

# Committee Daily Bulletin

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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Housing and Urban Development (Technical Working Group)	HBs 449, 1518, 1721, 3375, 3639 & 5114	Reps. Belmonte (J.C.), Macapagal-Arroyo, Biazon, Castelo, Romero, and Bagatsing	Creating the Department of Housing and Urban Development (DHUD), defining its mandate, powers and functions, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The joint technical working group (TWG), co-chaired by KABAYAN Party-List Rep. Ron Salo for the Committee on Government Reorganization and Rep. Jose Christopher Belmonte (6<sup>th</sup> District, Quezon City) for the Committee on Housing and Urban Development, terminated its deliberation on the bills creating the Department of Housing and Urban Development (DHUD).</p> <p>The Committee Secretariat will draft a substitute bill to the six measures, incorporating therein the recommendations of the stakeholders. Thereafter, the substitute bill will be presented to the joint Committee for consideration and approval.</p> <p>Representatives from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), and the Social Security System (SSS) proposed the inclusion in the bill of a set of criteria for identifying government lands that will be used for housing programs.</p> <p>Undersecretary Edwin Bael, presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), avers that the creation of a new department on housing will result in more housing and livelihood projects for both urban and rural areas and even in armed conflict areas.</p> <p>Likewise, Baltazar Cruz, technical team head under the Office of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary Emily Padilla, suggested that a separate bureau, which will still be under the proposed DHUD, be created to cater to the social housing needs of informal settler families (ISFs).</p> <p>The Committee requested the stakeholders present to submit in writing all their proposed amendments and comments introduced during the meeting for possible incorporation in the final version of the bill.</p>
Health (Technical Working Group)	HBs 225, 1975 & 5120	Reps. Roque (H.), Santos-Recto, and Salo	Establishing a universal health care (UHC) system for all Filipinos, appropriating funds therefor	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4 <sup>th</sup> District, Quezon), will deliberate further on HBs 225, 1975 and 5120 in its next meeting.

Continuation... Health (Technical Working Group)				<p>AKBAYAN Party-List Rep. Harry Roque Jr., author of HB 225, explained the merits of his bill.</p> <p>Former Health Secretary Enrique Ona emphasized the importance of providing continuous funding support to the universal health care program. He also manifested his support to the creation of a Universal Health Care Commission, as espoused in the bill, to streamline what he believes is a fragmented health care system of the country.</p> <p>Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1<sup>st</sup> District, Nueva Ecija) asked PhilHealth if it has any estimates of the funding requirement to implement the proposed law. Philhealth Senior Manager Lemuel Untalan answered in the negative.</p> <p>Department of Finance (DOF) statistician Johanna Hortinela suggested that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) be invited in the Committee's next meeting to get its views on the fiscal feasibility of providing annual budget appropriations to implement the proposed law. She emphasized that if the fund source will be the annual appropriations, the bill should specify the amount to be allocated.</p> <p>Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) Senior Legal Officer Concepcion Gloria-Rubio and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) Department Manager Ruvim Magno both manifested that their respective agencies cannot anymore extend funding support to the proposed law saying that their available funds are already allocated to various programs of the national government.</p> <p>Department of Health (DOH) Health Research Division Chief Beverly Lorraine Ho opined that rather than creating another agency, she recommended that the PhilHealth be strengthened, by amending its charter, in order to achieve the objectives of the bill.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to invite the Philippine Medical Association (PMA), Philippine Hospital Association (PHA), Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines, Inc. (PHAPI), Insurance Commission (IC), Health Maintenance Organization (HMO), Governance Commission for Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations (GCG), and DBM in its next meeting.</p>
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PUBLIC HEARING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Labor and Employment	HBs 55, 76, 170, 341, 556, 563, 709, 712, 895, 916,	Reps. Bag-ao, Aglipay-Villar, Nograles (K.A.), Villarin, Casilao, Castelo,	Strengthening the security of tenure of workers in the private sector	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Randolph Ting (3 <sup>rd</sup> District, Cagayan), held the third of a series of public hearings in relation to the 29 measures, seeking to strengthen the security of tenure of workers in the private sector, in

Continuation... Labor and Employment	1045, 1208, 1351, 1563, 1837, 1857, 1910, 2389, 3556, 3769, 3802, 4443, 4444, 5130 & 5264; and Privilege Speech Nos. 18, 38, 65 & 198	Angara-Castillo, Tan (A.), Roque (H.), De Jesus, Zarate, Bertiz, Herrera-Dy, Aragones, Villarica, Paduano, Go (M.), Yap (A.), Zubiri, Nieto, Mendoza (R.D.), Tugna, Bravo, and Elago		Cebu City on March 17, 2017.  Representatives from various labor groups expressed support for the proposed law, citing the difficulties they experience due to unfair labor practices, particularly contractualization.  Aside from Rep. Ting, the other House Members who attended the public hearing were Reps. Vicente "Ching" Veloso (3 <sup>rd</sup> District, Leyte), Ronald Cosalan (Benguet), Ariel "Ka Ayik" Casilao (Party-List, ANAKPAWIS), Mark Go (Baguio City), and Arlene Brosas (Party-List, GABRIELA).  Also present were representatives from the Associated Labor Union-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (ALU-TUCP), Philippine Association of Legitimate Service Contractors (PALSCON), BPO Industry Employees Network (BIEN), Philippine Airlines Employees Association (PALEA), and the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP).
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**PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM**

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Constitutional Amendments	Public consultation on constitutional reform	<p>The Committee, chaired by Southern Leyte Rep. Roger "Oging" Mercado, held another round of public consultations, this time in Bacolod City on March 17, 2017, for the purpose of determining the sentiments of the public on proposals to amend the Constitution.</p> <p>Discussions revolved around two questions which the Committee asked of the attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether it is necessary to amend or revise the Constitution; and</li> <li>• Specific proposals, if any.</li> </ul> <p>Most of the attendees proposed to amend the economic provisions of the Constitution, while others proposed to amend only the structural provisions.</p> <p>House Members present in the said consultation were: Deputy Speaker Mercedes Alvarez (6th District, Negros Occidental), Reps. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental), Alejandro Mirasol (5th District, Negros Occidental), Juliet Marie de Leon Ferrer (4th District, Negros Occidental), Greg Gasataya (Bacolod City), Gus Tambunting (2nd District, Parañaque City), and Lawrence "Law" Fortun (1st District, Agusan del Norte).</p> <p>Other attendees to the consultation were Bacolod City Mayor Evelio Leonardia, Board Member Alain Gatuslao of the Province of Negros Occidental and other local officials, and representatives from government agencies, the private sector and other multi-sectoral groups in the area.</p>

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