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BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 6221 & SB 1738	Rep. Belmonte (F.) and Senator Drilon	Establishing the Filipino Identification System	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Sol Aragon (3rd District, Laguna), Chair of the House Committee on Population and Family Relations, and Senator Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights, approved the harmonized provisions of HB 6221 and SB 1738.</p> <p>Other conferees present during the bicameral conference were the following: On the part of the House, Reps. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga), Robert "Ace" Barbers (2nd District, Surigao del Norte), Arnolfo "Arnie" Teves Jr. (3rd District, Negros Oriental), Xavier Jesus Romualdo (Camiguin), Dakila Carlo Cua (Quirino), and Alfredo Garbin Jr. (Party-List, AKO BICOL); on the part of the Senate, Senators Franklin Drilon, Gregorio Honasan II, and Joel Villanueva.</p>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Appropriations	HB 6475 in consolidation with HBs 92, 6121 & 6263	Speaker Alvarez, Deputy Speaker Sema, Reps. Macapagal-Arroyo, and Dimaporo (M.K.)	Providing for the Basic Law for the Bangsamoro and abolishing the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), repealing for the purpose RA 9054, or the law strengthening and expanding the Organic Act for the ARMM, and RA 6734 or the law providing for an Organic Act for the ARMM	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles (1st District, Davao City), approved HB 6475, in consolidation with HBs 92, 6121 & 6263 with amendments.</p> <p>The provisions of the bill which were reviewed and amended by the Committee were those that generally pertain to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget and funds for the Bangsamoro Government, including the annual block grant; • Budget for the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA); • Salaries, allowances, and emoluments of the members of the Bangsamoro Parliament and the BTA; • Creation of offices and plantilla positions; and • Retirement/separation benefits of affected employees of the ARMM.

Continuation... Appropriations	Substitute Bill to HB 2683	Deputy Speaker Abu	Providing support for the surviving spouse and children of slain justices and judges, amending for the purpose RA 910, as amended, entitled "An Act to provide for the retirement of justices of the Supreme Court and of the Court of Appeals, for the enforcement of the provisions hereof by the Government Service Insurance System, and to repeal Commonwealth Act No. 536," and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 2683 with amendments.
	HB 5897	Majority Leader Fariñas	Granting survivorship benefits to the dependent children of a deceased retired member of the Judiciary, who is a solo parent as defined under RA 8972, and the surviving parents, or nominated persons of the deceased retiree, amending RA 910, as amended by RA 9946	The Committee approved HB 5897 with amendments.
	HB 7449	Speaker Alvarez	Appropriating the sum of P1,161,710,000 as supplemental appropriations for FY 2018	The Committee approved with amendments HB 7449 in consolidation with HJRs 20 and 21, and HR 1724.
	HJR 20	Rep. Gonzales (A. D.)	Appropriating the amount of P1,161,710,000 for the hospital expenses of children vaccinated with Dengvaxia	The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report. DOH Undersecretary Rolando Enrique Domingo presented to the Committee the proposed medical and health assistance programs for the Dengvaxia vaccinees, utilizing the P1.16 billion refunded by Zuellig Pharma, the local distributor of Dengvaxia manufacturer Sanofi Pasteur, covering the unused vials of the vaccines.
	HJR 21	Rep. Pimentel	Appropriating the amount of P1.16 billion for the Assistance to Dengvaxia Vaccinees Program	Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur) suggested the establishment of a mechanism that would effectively monitor the proper utilization of the funds, while other Members emphasized the need to inform the Dengvaxia vaccinees and their families of the assistance and services available to them and to ensure that these services are readily accessible.
	HR 1724	Rep. Vargas	Urging the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to reallocate the amount of P1 billion pesos from available savings to augment the allocations of the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), specifically for the purpose of providing amelioration assistance for the victims of the controversial Dengvaxia vaccines, in terms of counselling, medical aid, and emergency economic assistance to the affected families	
	Substitute Bill to HB 3113	Rep. Bolilia	Creating one additional branch of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) in the Fourth Judicial Region to be stationed in the Municipality of Rosario, Province of Batangas	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 3113.
