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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Dangerous Drugs	HR 456	Rep. Jalosjos	Inquiry into the illegal drug trading activities in the province of Zamboanga del Norte	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Robert "Ace" Barbers (2nd District, Surigao del Norte), will continue its inquiry into the alleged rampant illegal drug trade in Zamboanga del Norte, as raised in HR 456, and Privilege Speeches 84 and 88.</p> <p>Rep. Barbers said that the inquiry will determine what appropriate legislative measure will be crafted in order to address the issues raised as well as to prevent unscrupulous cops from using the President's war on drugs to further entrench themselves in power by eliminating competition in the illegal drug trade.</p> <p>Rep. Seth Frederick Jalosjos (1st District, Zamboanga del Norte), author of the three measures, said that the presence of witnesses and resource persons in the meeting will give them an opportunity to reveal what they know about the illegal drug trade in his province or clear their names and disprove their alleged involvement in this nefarious activity.</p> <p>Witnesses Ronald Realiza, Rolly Daligid and his brother Roger were once again presented to the Committee to give their testimonies.</p> <p>Rolly Daligid testified that he was a member of a now disbanded group, Team DAVID (Deployment Against Vices in Dipolog), which according to him was tapped to kill the political opponents and drug trade rivals of the Uys, a political family in the province whose patriarch and scion were tagged by Rep. Jalosjos as being involved in the drug trade. According to Rolly, his would-be targets were identified to him by Police Inspector Edison Alviar, SPO2 Roy Vertudez and former Polanco Mayor Roberto "Pinpin" Uy Jr. His brother Roger acted as driver and spotter during some of these killings.</p> <p>Realiza, on the other hand, admitted that he was a police asset and was involved in the peddling of drugs which he got from Vertudez. Realiza added that on numerous occasions, he has gone to the residence of Vertudez and vice-versa for the drugs supplies.</p>
	Privilege Speech 84	Rep. Jalosjos	On the illegal drug trade in the 1st District of Zamboanga del Norte	
	Privilege Speech 88	Rep. Jalosjos	On the press releases of certain personalities denying their involvement in drug-related activities in the 1st District of Zamboanga del Norte	

<p>Continuation... Dangerous Drugs</p>				<p>Zamboanga del Norte Governor Roberto Uy and his son Pinpin denied any involvement in the illegal drug trade and the drug-related killings in their province. The Governor stressed that the allegations against him are malicious and politically motivated. Refuting Rolly Daligdig's statements, he emphasized that Team DAVID was a disaster response team and not what the witness portrayed it to be.</p> <p>The PNP officers implicated by the witnesses likewise denied the allegations being hurled against them.</p> <p>The Committee Members agreed to send a request to the Philippine National Police (PNP) suspending the police personnel tagged in the illegal drug trade in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte. They asked Governor Uy to sign the request as a gesture of support for the investigation. However, the Governor declined saying that the suspension will cause demoralization in the police force in his province.</p> <p>After being notified by PNP Police Superintendent Lito Andaya that a warrant of arrest has been issued against the three witnesses, the Committee agreed to take the witnesses under the custody of the House of Representatives, and will remain as such until the inquiry is completed.</p> <p>Rep. Barbers reminded Andaya that the witnesses have been granted congressional immunity and are therefore exempted from arrest for the duration of the inquiry. The Committee agreed to hold Andaya in contempt for his action.</p> <p>The M. Lhuillier branch in Dipolog City, a money remittance company, was requested to provide the Committee with documents confirming that an identification (ID) card used in transacting with this branch belongs to Vertudez.</p>
<p>Economic Affairs</p>	<p>HR 898</p>	<p>Rep. Yap (A.)</p>	<p>Inquiry into the desired economic policy direction of the Philippines with regard to foreign participation in the ownership and operation of corporations and firms engaged in the business of construction of buildings and other infrastructure in the Philippines</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Arthur Yap (3rd District, Bohol) will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 898 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Undersecretary Ruth Castelo presented the country's construction industry situationer. She also explained the two types of licenses - the regular license and the special license - issued to contractor companies by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB).</p> <p>Castelo said that under the amended implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA 4566 or the Contractor's License Law that was approved in 2015, contractor companies with 100% foreign equity can be issued special license to undertake construction projects in the country provided that they will</p>

