

# Committee Daily Bulletin

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Second Regular Session

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Banks and Financial Intermediaries	HB 817	Rep. Batocabe	Ensuring the continued financial capacity of insurers to provide coverage for risks from terrorism, providing funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune the bill.</p> <p>Rep. Alfredo Garbin Jr. (Party-List, AKO BICOL) cited the importance of the bill in countering the extortion activities perpetrated by the New People's Army (NPA) and other terrorist groups, forcing local contractors/investors to pay revolutionary taxes or face possible harm or disruption in the implementation of their projects.</p> <p>Rep. Garbin said that while foreign investors are covered by insurance from risks caused by acts of terror, local contractors are not, causing them to succumb to the demands of terrorists. According to Rep. Garbin, local contractors have pledged not to give in to terrorists' demands if their projects have insurance coverage against acts of terror.</p> <p>Commissioner Dennis Funa of the Insurance Commission (IC) confirmed that one of the exclusions in most property insurance policies is terrorism and that there is no existing Philippine law or policy mandating such insurance coverage. Funa suggested that such coverage be held mandatory only in areas where terror acts are rampant.</p> <p>Senior Vice President Maria Obdulia Vitug-Palanca of the Insurance Group, Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) said that sabotage and terrorism are part of the general exclusions in the insurance coverages of GSIS. She clarified, however, that GSIS provides insurance only to government properties.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to participate in the coming TWG deliberations and to submit their respective position papers on the bill for consideration by the TWG.</p>
	HR 1633	Rep. Belaro	Inquiry into the official actions taken by the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) in relation to the fraud investigation reports (FIRs) on the transactions of the defunct Export and Industry Bank (EIB), its subsidiaries, major stockholders, directors and officers	<p>The Committee will continue its inquiry into the actions taken by the PDIC in connection with the FIRs on the transactions of the defunct EIB.</p> <p>After the EIB folded up in 2012, the PDIC, which took over the bank, contracted auditing firm Alba Romeo &amp; Co. to probe into the transactions of</p>

Continuation... Banks and Financial Intermediaries				<p>EIB. The auditing firm was able to submit 25 FIRs, however, only six were pursued by the PDIC.</p> <p>The Committee asked the PDIC to submit documents pertinent to the remaining 19 FIRs, as well as its position paper on why these FIRs were not acted upon.</p> <p>However, PDIC General Counsel Ma. Antonette Bolivar informed the Committee that the PDIC is in no position to divulge the contents of the 19 FIRs.</p> <p>Rep. Evardone stressed that the Committee will not hesitate to issue PDIC a subpoena to comply with the directive to submit the said documents.</p>
Good Government and Public Accountability	HR 1505	Rep. Vergara	<p>Inquiry into the apparent corruption and irregularities in the imposition, collection and distribution of taxes and fees on the quarrying operations in the Province of Nueva Ecija and other provinces in the Philippines</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 1505 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Pimentel on the compliance of the Provincial Government of Nueva Ecija with the Committee's instruction for the submission of documents pertinent to the inquiry, Provincial Treasurer Rosario Rivera said that her office has so far made partial submissions to the Committee.</p> <p>Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2nd District, Oriental Mindoro) inquired if there is a standard procedure for the grant of quarrying permits and the imposition of quarrying fees. Rep. Pimentel replied that RA 7942 (Philippine Mining Act of 1995) prescribes the regulations on quarrying.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija) if the governor of Nueva Ecija issues quarrying permits, Governor Czarina Umali said that she only issues commercial sand and gravel permits which only require a local environmental clearance as per the Local Government Code.</p> <p>Assistant Secretary for Mining Concerns Nonita Caguioa of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) stressed, however, that the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) is a prerequisite to the issuance of any quarrying permit.</p> <p>Reps. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Nueva Ecija) and Micaela Violago (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Nueva Ecija), authors of HR 1505, also pressed Nueva Ecija and DENR officials for answers on such issues as the computation and remittances of shares by local government units in the taxes on quarrying and closure of erring quarry operators.</p> <p>The Committee will issue a show cause order to Negros Oriental Governor Roel Degamo to explain his absence in today's meeting, and</p>

Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability				subpoenas to other resource persons in order to compel their attendance in the next meeting. On the other hand, a subpoena duces tecum will be issued to the Provinces of Catanduanes and Cebu to compel the submission of the documents required by the Committee.
Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Justice	HR 867	Speaker Alvarez	Inquiry into the alleged grossly disadvantageous contract entered into by the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) and the Tagum Agricultural Development Company, Inc. (TADECO)	<p>The Joint Committee, co-presided by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), Chair of the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso (3rd District, Leyte), Vice Chair of the Committee on Justice, will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 867 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region XI Regional Director Ruth Tawantawan presented to the Joint Committee a diagram showing the public roads (Bugtong Lubi and La Libertad junctions) traversing TADECO's banana plantation which were closed by the BuCor in 2015.</p> <p>Superintendent Gerardo Padilla of the Davao Prison and Penal Farm (DPPF), formerly the Davao Penal Colony (Dapecol), affirmed that the property, where said roads are located, is owned by the BuCor and is on lease to TADECO through a joint venture agreement (JVA), Padilla said.</p> <p>Davao del Norte Governor Anthony del Rosario explained that when the public was using these roads, the roads' maintenance was transferred to the Province of Davao del Norte. However, when the roads were closed by the BuCor in 2015, they were delisted as provincial roads, Del Rosario added.</p> <p>TADECO President Anthony Alexander Valoria insisted that these roads were not closed by the BuCor in 2015 but that biosecurity barriers were installed to prevent the spread of Panama disease, a fungal disease caused by the soil-borne fungus fusarium found in the roots of banana plants. Valoria likewise denied allegations that only TADECO employees could use these roads.</p> <p>Valoria explained that the installation of biosecurity barriers on these roads was done pursuant to Special Quarantine Administrative Order No. 1, series of 2012 issued by the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI). He added that even the Davao del Norte Provincial Government issued Provincial Ordinance No. 2012-004 or the Provincial Quarantine Protocols of all Banana Growers in Davao del Norte to this effect.</p> <p>In compliance with the Joint Committee's directive to conduct an inventory of public roads and government infrastructure projects inside TADECO's leased property, Davao del Norte District Engineer Noel Basañes reported that the</p>

<p>Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Justice</p>				<p>TADECO security personnel required a gate pass to be able to access the area. Basañes disclosed that the DPWH Region XI team had to dismantle the steel swing beam installed at the entrance of the farm to be able to gain access to the area.</p> <p>Asked by Speaker Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez (1st District, Davao del Norte), author of the resolution, if BuCor would give way to the clamor of the affected barangays to allow access to these roads, Padilla answered in the affirmative.</p> <p>The Joint Committee expects that these roads will be fully accessible to the public by April 4, 2018.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit the documents required by the Members of the Committee.</p>
<p>Labor and Employment</p>	<p>HBs 3184 &amp; 4933</p>	<p>Reps. Roque (H.) and Mendoza</p>	<p>Providing the probationary period of employment of academic personnel in private schools, thereby amending for the purpose PD 442, as amended, otherwise known as the Labor Code of the Philippines</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Randolph Ting (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Cagayan), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to harmonize the two bills.</p> <p>Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (PACU) Legal Counsel Ada Abad manifested her objection to the proposal to reduce the probationary period of teachers in private schools from three years to just one year. According to Abad a three-year probationary period is necessary to determine whether the faculty-employee has acquired the competency and mastery of the subjects he or she teaches. This has long been the practice in the United States and Europe, Abad added.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go said that three years is a long time to determine the competence of a teacher. The evaluation of the competence of a teacher can be done from six to 12 months, citing the six-month probationary period being practiced in private companies.</p> <p>Daniel Edralin, vice chair of the umbrella group <i>Sentro ng mga Nagkakaisa at Progresibong Manggagawa</i> (SENTRO), agreed with the views of Rep. Go.</p> <p>Atty. Allan Montaña, national president of the Federation of Free Workers suggested that the existing laws on probationary period must be harmonized for private and public school teachers.</p> <p>The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) will be invited to attend the Committee's next meeting.</p>
	<p>HR 432</p>	<p>Rep. Ting</p>	<p>Inquiry into the conditions of working students hired on part-time employment</p>	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 432 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Ting, who is also the author of HR 432, said that the resolution aims to find out if there is enough government intervention for the regulation and protection of working students.</p>