	Substitute Bill to HB 5718	Rep. Almario	Creating two additional RTC branches in the Eleventh Judicial Region and two additional branches of the Municipal Trial Court (MTC), all to be stationed in the City of Mati, Province of Davao Oriental	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 5718.
	Substitute Bill to HB 5985	Rep. Rocamora	Creating one additional RTC branch in the Seventh Judicial Region to be stationed in the Municipality of Larena, Province of Siquijor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 5985.

Continuation... Appropriations	Substitute Bill to HBs 6085 & 6086	Rep. Mangudadatu	Creating two additional RTC branches in the Twelfth Judicial Region to be stationed in the City of Tacurong and in the Municipality of Isulan, Province of Sultan Kudarat	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 6085 and 6086.
	Substitute Bill to HB 4168	Rep. Villafuerte	Establishing the Camarines Sur Special Economic Zone in the Province of Camarines Sur, creating for the purpose the Camarines Sur Special Economic Zone Authority	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 4168 with amendments.
Energy	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 942, 2297 & 6341	Reps. Tiangco, Rodriguez (M.), and Batocabe	Reducing the recoverable system loss caps	<p>The Committee, chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, decided to refer back the draft substitute bill to the technical working group (TWG) for further study, particularly the provisions on the Recoverable System Loss Caps (Section 4) and the Timeline on Individualized System Loss Cap (Section 11).</p> <p>In today's meeting, Rep. Carlos Roman Uybarreta (Party-List, 1-CARE), who heads the TWG, reported to the Committee the results of the TWG meetings on the bills.</p> <p>Rep. Uybarreta said that the proposed law is one of the priority legislative agenda of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC). He went on to say that the bill seeks to lower the cost of electricity rate in the country by reducing the cap on the recoverable system loss.</p> <p>Rep. Uybarreta reported that under Section 4 of the bill, electric utilities were grouped into three, assigning them different rates of system loss caps based on 2016 data on system loss. The rates will gradually decrease over a period of four to five years from the start of implementation in 2019.</p> <p>Commissioner Josefina Patricia Asirit of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) said that the substitute bill is in consonance with the ERC's new policy on distribution system loss cap.</p> <p>Upon the instruction of Rep. Velasco, ERC Standards and Compliance Monitoring Division Chief Legario Galang Jr. made a brief presentation on ERC's Resolution No. 10, series of 2018, which clarifies the system loss calculation and provides the effectivity of the rules for setting the distribution system loss cap. Said resolution is now being implemented and the new system loss caps will be reflected in the June electric bill.</p> <p>After listening to the presentation, Rep. Mark Aeron Sambar (Party-List, PBA) noted that the ERC Resolution is similar to the proposed law.</p> <p>Rep. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL) underscored the need to provide a general</p>

Continuation... Energy				policy on system loss that will promote efficiency among distribution utilities.
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Population and Family Relations	HBs 802 & 7018	Reps. Batocabe and Vargas	Abolishing the National Coordinating and Monitoring Board and creating the National Commission for Senior Citizens, amending the "Expanded Senior Citizen Act of 2010"	The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN), for the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Ma. Lourdes Aggabao (4th District, Isabela), Vice Chair of the Committee on Population and Family Relations, will deliberate further on the three bills in its next meeting.