Continuation... Economic Affairs				<p>bring in at least P1 billion worth of capital investments.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Deputy Speaker Ferdinand Hernandez (2nd District, South Cotabato), Castelo said that PCAB issues a special license to a joint venture or consortium between foreign and Filipino contractor companies for a specific project only; when the project requires special technology; or there is no Filipino company capable to do the work.</p> <p>Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso (3rd District, Leyte) enumerated the specific provisions in Article XII (National Economy and Patrimony) of the Constitution that favor domestic enterprises and labor: Section 1, provides protection to Filipino enterprises against unfair foreign competition and trade practices; Section 2, promotes the development and use of local scientific and technical resources; Section 10, regulates and exercises authority over foreign investments; Section 12, promotes preferential use of local labor, domestic materials and locally produced goods; and Section 14, limits the practice of all professions to Filipinos.</p> <p>Rep. Bayani Fernando (1st District, Marikina City) warned against allowing foreign companies to undertake government projects to the detriment of the country's local construction industry.</p> <p>Gunther Taus, president of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), emphasized that joint venture arrangements with foreign companies or foreign-funded projects allow technology transfer which is beneficial to the country.</p> <p>The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) were requested to submit their comments and recommendations on the resolution.</p>
Energy	HB 942	Rep. Tiangco	Removing the allowable systems loss from private utility companies and reducing the cap of recoverable system losses of rural electric cooperatives from 14% to 5%, amending for the purpose RA 7832, as amended	<p>The Committee, chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, will deliberate further on the three bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Reps. Tobias "Toby" Tiangco (Navotas City), Maximo Rodriguez (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), and Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL), authors of HBs 942, 2297 and 6341, respectively, were one in saying that the electric utility companies should not pass on to consumers the cost of system loss in order to reduce electricity rates and unburden the consumers from paying for something that they did not utilize.</p> <p><i>Laban Konsyumer Inc.</i> President Victor Dimagiba expressed support for the bills saying that consumers should not be made to pay for the inefficiencies of electric utility companies and rural electric cooperatives.</p>
	HB 2297	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Prohibiting private electric utilities from collecting system losses from the consumers and reducing the cap of recoverable system losses of rural electric cooperatives to a maximum of 5%, amending for the purpose RA 7832, as amended	
	HB 6341	Rep. Batocabe	Prohibiting power distribution utilities (DUs) from collecting system losses from consumers, amending for the purpose RA 7832	

Continuation... Energy				<p>On the other hand, representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), expressed their objection to the proposed law.</p> <p>ERC Commissioner Josefina Patricia Asirit recommends instead the setting of an optimum level for both technical loss of electricity due to design fault or administration inefficiencies and non-technical loss due to pilferage. She disclosed that the ERC has engaged a private consultancy company to conduct consultations with stakeholders to determine the cap on the recoverable system losses of rural electric cooperatives.</p> <p>Representatives from the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), Association of Visayas Electric Cooperatives (AVECS), Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. (PHILRECA), Manila Electric Company (MERALCO), and Philippine Electric Plant Owners Association (PEPOA) were against any drastic reduction in the level of recoverable system loss.</p> <p>PEPOA President Arnulfo Ocampo complained of discrimination citing the bills' provisions allowing rural electric cooperatives to recover system losses while prohibiting private electric utilities from doing the same.</p> <p>Representatives from non-government organizations Citizen Watch and "Bantay Konsyumer, Kuryente, Kalsada" (BK3) said that there is no assurance that reducing the cap on recoverable system loss or removing it altogether will redound to lower electricity rates.</p>
Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Energy	HR 566	Rep. Zarate	Inquiry into the alleged midnight deals of the Manila Electric Company (MERALCO)-affiliated generation companies and the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) which may be disadvantageous to the public and may cause power rate hikes	The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), Chair of the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, Chair of the Committee on Energy, will continue its inquiry relative to HRs 566 and 1161 in its next meeting.