Continuation... Labor and Employment				<p>Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Undersecretary Jacinto Paras admitted that there are no existing laws regulating student workers, either as part-time or full-time workers.</p> <p>DOLE Bureau of Local Employment Director Dominique Tutay added that part-time working students are not part of the labor force and therefore not covered under the Labor Code of the Philippines.</p> <p>However, AKBAYAN Party-List Rep. Tom Villarin countered that any person receiving wages from working in a particular office or food chain should be considered as part of the labor force and thereby covered by the Labor Code. Rep. Villarin requested DOLE to submit data on working students from ages 15 to 25.</p> <p>Rep. Go said that if a bill is to be drafted to regulate working students, a provision should be put in place which mandates that working students should be paid in accordance with the number of hours they have rendered based on the prevailing minimum wage.</p> <p>However, Rep. Ting stressed that he is more concerned with the negative effects of part time or full time work on the performance of students in schools.</p> <p>The CHED and Department of Education (DepEd) will be invited to attend the Committee's next meeting.</p> <p>Representatives from the Federation of Free Workers, SENTRO, and the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) expressed their support for the objective of the resolution.</p>
Trade and Industry	HB 4595	Rep. Yap (A.)	Amending RA 8762, otherwise known as the Retail Trade Liberalization Act (by removing the equity and capitalization requirements in the law to create a more favorable investment climate in the country)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ferjanel Biron, M.D. (4th District, Iloilo), will deliberate further on HB 4595 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Arthur Yap (3rd District, Bohol), author of HB 4595, said that his bill aims to attract more foreign investors and reinforce market competition in the country, thus increasing job opportunities for the Filipinos and elevating the quality of goods and services at a lower cost.</p> <p>Resource persons from the following organizations expressed support for the bill: American Chamber of Commerce, Canadian Chamber of Commerce, British Chamber of Commerce, and Laban Konsumer Inc.</p> <p>Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Undersecretary Ruth Castelo expressed support for the bill but suggested that a minimum paid-up capital for foreign retail enterprises of at least \$200,000 per store be required, instead of totally removing the existing minimum paid-up capital of \$2.5 million. She added that while foreign investments in the retail industry is encouraged,</p>

Continuation... Trade and Industry				<p>there is also a need to protect the domestic retail sector as it is the Department's commitment to put the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) at the forefront of the country's economic development agenda.</p> <p>Director Margie Ramos-Samaniego of the Legal and Compliance Service, Board of Investments (BOI), agreed with the DTI's suggestion of requiring a minimum paid-up capital for foreign retail enterprises of \$200,000.</p> <p>Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) Legal Counsel Nerrisa de Jesus said that the Commission is still studying the bill for the best competition strategy, including the proposed total elimination of the minimum paid-up capital as against the proposal to just reduce the amount of the required paid-up capital.</p> <p>The PCC as well as the Indian Chamber of Commerce will submit their respective official position papers in the next meeting.</p> <p>On the other hand, Philippine Retailers Association President Paul Santos expressed his objection to the bill as it will strip MSMEs of the protection extended by the current retail trade law.</p> <p>The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and other stakeholders will be invited in the next meeting to provide their comments to the bill.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Overseas Workers Affairs (Technical Working Group)	HB 4740	Rep. Gonzales (A. D.)	Providing for the protection of the remittances of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs)	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Committee Secretary Christopher Lomibao, agreed to come up with a Substitute Bill to HB 4740, after completing its review of the entire bill and agreeing on the amendments to specific sections of the bill.</p> <p>The TWG will just have to wait for the comments or proposed amendments of Rep. Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales Jr. (3rd District, Pampanga), author of HB 4740, to Section 8 (Prohibited Acts) of the bill before finalizing the substitute bill and presenting it to the Mother Committee for consideration and approval.</p>
Transportation (Technical Working Group)	HBs 4085, 4669, 4891, 6009, 6089, 6407, & 6467	Reps. Bernos, Castelo, Batocabe, Norgales (J.J.), Bagatsing, Gatchalian, and Villafuerte	Regulating the transport network companies/transport network vehicle services (TNCs/TNVS), prescribing the requirements, guidelines and standards for their operations, imposing and authorizing fees, and providing for penalties for violations thereof	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Edgar Sarmiento (1st District, Samar), will deliberate further on the 15 measures in its next meeting.</p> <p>Noting the rapid technological developments in the transportation industry that put to the test existing laws and regulations governing the</p>

