarín said that the OFWs should start investing their hard-earned money in profitable businesses to assure their financial stability in the event that they decide to finally settle in the country.  Atty. Robert Chuan, head (OIC) of the Legal Staff Department of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), expressed support for the proposed law, adding that OWWA will develop capacity-building activities, such as financial literacy and livelihood trainings to further help the OFWs.
	HB 4740	Rep. Gonzales (A.)	Providing for protection of the remittances of OFWs	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune the bill.  The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales Jr. (3 <sup>rd</sup> District, Pampanga), author of HB 4740.  Rep. Gonzales said that his bill seeks to reduce the amount of charges imposed on OFW remittances which are incurred in the course of transferring funds from the OFWs living abroad to their families in the Philippines.  Luther Calderon, president of <i>Kabalikang Pilipino</i> (KAMPI), explained that lowering the charges and fees for OFW remittances is hard to implement because bank and non-bank financial institutions, where the remittance is coursed through, could not identify whether the money comes from an

Continuation... Overseas Workers Affairs				OFW or a Filipino who holds a permanent resident status abroad.  The resource persons present were again invited to attend the next TWG meeting.
Poverty Alleviation	Substitute Bill to HBs 31, 232, 478, 1122 & 1895	Reps. Del Mar, Marcoleta, Sy-Alvarado, Alejano, and Fortuno	Providing for a Magna Carta of the Poor	The Committee, chaired by GABRIELA Party-List Rep. Emmi de Jesus, approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HBs 31, 232, 478, 1122, and 1895.
	HBs 17, 41, 73, 207, 293, 318, 366, 399, 501, 518, 699, 823, 887, 901, 1098, 1429, 1548, 1661, 1694, 1948, 2278, 2456, 2545, 2688, 2772 & 4135, and HR 464	Rep. Biazon, Deputy Speaker Quimbo, Reps. Vargas, Violago, Suansing (H.), Primicias-Agabas, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Belmonte (J.C.), Yap (V.), Deputy Speakers Castro (F.) and Macapagal-Arroyo, Reps. Yap (A.), Tan (A.), Fortuno, Castelo, Tupas, Angara-Castillo, Rodriguez (M.), Santos-Recto, Tambunting, Pineda, Romero, Tan (S.), Mercado, Bag-ao, and De Jesus	Institutionalizing the <i>Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program</i> (4Ps) and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee suspended its deliberation on the 31 measures pending the completion of an inquiry into the implementation of the 4Ps.  The Committee will invite the Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) in its meeting on May 16, 2017 to shed light on issues and concerns regarding the implementation of the 4Ps.
	HBs 2856, 2897 & 4211	Reps. Tan (A.), Yap (A.), and Vargas	Institutionalizing the Expanded Student Grants-in-aid Program for Poverty Alleviation (ESGP-PA) and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 4155	Rep. Bolilia	Institutionalizing the rice allowance program in 4Ps and appropriating funds therefor	
Ways and Means	Substitute Bill to HBs 34, 246, 448, 1428, 1438, 1558, 1764, 1970, 2616, 2990, 3070, 3276 & 3371	Reps. Del Mar, Angara-Castillo, Belmonte (J.C.), Tupas, Belaro, Villafuerte, Zarate, Suansing (E.), Umali, Gatchalian,	Institutionalizing the national school feeding program for public kindergarten and elementary pupils and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, approved the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to the 13 bills.

Continuation... Ways and Means		Primicias-Agabas, Roque (H.), and Rodriguez (M.)		
	Substitute Bill to HB 124	Rep. Lobregat	Declaring the Pasonanca Watershed Forest Reserve, located in Zamboanga City as a protected area under the category of natural park and providing for its management	The Committee approved with amendments the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to HB 124.
	HBs 4774 & 4688	Reps. Cua and Salceda	Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Act	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to draft a substitute bill to the measures.
	HB 2168	Rep. Santos-Recto	Increasing the threshold for certain non-VAT taxpayers, amending for the purpose Sections 109 and 236 of RA 8424, as amended	Department of Finance (DOF) Undersecretary Karl Chua presented the proposed tax reform package, as revised, based on the suggestions of the stakeholders.