	HR 1161	Minority Leader Suarez	Investigation into the immediate approval of the seven power supply agreements of MERALCO by the ERC	<p>At the outset, BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate, author of HR 1161, inquired on the accuracy of the newspaper report published on September 23 stating that the seven power supply agreements (PSAs) with MERALCO-affiliated power generation companies that are subject of his resolution were already approved by the ERC.</p> <p>ERC Commissioner Josefina Patricia Asirit belied the report as she presented the status of the seven PSA applications, which are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Panay Energy Development Corporation (PEDC) was issued a provisional authority in order to satisfy the power supply demand of MERALCO for a particular period. • The PSA applications of Central Luzon

<p>Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Energy</p>				<p>Premiere Power Corporation (CLPPC), Mariveles Power Generation Corporation (MPGC), and Global Luzon Energy Development Corporation (GLEDC) have not been considered yet due to their failure to submit an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PSA applications of Redondo Peninsula Energy, Inc. (RPE), Atimonan One Energy, Inc. (A1E), and the St. Raphael Power General Corporation (SRPGC) are still being processed. <p>Rep. Zarate questioned the ERC's acceptance of the PSAs involving the seven generation companies even after the deadline set in violation of an ERC advisory issued on April 27, 2016 which states that PSAs entered into by distribution utilities and generation companies that are not yet covered by the Competitive Selection Process (CSP) requirement must be filed with the ERC before the close of business hours (5:00 pm) on April 29, 2016. Afterwards, no more PSA will be accepted by the ERC unless it has undergone a CSP. Rep. Zarate claimed that the applications of RPE, A1E, and SRPGC were time stamped beyond 5:00 p.m. of April 29.</p> <p>ERC Head of Planning and Public Information Service Ellen Ebcas said that based on ERC's logbook, the representatives of the seven generation companies arrived at the ERC's premises before 5:00 p.m. of that day. However, Ebcas explained that since the process of filing the PSA applications is tedious, the applications were docketed at past 5:00 p.m. She said that this might have been the time stamp that Rep. Zarate is referring to.</p> <p>Rep. Pimentel said that knowing the filing process to be tedious, the generation companies should have submitted their applications way ahead so that they could have avoided beating the deadline.</p> <p>BAGONG HENERASYON Party-List Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy inquired about the reason for extending the date of effectivity, from November 6, 2015 to April 30, 2016, of a Department of Energy (DOE) circular requiring distribution utilities (DUs) to conduct a competitive selection process before entering into a PSA with a power generation company.</p> <p>Asirit explained that the main reason which prompted ERC to delay the effectivity of the circular was the numerous letters received from electric cooperatives and electric utilities asking for clarification on the CSP requirement. Asirit added that the extension period also served as a transition period for the generation and distribution companies to thresh out issues and concerns before the actual implementation of CSP.</p>
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Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Energy				<p>Meanwhile, Minority Leader Danilo Suarez (3rd District, Quezon), author of HR 1161, sees the need for more power plants to address the increasing demand for reliable and affordable power supply in the country, thus his call for an investigation into the benefit of immediately approving the seven PSAs of MERALCO.</p> <p>In particular, Minority Leader Suarez said that the construction of a coal-fired power plant in Atimonan, Quezon by the Atimonan One Energy Incorporated, one of the generation companies which has a PSA with MERALCO, is expected to generate huge profit that will redound to the benefit of the people in the area.</p> <p>Atimonan Mayor Rustico Joven Mendoza expressed support for the operation of a power plant in the Municipality of Atimonan.</p> <p>On the other hand, Fr. Warren Puno, a priest from Atimonan, said that he does not favor the construction of said power plant citing its ill-effects to the environment and to the people over time. Puno said that the people of Atimonan were not given the chance to air their sentiments against the construction of the power plant.</p> <p>Representatives from the seven generation companies the PSAs of which are in question will be invited to attend the Committee's next meeting.</p>
Local Government	HB 430	Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo	Converting Pio Model Community in Barangay Pio, Municipality of Porac, Province of Pampanga into a barangay, naming it as Barangay Adelina	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Pedro Acharon Jr. (1st District, South Cotabato and General Santos City), approved HB 430.