	HB 6251	Rep. Dato	Creating the National Senior Citizens Commission and placing the Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs under its control and supervision	Rep. Francisco Dato Jr. (Party-List, Senior Citizen), author of HB 6251, explained that the purpose of creating a National Senior Citizens Commission is to ensure that the rights, benefits, and welfare of senior citizens are effectively promoted and served. Contrary to the requirement under RA 9994 (Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010), Rep. Dato claimed that some Offices of Senior Citizen Affairs (OSCA) established under the local government units (LGUs) have not been receiving budgetary allocations from the concerned LGUs. Atty. Avvy Cristabelle Alba of the Organization, Position Classification and Compensation Bureau (OPCCB), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), opposes the creation of the commission as it will only duplicate the functions of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in terms of providing welfare assistance to senior citizens, and will cost the government about P500 million or more, especially if provincial offices will be established. Jorge Banal Sr., president of the Federation of Senior Citizens Association of the Philippines (FSCAP), countered that the DSWD is already overloaded with work involving social services and cannot anymore cater to the increasing special needs of the elderly. Salvacion Basiano, chairperson of the Coalition of Older Person Association of the Philippines (COPAP), agreed with Banal, adding that a separate commission to cater solely to the needs of senior citizens would improve the latter's access to benefits and services. The Joint Committee agreed to hold an executive session with the resource persons from the DBM to discuss further the provisions of the bills.
Legislative Franchises	Substitute Bill to HB 4118	Rep. Jalosjos	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to First Love Broadcasting Network, Inc. under RA 8100, or the law granting the First Love Broadcasting Network, Inc. a franchise to construct, establish, operate, and maintain commercial FM and AM stations and television stations in the Visayas and Mindanao	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Franz "Chicoy" Alvarez (1 st District, Palawan), approved the Substitute Bill to HB 4118 and the corresponding Committee Report.

Continuation... Legislative Franchises	Substitute Bill to HBs 7173 & 7398	Reps. Robes and Dalipe	Extending for another 25 years the franchise granted to the Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church of Christ), under RA 4339, as amended by RA 7225	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 7173 and 7398, and the corresponding Committee Report.
	Substitute Bill to HB 7300	Rep. Romualdo	Extending for another 25 years the franchise granted to Insular Broadcasting System, Inc. under RA 7964, or the law granting the Insular Broadcasting System, Inc. a franchise to install, operate, and maintain broadcasting stations in the Philippines	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 7300 and the corresponding Committee Report.
Local Government	HB 6352	Rep. Gonzalez	Creating a barangay to be known as Barangay La Medalla in the Municipality of Pioduran, Province of Albay	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Pedro Acharon Jr. (1st District, South Cotabato and General Santos City), approved HB 6352.
	HB 6956	Deputy Speaker Alvarez	Creating Barangay Tagukon in the City of Kabankalan, Province of Negros Occidental	The Committee approved HB 6956.
	HB 7003	Majority Leader Fariñas	Dividing Barangay Adams in the Municipality of Adams, Province of Ilocos Norte into two distinct and independent barangays to be known as Barangay Adan and Barangay Bucarot	The Committee approved HB 7003.
	HB 4692	Rep. Albano	Reapportioning the current four legislative districts of the Province of Isabela to six legislative districts	The Committee approved with amendment HB 4692.
	HB 7413	Rep. Alvarez (F.)	Creating the Provinces of Palawan del Norte, Palawan Oriental, and Palawan del Sur, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved with amendment HB 7413.
Public Order and Safety	HR 1736	Rep. Amante	Inquiry into the Cabadbaran City Police and Agusan del Norte Provincial Police's highly irregular and excessively forceful service of the patently illegal search warrants issued by Branch 2 of the Butuan City Regional Trial Court	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 1736 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Erlpe John "Ping" Amante (2nd District, Agusan del Norte), author of HR 1736, reminded the Philippine National Police (PNP) to strictly adhere to the provision of the 1987 Constitution which guarantees the "right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures of whatever nature and for whatever purpose."</p> <p>He stressed that possible violations of the Constitution and other laws might have been committed when elements of the Cabadbaran City Police and Agusan del Norte Provincial Police served the search warrants with excessive and unnecessary force in the residences of Barangay Captain Judith Cueno and her husband Rico Cueno, both of Barangay Del Pilar, Cabadbaran City, and of Barangay Captain Alberto Baldo of Barangay Bay-ang, in the same city.</p> <p>Rep. Amante also questioned the authority of the Presiding Judge of Branch 2 of the Butuan</p>