	HBs 20, 35, 39, 57, 103, 137, 295, 333, 403, 411, 466, 562, 1536, 1601, 1604, 1656, 1657, 1696, 1945, 1950, 2347, 2427, 2544, 3259 & 3360	Deputy Speaker Quimbo, Reps. Del Mar, Yap (A.), Tinio, Tan (A.), Noel, Suansing (H.), Zarate, Abellanosa, Tiangco, Deputy Speaker Abu, Reps. Castelo, Herrera-Dy, Baguilat, Angara-Castillo, Rodriguez (M.), Santos-Recto, Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, Reps. Javier, Pineda, Aglipay-Villar, and Deputy Speaker Garin	Restructuring/adjusting the income tax rates imposed on individuals, amending certain sections of RA 8424, as amended	<p>Representatives from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), National Tax Research Center (NTRC), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Health (DOH), and other government agencies present manifested their support for the proposed law.</p> <p>On the other hand, the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) expressed some reservations on the proposed law.</p> <p>Likewise, most of the representatives from industry associations made known their objections to the bills at hand, arguing that the increase in taxes on petroleum products and on automobile, as well as the removal of VAT exemptions, may affect their output and sales.</p> <p>CDA Administrator Orlando Ravanera requested the Committee not to remove the exemption of cooperatives from the payment of VAT to conform to RA 9520 or the Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008.</p>
	HBs 183, 362 & 4299	Reps. Olivarez, Zamora, and Cortuna	Increasing the age ceiling for a qualified dependent, amending Section 35 of RA 8424, as amended	DSWD Secretary Judy Taguiwalo agreed with the CDA, saying that cooperatives play a very important role in building the lives of the Filipinos, especially the poor and the marginalized.
	HBs 1000, 1002, 2154, 2599, 2600, 2601 & 3668	Reps. Campos, Pineda, Santos-Recto, and Tambunting	Excluding overtime pay, 13th month pay, performance-based bonus, and night differential pay from the computation of taxable income, amending for the purpose Sec. 32 of RA 8424, as amended	Chua explained that subjecting the electric cooperatives to VAT would not create a major impact on this sector. As a matter of fact, he said, this sector would be better served by the proposed tax reform package, he added.
	HBs 363, 997, 1326, 1522, 2140, 3734 & 4068	Reps. Zamora (M.), Campos, Gatchalian, Deputy Speaker Macapagal-	Increasing the personal and additional income tax exemptions for each qualified taxpayer and dependent, amending for the purpose Sec. 35 of RA 8424, as amended	<p>Chua emphasized that the tax reform package is envisioned to promote investments, improve public services, create job opportunities, and reduce poverty.</p> <p>Rep. Anthony Bravo (Party-List, COOP-</p>

Continuation... Ways and Means		Arroyo, Reps. Cuaresma, Cortuna, and Zubiri		NATCCO) said that he supports the tax reform bill but also pushed for the exemption of cooperatives from VAT.
	HB 1272	Rep. Biazon	Including medical expenses as allowable tax deductions for individual taxpayers, amending for the purpose Sec. 34 of RA 8424, as amended	Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Albay), author of HB 4688, manifested that the provision subjecting cooperatives from VAT be deleted.