	HBs 1236 & 1237	Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo	Converting Sitio Camatchile in Barangay Nabuklod and Sitio Malabni in Barangay Mawacat, Municipality of Floridablanca, Province of Pampanga into barangays	The Committee approved HBs 1236 and 1237 subject to the submission of requisite documents from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).
	HB 4260	Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo	Officially creating Barangay Ascomo, Municipality of Guagua, Province of Pampanga into a barangay	<p>The Committee approved HB 4260 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>As stated in the explanatory note to the bill, Barangay Ascomo was created not by law but by Sangguniang Panlalawigan Ordinance No. 26 approved in September 1993. Thus, this barangay does not enjoy the benefit of receiving the annual internal revenue allotment (IRA) and only receives financial aid from the municipal and provincial governments.</p>
	HB 5050	Rep. Arcillas	Creating seven barangays as separate and distinct barangays from its mother Barangay San Vicente, City of San Pedro, Province of Laguna to be known as Barangays Pacita I, Chrysanthemum, Rosario, Pacita II, Fatima, San Lorenzo Ruiz, and Maharlika	The Committee approved HB 5050 with amendments.
	HB 3046	Rep. Acop	Transferring the capital and seat of government of the Province of Rizal from Pasig City to Antipolo City	The Committee approved HB 3046 subject to the submission of the Sangguniang Resolution from Pasig City.

Continuation... Local Government	HB 314	Deputy Speaker Garcia	Amending the average annual income requirement for a municipality or cluster of barangays to be converted into a component city, amending for the purpose RA 9009 and Section 450 of RA 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune HB 314.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu), author of HB 314, said that the bill seeks to further amend Section 450 of RA 7160 by changing the basis for computation of the average annual income requirement for a municipality or cluster of barangays to be converted into a component city from the “2000 constant prices” to the “current year consumer price index” as certified by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).</p> <p>Using the current consumer price index as basis for satisfying the income requirement is more realistic as it measures the financial condition of a municipality or cluster of barangays based on current prices and the effect of inflation on the purchasing power, as stated by the Deputy Speaker in her explanatory note to HB 314.</p> <p>The PSA, Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF), and Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) were requested to submit their position papers on the bill.</p>
	HBs 2529, 3867 & 4672	Reps. Uy (J.), Escudero, and Garcia (J.E.)	Rationalizing local taxation, amending for the purpose Sec. 150, Chapter I, Title One, Book II of RA 7160, as amended	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to consolidate HBs 2529, 3867 & 4672.</p> <p>The <i>Bangko ng Sentral ng Pilipinas</i> (BSP), BLGF, and ULAP were requested to submit their position papers on the bills.</p>
Overseas Workers Affairs	Substitute Bill to HBs 1072 & 1330	Reps. Lanete and Gatchalian	Strengthening further the pre-departure orientation program for departing overseas Filipino workers (OFW) to include financial and entrepreneurial education, amending for the purpose RA 8042, as amended, otherwise known as the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jesulito Manalo (Party-List, ANGKLA), approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 1072 and 1330 with amendments. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.
Science and Technology	HB 3607	Rep. Arcillas	Establishing a Philippine Science High School (PSHS) campus in the Southern Tagalog Region and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Erico Aristotle Aumentado (2nd District, Bohol), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the bills.