Continuation... Public Order and Safety				<p>City Regional Trial Court to issue such warrants, saying that the residences, subject of the raid, fall under the jurisdiction of Regional Trial Court Branch 34 and the Municipal Trial Court of Cabadbaran City.</p> <p>PNP Agusan del Norte Provincial Director Ernesto Tendero Jr. and Police Chief Inspector Reniel Serrano of the PNP Region XIII explained that due to the “strong influence” the respondents have in their respective areas, they decided to secure the search warrants from a court outside Cabadbaran City.</p> <p>The two police officers denied the accusation that the warrants were served with excessive and unnecessary force, insisting that everything was done in accordance with the law. They also denied causing any of the damages shown in the pictures, which were submitted to the Committee as evidence, claiming that they have documents signed by the respondents stating that the search was conducted in an orderly manner.</p> <p>Rep. Amante, however, countered that these documents were executed under duress.</p> <p>Rep. Acop pointed out several lapses in the conduct of the search, such as the seizure of a motorcycle which was not the subject of the search warrant.</p> <p>The Committee asked the PNP to submit several documents pertinent to the inquiry such as a copy of its application for the search warrant; the search warrant itself; logbook detailing the events that transpired during the serving of the warrant; and request for verification of firearms.</p>
Ways and Means	HBs 7214 & 7458	Reps. Suansing (H.) and Cua	Amending certain sections of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997 (by lowering the corporate income tax rate, reforming the corporate income tax system, broadening the tax base by modernizing investment tax incentives, removing excessive tax exemptions and privileges given to certain industries, and limiting the grant of tax incentives to strategic industries and lagging regions)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, will deliberate further on the 12 bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Department of Finance (DOF) Secretary Carlos “Sonny” Dominguez III underscored the importance of redesigning the country’s tax system in order to meet the needs of the times. He said that the 30% corporate income tax (CIT) being imposed by the Philippine government is the highest among the member-countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).</p> <p>He also mentioned the need to rationalize the existing tax incentives granted to various industries and businesses and make them time-bound and performance-based, which is the case in other ASEAN countries.</p> <p>DOF Undersecretary Karl Kendrick Chua added that in 2015, the foregone revenues due to tax incentives reached an estimated amount of P301 billion. What is lamentable is that the</p>
	HB 36	Rep. Yap (A.)	Reducing the rates of income tax imposed on corporations in the Philippines, amending for the purpose RA 8424, or the NIRC, as amended	
	HBs 231, 3359 & 7364	Deputy Speakers Singson and Garin	Rationalizing the grant and administration of fiscal incentives	
	HBs 1537, 1658, 2379, 3835 & 5384	Reps. Herrera-Dy, Angara-Castillo, Deputy	Reducing the corporate income tax rate, amending Sections 27 and 28 of the NIRC	

Continuation... Ways and Means		Speaker Quimbo, Reps. Zubiri, and Villafuerte		incentives were not effective in attracting foreign direct investments, promoting exports, and improving people's welfare.
	HB 6037	Rep. Benitez	Providing for fiscal investments for corporations with business enterprises duly established and located in Mindanao	<p>Chua presented the proposed Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (CTRP) Package 2, the features of which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the CIT rate from 30% to 25% by 2022, and expansion of tax base by 0.75 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP); • Simplified tax rules for corporations; • Repeal of the 123 special laws on investment tax incentives, consolidating them into one single omnibus incentives law applicable to all investment promotion agencies (IPAs); and • Amendment of the Tax Incentives Management and Transparency Act (TIMTA). <p>Rep. Horacio Suansing Jr. (2nd District, Sultan Kudarat) brought up the sentiments of the IPA locators that if the tax incentives which they presently enjoy will be reduced or removed, they may relocate their businesses to other countries.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA) asked about the functions of the Fiscal Incentives Review Board (FIRB) which the proposed CTRP 2 aims to expand.</p> <p>Chua explained that the FIRB is an existing office chaired by the Secretary of Finance, which evaluates the application for tax incentives by all government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCC) and government agencies.</p> <p>Rep. Jesulito Manalo (Party-List, ANGKLA) requested a list of priority industries that will be granted incentives based on a study conducted by the DOF. Chua said the cost-benefit analysis will be presented in the Committee's next meeting as well as the 14 priority sectors included in the strategic investment plan.</p> <p>Finally, Rep. Cua stressed that CTRP 2 aims to level the playing field where small and medium enterprises can prosper.</p>