Continuation... Transportation (Technical Working Group)	HB 6766	Rep. Yap (A.)	Prescribing rideshare support companies, providing regulations governing their operations, and clarifying the scope of Commonwealth Act 146, also known as the Tax Code and the Land Transportation Traffic Code, and other relevant laws	sector, the Committee Chair, Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, encouraged the government agencies present in the meeting to provide the Committee the much-needed assistance in crafting responsive laws for the benefit of the public and the industry.
	HR 403	Rep. Agarao	Investigation into the operations of existing TNCs – Uber, Grab and U-HOP – particularly respecting the legality of their existence, safety of transporting their passengers, abuses committed by their accredited TNVS and their liabilities, and the absence of congressional franchise as a significant prerequisite for their operations	Similarly, Rep. Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte (2nd District, Camarines Sur), author of HB 6467, urged his fellow lawmakers to come up with a legal framework that would accommodate this global trend in the transportation sector, that is the transport network vehicle service, while at the same time protecting the interest of the riding public.
	HR 573	Rep. Panganiban	Investigation into the accreditation given by the Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to TNCs	Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), author of HB 4669, also called for the immediate crafting of a law that will regulate TNCs/TNVS in order to put the country's traffic situation in order.
	HR 1125	Rep. Roque (H.)	Inquiry into the suspension of issuance of permits to TNVS by the LTFRB	Grab Public Affairs Manager Leo Gonzales and Uber Public Policy Associate Irish Krystle Almeida prefer that their operations will be classified as private carriers as opposed to common carriers, explaining that almost 60% of their drivers work on part-time basis only. Besides, they said, being classified as common carriers would entail compliance with additional requirements and tedious processes which would be burdensome to a lot of their drivers.
	HR 1138	Rep. Bagatsing	Inquiry into the process and guidelines implemented by the LTFRB regarding public ride sharing and recommending remedial measures for the safety of the riding public	Commenting on the issue that TNVS vehicles contribute to the traffic congestion in Metro Manila, Almeida said that on the contrary, the TNCs and TNVS espouse the concept of "ride-sharing," which reduces the number of private and single passenger vehicles on the road.
	HR 1139	Rep. Uybarreta	Directing the LTFRB to finalize the new guidelines for the issuance of certificate of public convenience (CPC) to TNVS	Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) representative Chad Martin Moscoso requested that the DICT be involved in regulating TNCs which are application-based and therefore would fall under its jurisdiction.
	HR 1140	Rep. Antonio	Inquiry into the process being followed by the LTFRB in granting franchises to TNVS providers	The resource persons were requested to submit their position papers on the measures for the consideration of the TWG.
	HR 1151	Rep. Sarmiento (E.)	Inquiry into the appropriate regulatory framework for TNCs and TNVS	
Welfare of Children (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 173, 1163, 3887 & 5090	Reps. Nograles (K. A.), Acosta-Alba, Escudero, and Macapagal-Arroyo	Codifying the alternative child care laws of the Philippines	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Vilma Santos-Recto (6th District, Batangas), will deliberate further on the substitute bill in its next meeting.  Rep. Santos-Recto enumerated the issues that need to be resolved: whether the adoption process will be done through administrative adjudication; whether to create the National Child Care Authority (NCCA) that will process the adoption of children; and whether to regulate the institutional and residential care of children.