	HB 4062	Rep. Mending	Redefining the scope of the PSHS system, amending for the purpose RA 8496 as amended, otherwise known as the Philippine Science High School System Act of 1997	<p>Rep. Aumentado underscored the importance of developing and promoting science education to boost the country's global competitiveness. He said that based on the recommendation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), one of the factors that will lead to the industrialization of a developing country is for it to have at least 380 researchers, scientists and engineers (RSE) per million population.</p> <p>Rep. Arlene Arcillas (1st District, Laguna), author of HB 3607, believes that there should be one PSHS campus in every province and not in every region. This, after knowing that a PSHS campus is being constructed in</p>

Continuation... Science and Technology				<p>Batangas which is part of the Southern Tagalog Region, just as her province, Laguna, is part of this region.</p> <p>RA 9036 or the law strengthening the governance of the PSHS System mandates the establishment of only one PSHS campus in each administrative region.</p> <p>AMIN Party-List Rep. Makmod Mending Jr., author of HB 4062, said that his bill seeks to amend RA 8496, as amended, to allow the inclusion of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) among the regions where PSHS campuses will be established.</p> <p>PSHS System Executive Director Lilia Habacon expressed support for the establishment of a PSHS campus in the ARMM. She said that a dialogue is imperative to thresh out the details on how to operate and manage a campus tailored for the ARMM.</p> <p>COOP NATCCO Party-List Rep. Anthony Bravo, Ph.D. proposed that RA 8496 and the amendatory law, RA 9036, should be reviewed in conjunction with the harmonization and consolidation of the two bills.</p>
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development	Substitute Bill to HBs 4498 & 5540	Reps. Rodriguez (M.) and Romero	Further promoting entrepreneurship by strengthening, empowering and enhancing the financing programs for micro, small and medium enterprises, amending for the purpose RA 6977, as amended, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Small Enterprises	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Peter "Sr. Pedro" Unabia (1st District, Misamis Oriental), will deliberate further on the substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2nd District, Bataan) presented to the Committee the amendments to RA 6977 as agreed upon by the technical working group (TWG) tasked to study the bill, some of which are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract out to eligible micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) at least 10% of the government's procurement in accordance with RA 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act (Section 4 of RA 6977); • Include the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) as among the agencies that shall provide the necessary support and assistance to MSMEs (Section 5); • Expand the composition of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Council to include the Department of Finance (DOF) Secretary, Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) Executive Director, a representative of a national organization representing the MSMEs, and a representative of the micro-finance non-government organizations (NGOs) designated by the Microfinance NGO Regulatory Council (Section 7-A);

<p>Continuation... Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Chair and Social Security System (SSS) President in the composition of the Board of Directors of the Small Business Corporation or SB Corp. (Section 11-A); • Exempt the SB Corp. from securing prior authorization from the <i>Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas</i> (BSP) for engaging in quasi-banking activities and put the SB Corp. outside the supervision and regulation of the SBP (Section 11-B); and • Allocate to the SB Corp. an additional paid-in capital of at least P3 billion within one year after the enactment of this law and additional equities of P1 billion a year for the next three years; allocate an additional capital of P1 billion from the dividends remitted by LandBank and Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP); and allocate P2 billion to set up a guarantee fund primarily to guarantee lending to MSMEs. <p>Heeding the appeal made by SSS President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Emmanuel Dooc and GSIS Legislative Liaison Officer Shaynne Monera, the Committee agreed to exclude the SSS and GSIS from among the contributors to the capitalization of the SB Corp.</p> <p>Dooc explained that the SSS is facing difficulties in meeting its obligations with its pensioners due to the increase in pension benefits. Likewise, Monera justified that the GSIS fund is intended to be utilized for the benefits and pensions of its members as mandated by law.</p> <p>Rep. Unabia requested the stakeholders to submit their comments and suggestions to Section 18 (Penal Clause) of the bill which the Committee will deliberate on in its next meeting.</p>