Welfare of Children	HB 5662	Rep. Roman	Deterring the exploitation of minors by imposing stiffer penalties, amending further for the purpose RA 7610, otherwise known as the "Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act"	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Divina Grace Yu (1st District, Zamboanga del Sur), will deliberate further on the two bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Both bills seek to deter abuses against children by imposing stiffer penalties for violators of child protection laws.</p>
	HB 6295	Rep. Romero	Amending RA 9231, otherwise known as the "Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act," to foster all efforts to	Resource persons from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD),

Continuation... Welfare of Children			the welfare of children and enhance their opportunities for a useful and happy life, to promote the best interest of children that are paramount consideration in all actions concerning them whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities, or legislative bodies	<p>Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns Department of Labor and Employment (BWSC-DOLE), Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Child Rights Network (CRN) Philippines, expressed their support for the bills.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills.</p> <p>Before the meeting adjourned, the DSWD presented Rep. Yu with a certificate of appreciation for allowing the delegates of the Annual Conference of the DSWD Field Office Liaison Coordinators (FO-LLCs) and members of the Legislative Bill Review Committee (LBRC) to witness and participate in the meeting.</p>
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COMMITTEE MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Ethics and Privileges	Letter from Atty. Moises Tolentino Jr. of Tolentino Trinidad & Cabildo Law Office dated April 17, 2018, requesting the Committee on Ethics and Privileges to investigate Rep. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento for alleged non-settlement of a monetary obligation contracted in October 2013 by the construction firm of his family	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Delphine Gan Lee (Party-List, AGRI), dismissed the unsworn letter-complaint on grounds of lack of jurisdiction and failure to substantially comply with the required form.</p> <p>Occidental Mindoro Rep. Josephine Ramirez-Sato said that the Committee has no jurisdiction over the matter, explaining that it only covers alleged acts and omissions committed by House Members during the 17th Congress (July 2016 to June 2019). The alleged non-settlement of a monetary obligation by Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1st District, Samar) transpired in 2013 or prior to the 17th Congress.</p> <p>The Committee Secretary was instructed to prepare a letter-reply informing Atty. Tolentino of the defects of the letter-complaint.</p>
	Committee Case No. SC-09-2018, entitled: "Sandra Cam vs. Hon. Arnolfo "Arnie" A. Teves Jr." for conduct unbecoming of a legislator, in violation of Sec. 139 (a) and (g) of Rule XIX, Code of Conduct of the Rules of the House of Representatives, received on March 5, 2018	<p>The Committee deferred its consideration of the complaint against Rep. Arnolfo "Arnie" Teves Jr. (3rd District, Negros Oriental).</p> <p>It will verify if the complainant, Sandra Cam, filed the complaint on her personal capacity or as Director of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). If the complainant filed the complaint as Director of the PCSO, the Committee will require the submission of a Board Resolution authorizing her to file the complaint on behalf of the PCSO.</p> <p>The Committee Secretary was directed to prepare a letter to Cam seeking her response to the issue.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Justice (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 3256, 3618, 4091, 4379, 4779, 5838, 6091, 6238 & 6293	Reps. Salceda, Belmonte (J.C.), Deputy Speaker Quimbo, Reps. Yap (A.), Del Rosario, Umali, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Salon, and Villafuerte	Removing the restrictions imposed under Sections 118, 119 and 121 of Commonwealth Act (CA) 141, otherwise known as "The Public Land Act," as amended, on the registration, acquisition, encumbrance, alienation, transfer and conveyance of land covered by free patents	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by the Committee Secretary, Atty. Rene Delorino, approved the Substitute Bill with amendments.</p> <p>The bill will be submitted to the mother Committee for consideration and approval.</p> <p>The TWG agreed to retain Section 119 of CA 141 which states that "every conveyance of land acquired under the free patent or homestead provisions, when proper, shall be subject to repurchase by the applicant, his widow, or legal heirs, within a period of five years from the date of the conveyance."</p>