	HB 1660	Rep. Angara-Castillo	Providing for tax deductions for family requirements including payments for tertiary education tuition and allied expenses as well as interest payments for a first home mortgage, amending for the purpose Section 34 of RA 8424, as amended	
	HB 1705	Rep. Biazon	Exempting from tax allowances and benefits granted to public school teachers, including those in the state colleges and universities	
	HB 3327	Rep. Ocampo	Granting tax deductions to parents and legal guardians of children with special needs	
	HB 3741	Rep. Marcoleta	Including incidental expenses in the exercise of profession as additional allowable deductions from the taxable income of teachers	
	HB 1803	Rep. Gasataya	Amending Section 35, Paragraph B (4) of RA 8424, as amended	
	HB 4134	Rep. Bag-ao	Amending Sections 24, 34 and 110 of RA 8424, as amended, reducing the income tax liabilities of individuals	
	HB 4696	Rep. Villafuerte	Amending Section 24 of RA 8424, as amended	

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Economic Affairs jt. w/ Trade and Industry (Technical Working Group)	HB 4106	Rep. Garcia (J. E.)	Further strengthening the powers and functions of the Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan (AFAB), amending for this purpose RA 9728, also known as the Freeport Area of Bataan (FAB) Act of 2009	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Bataan), agreed to draft a Substitute Bill to HB 4106, incorporating therein pertinent recommendations of the resource persons.</p> <p>Representatives from the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), Bureau of Customs (BOC), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) expressed support for the bill.</p> <p>However, these government agencies underscored the need to review the proposed additional powers and functions of the AFAB</p>

<p>Continuation... Economic Affairs jt. w/ Trade and Industry (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>arguing that they impinge on the agencies' respective mandates. Some of their recommendations are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The administrative supervision over special economic zones should remain with PEZA, pursuant to RA 7916 or the Special Economic Zone Act of 1995.</li> <li>• Port operations in the Bataan Freeport should be placed under the jurisdiction of the PPA.</li> <li>• The issuance of environmental compliance certificate (ECC) is the mandate of the DENR.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the BOC objects to the expansion of the territorial waters covered by the Freeport Area of Bataan (FAB), arguing that it will hinder BOC's function of monitoring the entry of shipments in Bataan.</p> <p>DOLE's Bureau of Local Employment (BLE) Director Dominique Rubia-Tutay also objects to the bill's exemption of foreign workers of FAB-registered enterprises from securing the alien employment permit (AEP) and working visa. She stressed that under the Labor Code of the Philippines (PD 442), foreign workers are required to secure an AEP from the DOLE before the Bureau of Immigration (BI) issues the working visa.</p>
<p>Social Services (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>Substitute Bill to HBs 1916, 2396, 4865, 5058, 209, 524, 591, 656, 1831, 2173, 2513, 2546, 2738, 3490, 1584, 1586 &amp; 3160</p>	<p>Reps. Violago, Sy-Alvarado, Laogan, Aglipay-Villar, Batocabe, Velarde, Treñas, Vargas, Santos-Recto, Roa-Puno, Pineda, Tupas, Tan (A.), and Tambunting</p>	<p>Amending RA 7277, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons, as amended</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Jose Antonio "Kuya Jonathan" Sy-Alvarado (1<sup>st</sup> District, Bulacan), approved the Substitute Bill to the 17 measures with amendments.</p> <p>The substitute bill will be submitted to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>ANG KABUHAYAN Party-List Rep. Dennis Laogan, author of HB 4685, presented the salient features of his bill. On the other hand, Rep. Melecio Yap Jr. (1<sup>st</sup> District, Negros Occidental), in behalf of Rep. Micaela Violago (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Nueva Ecija), author of HB 209, manifested that the explanatory note to the bill be registered as the author's sponsorship speech.</p> <p>The following resource persons gave their views and recommendations on the proposed law: Philippine Foundation for the Rehabilitation of Disabled, Inc. President Manuel Agcaoili; Tahanang Walang Hagdanan, Inc. Executive Vice President Joy Garcia; Nestle Philippines, Inc. regional intellectual property adviser Dennis Jose Barot; Philippine Deaf Resources Center representative Liza Martinez; National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) Chief Rizalio Sanchez; and Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) senior insurance</p>