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SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Subcommittee IV (Constitutional Amendments)	Discussion on the proposed amendments to Article XII (National Economy and Patrimony) of the 1987 Philippine Constitution in connection with the proposed shift to a federal form of government	<p>The Subcommittee IV, chaired by Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso (3rd District, Leyte), listened to the views of the resource persons on the proposed amendments to Article XII (National Economy and Patrimony) of the 1987 Constitution.</p> <p>Representatives from government offices like the Department of Finance (DOF), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Board of Investments (BOI), and the House of Representatives' Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department (CPBRD); and from the business sector and non-government organizations such as the Management Association of</p>

<p>Continuation... Subcommittee IV (Constitutional Amendments)</p>		<p>the Philippines (MAP), Foundation for Economic Freedom (FEF), Makati Business Club, and the Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC), expressed support for the move to delete the restrictive economic provisions enshrined in the Constitution to allow the entry of more foreign direct investments (FDIs) into the country.</p> <p>They were one in saying that economic restrictions should instead be legislated by Congress as the need arises rather than stipulating them in the Constitution.</p> <p>Also during the meeting, FEF Fellow Gary Olivar presented the Foundation's rationale in seeking to amend the economic provisions of the 1987 Constitution, among which are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existing economic provisions are binding constraints to growth resulting to lower investments, fewer jobs, poor infrastructure, and non-inclusive development; • Protectionist provisions that limit foreign ownership do not promote healthy competition in a dynamic global economy; • The Philippines is one of the few countries left in the world where restrictions on foreign ownership are embodied in the Constitution; • Industries that are deemed strategic are better protected by ordinary legislation that may be crafted by Congress from time to time based on actual realities and appropriate policies at a specific time; and • Constitutional restrictions increase the risk of selecting "bad" investors who either try to get exemptions from the government or work around existing regulations, thereby increasing opportunities for corruption. <p>The FEF is a public advocacy organization dedicated to advancing the cause of economic and political liberty, good governance, secure and well-defined property rights, market oriented reforms, and consumer protection. The Foundation is composed of renowned economic managers.</p> <p>While in support of the proposed shift to federalism, DOF Undersecretary Bayani Agabin said that DOF is still in the process of looking into the potential impact of the shift to federalism on the following aspects: fiscal regime and administration in terms of possible overlap between federal and regional states; the future role of the NEDA which may no longer be the country's central planning agency; and the opening up of the economy to more FDIs.</p> <p>When asked by Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City) on the factors contributing to the declining flow of FDIs into the country, the resource persons cited the following reasons: insufficient capital; lack of infrastructures; bureaucratic red tape; high cost of labor and electricity; more attractive incentives from other countries, and the increasing number of non-working holidays.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the proposed amendments to the economic provisions of the Constitution.</p>
<p>Subcommittee on Preliminary Inquiries (Ethics and Privileges)</p>	<p>Committee Case Nos. SC-01-2017 to SC-06-2017, entitled: Rep. Herminio Harry Roque Jr., complainant, versus Rep. Ron Salo, respondent, for violation of the House of Representatives' Code of Conduct</p>	<p>The Subcommittee on Preliminary Inquiries, chaired by Rep. Florencio Flores Jr., M.D. (2nd District, Bukidnon), decided to defer action on five cases -- Committee Case Nos. SC-01-2017 to SC-05-2017 -- and dismiss another case, Committee Case No. SC-06-2017, which were filed by KABAYAN Party-List Rep. Harry Roque Jr. against fellow KABAYAN Party-List Rep. Ron Salo for violation of the House of Representatives' Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Rep. Flores emphasized that the primary task of the Subcommittee is to determine whether the complaints, based on affidavits, documents and other evidences submitted by both the complainant and the respondent, were substantial and credible to warrant further investigation by the mother Committee, the Committee on Ethics and Privileges.</p>

<p>Continuation... Subcommittee on Preliminary Inquiries (Ethics and Privileges)</p>		<p>Rep. Geraldine Roman (1st District, Bataan) explained that the Subcommittee deferred action on Committee Case Nos. SC-01-2017 to SC-05-2017 on the basis that these cases were already filed in another venue.</p> <p>Section 2 (Jurisdiction over Complaints and Allegations) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee provides “that if the subject matter of the complaint against a member of the House of Representatives is pending in a judicial, quasi-judicial or administrative body, the Committee shall defer action on said complaint until final judgment has been rendered by such body.”</p> <p>With regard to Committee Case No. SC-06-2017, Rep. Roman said that the Subcommittee decided to dismiss the case on the basis that there is no direct proof linking Rep. Salo to a libelous article supposedly published in a tabloid purposely to malign Rep. Roque. In this particular case, Rep. Roque accuses Rep. Salo to be behind the publication of a libelous article and fake lewd photo in the Barako tabloid last January 24, 2017.</p> <p>Rep. Flores said that the recommendation of the Subcommittee will be submitted to the mother Committee which will take final action on the said cases.</p>