JOINT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the National Health Insurance Program	Discussion on the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation's (PhilHealth) Financial Statements for CYs 2013-2017	<p>The Joint Congressional Oversight Committee, co-presided by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon), Chair of the House Committee on Health, and Senator Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito, Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, listened to the report of the PhilHealth regarding its 2013-2017 financial statements and other related concerns.</p> <p>PhilHealth interim President and Chief Executive Officer Celestina Ma. Jude dela Serna, M.D. stated that the corporation has already reached its mandated target of providing universal membership coverage for all Filipinos. She explained that the universal health program was enhanced by the implementation of the Point-of-Service (POS) Program which received a P3 billion allocation from the government in 2017. Under the program, indigent and non-member patients who are admitted in hospitals and other healthcare facilities will be enlisted right at the facility and provided with healthcare services.</p> <p>Acting Chief Finance Executive Gregorio Rulloda of PhilHealth's Fund Management Sector presented the financial statement of the corporation for CYs 2013-2017.</p> <p>Rep. Tan inquired about PhilHealth's reported unaudited income loss of P8.92 billion in 2017, but upon audit by the Commission on Audit (COA), it was adjusted to a net loss of P4.75 billion.</p> <p>Rulloda explained that based on the audit observation memorandum (AOM) dated April 27, the resident auditor of PhilHealth National Capital Region (NCR) discovered a double recording of the benefit payment expense amounting to P4.17 billion. PhilHealth NCR had taken the necessary adjustments to reflect the correct balances of accounts in the books which led to a reduced net loss of P4.75 billion.</p> <p>On the queries of Deputy Speaker Pia Cayetano (2nd District, Taguig City-Pateros) and Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy Binay on the factors contributing to PhilHealth's net loss, Rulloda replied that it can be attributed to the rise in benefit payments due to the increase in the number of sponsored members and senior citizens.</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the National Health Insurance Program</p>		<p>However, Dela Serna expressed that the P4 billion net loss may not be viewed strictly as a loss because it represents benefit payment expenses that helped many Filipinos especially those who needed PhilHealth's assistance the most.</p> <p>Sen. Ejercito asked if safeguards are in place to ensure that PhilHealth funds are used for its intended beneficiaries and not squandered by some of its officials.</p> <p>Dela Serna answered that PhilHealth coordinates with the Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) and other law enforcement agencies with regard to investigating corruption within the corporation.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines (PHAP) President Rustico Jimenez and Philippine Hospitals Association (PHA) Vice President for Mindanao Jesus Jardin complained about PhilHealth's action of immediately suspending the accreditation of hospitals and doctors involved in fraudulent claims without first conducting hearings to allow all parties to present their side.</p> <p>The Joint Oversight Committee requested the submission of a list of cases involving fraudulent claims filed by PhilHealth before its next meeting on May 30.</p>
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DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Public Order and Safety	Discussion on the lists of personalities allegedly involved in illegal drugs that are in the possession of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), discussed with the PNP and PDEA their respective lists of personalities allegedly involved in illegal drugs.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso (3rd District, Leyte) asked the PNP and PDEA to explain how they came up with these "narco lists;" how these lists are verified as to accuracy; and how a person who finds himself in the list can have his name taken out.</p> <p>PDEA Acting Deputy Director of Intelligence and Investigation Service Martin Francia disclosed that the PNP and PDEA have two "narco lists:" one was based on intelligence reports from their ground units; and another came from President Rodrigo Duterte himself.</p> <p>Francia added that PDEA, PNP, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA), and Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP), coordinate with each other in validating all information regarding the personalities in the President's so-called narco list.</p> <p>Francia and PNP Drug Enforcement Group (DEG) head Albert Ignatius Ferro said that the guidelines in delisting names from the President's narco list have been drafted but are still awaiting the President's approval. Until then, the "narco list" with the President will stay unchanged.</p>