<p>Continuation... Bases Conversion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clark Development Corporation (CDC)</li> <li>• John Hay Management Corporation (JHMC)</li> <li>• Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC) on their mandates, plans and programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase 4 – construction of a third runway expanding all facilities, including general aviation, to serve 80 million passengers per year.</li> </ul> <p>In response to the query of Rep. Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales Jr. (3rd District, Pampanga) relative to the timeline for the projects' completion, Dizon said that the construction of Phase 1 will commence by the fourth quarter of 2017 and is targeted to be finished by 2020. The other phases of the project will start at a later date.</p> <p>CDC Vice President for Business Enhancement Group Eva Tejada apprised the Committee of the recent developments within the Clark Freeport Zone, which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of the 9,450-hectare Clark "Green City" within a special economic zone;</li> <li>• Presence of 900 investor-locators;</li> <li>• CIA's 186 flights per week, consisting of 146 international flights and 40 domestic flights;</li> <li>• Getting P1.2 billion investments for road projects for 2017; and</li> <li>• CDC's contribution to the national coffers of P700 million from its revenues in 2016.</li> </ul> <p>JHMC Administrator Zaldy Bello informed the Committee that Camp John Hay covers 657 hectares or 11% of Baguio City's land area. At present, Bello said, the John Hay Special Economic Zone (JHSEZ) has 120 investor-locators.</p> <p>Emphasizing the constraints on the operation of JHSEZ as a result of the enactment of RA 9400, the law which amended the Bases Conversion and Development Act of 1992, as amended, Bello suggested the amendment of the law to revert the supervision over JHSEZ from the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) back to the BCDA.</p> <p>PPMC Chair Sherwin Rigor presented the PPMC's plans and programs which include the construction of an access road connecting Poro Point to Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEX); a ferry terminal; and a regional airport.</p> <p>Rigor said the other infrastructure projects and housing development plans, as well as sporting events are expected to promote Poro Point not only as a freeport zone but a tourism destination in the North.</p>
<p>North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>	<p>Briefing by the following government agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Tourism (DOT)</li> </ul>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Mountain Province Rep. Maximo Dalog, listened to the briefing conducted by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and by the Department of Education (DepEd) on their plans and programs for the Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR) and Regions I and II.</p> <p>DOT Region I Regional Director Martin Valera apprised the Committee of the <i>Daang Kalikasan</i> Project and the North Philippines Tourism Alliance for Development (NPTA).</p> <p><i>Daang Kalikasan</i>, a convergence project of the DOT, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), involves the paving of a 54-kilometer stretch eco-tourism road connecting Brgy. Muelang in Mangatarem, Pangasinan and Brgy. Guisguis in Sta. Cruz, Zambales. Valera added that the project, which is set to be completed by 2022, is already being implemented.</p> <p>Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2<sup>nd</sup>District, Pangasinan) reported that the stretch of <i>Daang Kalikasan</i> in Mangatarem, Pangasinan has been planted with Ilang-Ilang trees by members of people's organizations assisted by the DENR. He stated that the demand for Ilang-Ilang oil in</p>

<p>Continuation... North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Education (DepEd)</li> </ul>	<p>the world market, especially in France, is high.</p> <p>Valera also presented the NPTA, which formed a working alliance and cooperation among the four regions in North Luzon, namely: Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon and Cordillera, to promote and market North Philippines as a single destination to be comprised of a diverse choice of attractions, services and products.</p> <p>The NPTA aims to attract local and foreign visitors, to generate employment and livelihood opportunities for the people and revenues for the government, and to support a strong local, private sector-led industry towards the socio-economic development of the cluster regions of the north.</p> <p>Valera said that Northern Luzon, which is “blessed with a myriad of tourism assets, opportunities and potentials,” is accessible by land, water and air because of the improved infrastructure facilities in the area.</p> <p>DepEd Finance Service Director Armando Ruiz reported that DepEd's 2018 proposed budget will include funds for the replacement of classrooms which are more than 25 years old and the repair and rehabilitation of old classrooms and Gabaldon buildings or heritage school houses across the country. But, he said, the DepEd is still in the process of finalizing its 2018 proposed budget so he cannot give a copy of it to the Committee yet.</p> <p>On the query of Benguet Rep. Ronald Cosalan, Ruiz clarified that any increase in the DepEd budget should conform to the guidelines and procedure of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).</p> <p>The DepEd was requested to submit the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List of classrooms to be constructed/rehabilitated in all districts in North Luzon;</li> <li>• Average percentage increase in the 2018 budget of the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and Regions I and II;</li> <li>• Funds allocated for the school-building program including the rate of increase;</li> <li>• Plan of action to address the lack of teacher positions in various schools nationwide;</li> <li>• List of school building not yet completed under the account of Megawide Construction Corporation; and</li> <li>• Schedule of releases of the 2016 budget for school buildings;</li> </ul> <p>The DepEd representatives will again be invited to attend the Committee's next meeting.</p>