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SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Subcommittee on Prosecutorial Reforms (Justice)	Substitute Bill to HB 3467	Rep. Herrera-Dy	Prohibiting hazing and regulating other forms of initiation rites of fraternities, sororities and other organizations, and providing penalties for violation thereof, repealing for the purpose RA 8049, otherwise known as the Anti-Hazing Law	<p>The Subcommittee, presided by Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2nd District, Oriental Mindoro), approved the substitute bill subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>BAGONG HENERASYON Party-List Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy, author of HB 3467 and chair of the technical working group (TWG) that prepared the substitute bill, emphasized that while RA 8049 regulates hazing, the proposed law prohibits any form of hazing. Rep. Herrera-Dy also presented the salient features of the substitute bill.</p> <p>Supreme Court Deputy Court Administrator Raul Villanueva expressed support for the bill, particularly the provisions requiring the registration of fraternities, sororities and other organizations with the concerned school and the presence of school authorities during initiation rites.</p> <p>Other resource persons who manifested their support to the proposed law were representatives from the Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Public Attorney's Office (PAO), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA).</p>
Subcommittee on Investigation and Enforcement Reforms (Justice)	Substitute Bill to HBs 8, 775 & 3296	Majority Leader Fariñas and Reps. Aglipay-Villar and Escudero	Institutionalizing a criminal justice system, repealing for the purpose RA 5180 or the law prescribing a uniform system of preliminary investigation by provincial and city fiscals and their assistants, and by state attorneys or their assistants, as amended	<p>The Subcommittee, presided by Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2nd District, Oriental Mindoro), approved the substitute bill subject to style.</p> <p>Atty. Rene Delorino, committee secretary and chair of the technical working group (TWG)</p>

Continuation... Subcommittee on Investigation and Enforcement Reforms (Justice)				<p>that prepared the substitute bill, discussed the main features of the bill.</p> <p>Supreme Court Deputy Court Administrator Raul Villanueva apprised the Subcommittee of the best practices in criminal investigations in other countries, such as South Korea and the United States.</p> <p>Rep. Umali said that the adoption of these best practices will serve the country well, citing the need for structural reforms in the country's criminal justice system to improve the administration of justice. He added that a parallel measure, promulgating a Code of Crimes to replace the 85-year old Revised Penal Code, is also being reviewed by the Committee.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Transportation (Technical Working Group)	Draft Consolidated Bill on HBs 153, 756, 843, 1507, 1523, 2042, 2611, 2782, 3178, 3270, 3451, 3667 & 6056	Rep. Aglipay-Villar, Deputy Speaker Villarica, Reps. Alejano, Macapagal-Arroyo, Sarmiento (C.), Santos-Recto, Zarate, Escudero, Roque (H.), Castelo, Tambunting, and Herrera-Dy	Providing for a Bill of Rights of Air Passengers	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Edgar Sarmiento (1st District, Samar), will deliberate further on the draft consolidated bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>The TWG requested the resource persons to submit their proposed amendments and suggestions on the following sections of the bill: Sections 11 (Overbooking), 17 (Right to Refund), 18 (Right to Cancel a Flight), 19 (Right to Rebook a Flight), 21 (Right to Board Aircraft for the Purpose of Flight), 27 (Rights of a Passenger for Delayed Flights), 28 (Rights of a Passenger for Cancelled Flights or Flights Deemed Cancelled), 35 (Special Accommodation of PWDs, Persons with Special Needs, Senior Citizens, Pregnant Women and Unaccompanied Children), and 36 (Responsibility of the Air Carrier when the Number of Passengers is Beyond the Capacity of the Aircraft).</p> <p>Cebu Pacific Vice President for Corporate Affairs Paterno Mantaring suggested that the term "chance passengers" under Section 11 of the bill be clearly defined. He also agreed with the proposal allowing the aviation industry practice of "overbooking" subject to the cap to be set by the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP).</p> <p>The bill defines "overbooking" as a "generally accepted practice which is common in the aviation industry whereby airlines are selling confirmed reserved seats beyond the actual seat capacity of the aircraft."</p> <p>Representatives from the Philippine Airlines (PAL), Cebu Pacific Inc., and Air Asia were amenable to the proposed 10% ceiling on overbooking as recommended by CAAP Director Carmelo Arcilla.</p>