<p>Continuation... Welfare of Children (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>Deputy Speaker Pia Cayetano (2nd District, Taguig City-Pateros) explained that adoption of a child through administrative adjudication will expedite the process as against the long and tedious process of resolving adoption cases filed in courts. She added that it is best that the adoption process will be handled by the proposed NCCA that will have enough qualified technical personnel to handle the job.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Ma. Lourdes Aggabao (4th District, Isabela), OIC-Director Rosalie Dagulo of the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) Community Programs and Services Bureau, said that it takes two to three years for adoption to progress provided that requirements are complied with. She added that the long wait could sometimes be attributed to the matching conference between the adoptive parents and the child.</p> <p>Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga), author of HB 5090, explained that when the law on adoption was enacted in 1995, stricter rules were established for fear that children may be exposed to human trafficking and other crimes.</p> <p>It is about time, she said, to relax these rules, address the problems concerning the adoption process, and strengthen the Intercountry Adoption Board (ICAB), an attached agency of DSWD and the central authority in inter-country adoption in the Philippines.</p> <p>Representatives from government agencies such as the DSWD, Department of the Interior and Local Government, and Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and non-governmental organization SOS Children's Village expressed support for the creation of NCCA as a one-stop shop that would address the welfare of children, hasten the process of adoption, and provide foster care for abandoned children.</p> <p>However, Atty. Avvy Cristabelle Alba of DBM's Organization, Position Classification and Compensation Bureau (OPCCB) advised that in crafting laws, it must be ensured that there is no duplication of functions among government agencies. She added that a transitory provision should be included in the bill to ensure the welfare of affected personnel is protected.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit to the Committee their additional comments and recommendations on the substitute bill to be presented in its next meeting.</p>
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<p>Continuation... Mindanao Affairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Science and Technology (DOST)</li>   <li>• Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)</li>   <li>• Department of Health (DOH)</li> </ul>	<p>Tech4ED Project which aims to bridge the digital gap by providing digital access and informal skills training to the “unserved” and “underserved” communities.</p> <p>DOST Assistant Secretary Emmanuel Galvez said the DOST is making efforts to increase its budget for Mindanao and intends to implement additional projects in the region, acknowledging that DOST projects are mostly in Metro Manila.</p> <p>DOST will likewise propose an increased budget for science and technology innovation and will support the work of the five development clusters being spearheaded by the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA).</p> <p>Wilma Roque, supervising administrative officer at the TESDA, lamented that TESDA has a limited budget for Mindanao because the agency’s budget itself is limited due to the budget ceiling imposed on government agencies by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). She reported that in 2017 the allocated budget for Mindanao was 10.69% of the total budget of TESDA, but this year it went down to 10.24%.</p> <p>Director Reyzaldy Tan of MinDA’s Planning, Policy and Project Development Office requested TESDA and other concerned government agencies to implement programs in the region that will provide employment assistance to the huge number of graduates. Tan said that there are about 320,000 college graduates annually in Mindanao.</p> <p>DOH’s legislative liaison specialist Lindsley Jeremiah Villarante reported that for 2018, the Department allotted 23% of its budget for Mindanao. He also said that the DOH has already allocated funds for the construction and upgrading of health facilities in Mindanao.</p> <p>Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo commented that it should be the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) which should implement the infrastructure projects of the DOH as the former has the technical expertise to do the job. He is contemplating on filing a House resolution on the matter.</p> <p>Assistant Director Vilma Gorospe of DBM’s Local Government and Regional Coordination Bureau (LGRCB) suggested that in the next Committee meeting, all concerned agencies should be ready with their respective proposed budgets to facilitate the discussion on the viability of increasing the budget allocations of agencies for Mindanao.</p>
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OTHER MATTERS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Banks and Financial Intermediaries	HB 7296 (subject of Committee Report No. 637)	Rep. Nograles (K.A.)	Reinforcing the corporate viability of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), strengthening its monetary and financial stability functions and enhancing its regulatory powers, amending for the purpose RA 7653 (The New Central Bank Act)	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ben Evardone (Eastern Samar), approved the amendment to HB 7296 based on the recommendation of the Committee on Rules. The bill was previously submitted to the Committee on Rules through Committee Report No. 637.

Comments, suggestions and requests for copies may be sent to the Committee Publication Staff, Committee Management Support Service I, 3rd Floor, Ramon V. Mitra, Jr. Bldg., Batasan Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City. Tel. Nos. 9326118; 9315001 local 7122. Also available at <http://www.congress.gov.ph>