<p>Public Order and Safety</p>	<p>Briefing by the Philippine National Police on the reactivation of its anti-illegal drugs campaign</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Antipolo City), listened to the briefing of the Philippine National Police (PNP) on the reactivation of its anti-illegal drugs campaign dubbed as “Double Barrel: Reloaded.”</p> <p>PNP Drug Enforcement Group (PNP-DEG) Acting Director Graciano Mijares reported that the PNP-DEG was launched on March 6 replacing the PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Group (PNP-AIDG). Its objectives are to conduct intensified anti-illegal drug operations, ensure the successful prosecution of drug cases, and enhance public awareness on the harmful effects of dangerous drugs in partnership with the community. To achieve these objectives, Mijares said that the PNP-DEG needs to recruit 417 additional personnel, who will go through a stringent vetting process.</p> <p>PNP Director for Operations Camilo Pancratius Cascolan stated that following the killing of South Korean businessman Jee Ick-Joo by some rogue policemen last October 2016, President Rodrigo Duterte</p>

<p>Continuation... Public Order and Safety</p>		<p>ordered the deactivation of all of PNP's anti-illegal drugs units.</p> <p>However, Cascolan said, during the suspension of the PNP's anti-illegal drug operations, the PNP received reports from a number of local government units (LGUs) and concerned citizens that drug personalities have resurfaced and continued with their illegal trade. This, he said, prompted the President to direct the PNP, in close coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), to launch a reinvigorated drug campaign.</p> <p>Cascolan reported that barely a month after the reactivation of its anti-illegal drug campaign, the PNP was able to conduct 10,636 house visitations and 519 police operations; arrested 834 users and pushers; and persuaded 1,351 drug personalities to personally appear and surrender to police stations for processing.</p> <p>PNP Chief Ronald dela Rosa said that the newly created PNP-DEG will focus its efforts on running after high-value targets such as drug lords and manufacturers and protectors of illegal drugs. He also vowed that the "Oplan Double Barrel: Reloaded" will be "less bloody" than the previous anti-illegal drug campaign of the PNP, adding that it also gives importance to the rehabilitation of drug addicts.</p> <p>Iligan City Rep. Frederick Siao asked about the measures being undertaken by the PNP to ensure that the PNP-DEG will not be infiltrated by scallawags in the police.</p> <p>Dela Rosa replied that while it is not guaranteed that the new group will be 100% unsullied, the PNP has put in place mechanisms to prevent the mistakes and lapses that were committed in the past operations, such as the rigid vetting process and the presence of counter intelligence task force which will monitor the behavior of the members of the PNP-DEG.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Henry Oaminal (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Misamis Occidental), Dela Rosa said that the PNP-DEG is currently in the process of recruiting at least a hundred lawyers to beef up its legal team.</p> <p>MAGDALO Party-List Rep. Gary Alejano asked on the number of illegal drug users in the country, mentioning that it is important that the data is based on scientific surveys so that the objectives are properly set and achieved. He also asked for a complete report on the circumstances behind the deaths of alleged drug users while in the custody of law enforcers or under investigation, including the breakdown on who among those killed were armed or had pending cases before the court. Dela Rosa promised to immediately comply with Rep. Alejano's requests, adding that all cases are properly documented.</p> <p>Reps. Jonas Cortes (6<sup>th</sup> District, Cebu) and Leopoldo Bataoil (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Pangasinan) underscored the importance of fostering a partnership with other sectors to make the government's campaign against illegal drugs a success.</p> <p>When asked by Rep. Pedro Acharon Jr. (1<sup>st</sup> District, South Cotabato and General Santos City) on the relationship between the PDEA and the PNP in the new campaign against illegal drugs, Dela Rosa clarified that the PNP supports and closely coordinates with the PDEA, explaining that the latter lacks the personnel to address drug-related crimes.</p>
--	--	--