Continuation... Transportation (Technical Working Group)				<p>Department of Justice (DOJ) State Counsel Luz Macasinag proposed that passengers who have been sold overbooked tickets and bumped off from their scheduled flights should be given priority in the next flight available.</p> <p>Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1st District, Ilocos Norte) informed the TWG that he has co-authored a bill with Speaker Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez (1st District, Davao del Norte) calling for a review of the franchises granted to local airline companies because of complaints of costly fare and delayed flights from passengers. The bill, according to the Majority Leader, is already scheduled for deliberation by the Committee on Legislative Franchises.</p> <p>Former BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. Neri Colmenares, who authored a similar bill protecting the rights of passengers that was passed on third reading during the 16th Congress, made several suggestions, some of which are as follows: prohibit the practice of overbooking; require airlines to compensate passengers for delayed flights and instances of “denied boarding;” remove onerous provisions in the contract of carriage; and require airlines and concerned agencies to report to Congress flight delays, overbooking, denied boarding instances, terminal fee increase, and other similar situations that inconvenience the passengers or violate their rights.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Overseas Workers Affairs	<p>Briefing on the programs and policies concerning overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) by the following government agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Foreign Affairs-Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs (DFA-OUMWA) 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jesulito Manalo (Party-List, ANGKLA), listened to the briefing on the policies and programs of government agencies involved in protecting the rights and promoting the welfare of OFWs.</p> <p>DFA Office of Migrant Workers Affairs Acting Executive Director Raul Dado said that among other programs, the DFA keeps track of the situation of OFWs and maintains regular communication with them through various means, including the social media. He added that the DFA has initiated capacity-building programs for OFWs and for those who have decided to settle in the Philippines for good. The DFA has established a quick response mechanism for situations that require the evacuation of OFWs. It has also facilitated bilateral agreements between the Philippines and some countries to protect the rights of OFWs.</p> <p>ACTS OFW Party-List Rep. Aniceto “John” Bertiz III and Rep. Rose Marie “Baby” Arenas (3rd District, Pangasinan) asked about the supposed moratorium or temporary ban on the deployment of household service workers (HSWs) to Kuwait in view of the rising number of distressed OFWs in that country.</p> <p>Dado said that the DFA Central Office has advised the Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait to give the proposed moratorium a serious consideration because of the alleged sexual and physical torture that some of the HSWs are experiencing.</p> <p>The Committee Members urged the DFA and other concerned</p>

<p>Continuation... Overseas Workers Affairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) • Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) 	<p>agencies to declare a moratorium on the deployment of HSWs to Kuwait and to negotiate for a bilateral labor agreement with Kuwait to better protect the OFWs.</p> <p>OWWA Administrator Hans Leo Cacdac apprised the Committee of the benefits that OWWA members can avail themselves of, among which are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability and dismemberment benefits for OFWs; Death benefits for the family of the deceased OFW; • Training programs for Filipino seafarers and OFWs and their dependents; • Scholarship grants for qualified dependents of OFWs of up to P60,000/school year; • Loans and other assistance for setting up a business; and • Other social services and family welfare services. <p>POEA's Sea-based Center OIC-Director John Rio Bautista, in response to the query of Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija), apprised the Committee of the process of deployment and repatriation of OFWs. He said that the parties to the employment contract are the OFW, the recruitment agency and the foreign employer.</p> <p>In cases of repatriation, Bautista continued, it is the primary responsibility of the agency and the employer to shoulder the cost. The government could step in, in case of non-action by the agency and the employer, and facilitate an emergency repatriation, but would run after these two entities for the payment of the repatriation expenses and for possible sanctions.</p> <p>Bautista also mentioned that the POEA is in-charge of the accreditation of recruitment agencies involved in deploying OFWs.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA) questioned the apparent lack of coordination among the DFA, POEA and OWWA in addressing the concerns of the OFWs.</p> <p>Rep. Bertiz informed the body of his bill, HB 192, which seeks to create the Department of Migration and Development for the purpose of focusing attention on the plight of migrant workers. This bill was already approved by the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs but is still being deliberated on by the Committee on Government Reorganization.</p>
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