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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Bases Conversion (Special Committee)	Substitute Bill to HB 469	Deputy Speaker Abu	Placing the Fernando Air Base in Lipa City, Batangas under the administration of the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) to be utilized for other productive and commercial purposes	The Committee, chaired by Pasay City Rep. Emi Calixto-Rubiano, deferred the approval of the draft Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 469 pending the submission of the joint position of the BCDA and the Philippine Air Force (PAF).
	HB 2391	Rep. Roman	Changing the allocation formula used in the computation of the share of the local government units (LGUs) in the 2% tax on gross income earned by all business enterprises within the Subic Special Economic Zone (SSEZ), amending for the purpose RA 7227, as amended, otherwise known as the Bases Conversion and Development Act of 1992	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate HBs 2391, 3685 and 6379.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Malabon City Rep. Federico "Ricky" Sandoval II.</p> <p>Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2nd District, Zambales), who sponsored HB 2391 on behalf of the author, Rep. Geraldine Roman (1st District, Bataan), manifested that the explanatory note to the bill be registered as her sponsorship speech. She also presided over the deliberations on the three bills to allow the Committee Chair to sponsor her bill.</p>
	HB 3685	Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo	Amending Sec.15 of RA 7227, as amended	
	HB 6379	Rep. Calixto-Rubiano	Amending RA 7227, as amended	<p>Rep. Calixto-Rubiano explained that HB 6379 seeks to reaffirm the powers granted to the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) as the operating and implementing arm of the government over the Subic Bay Freeport Zone (SBFZ) and the Subic Special Economic Zone (SSEZ) and reinforce its capability of fulfilling its mandate of creating a 'self-sustaining' freeport out of the SSEZ pursuant to RA 7227.</p> <p>SBMA Chair, Administrator and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Wilma Eisma and Subic/Clark Alliance for Development (SCAD) Executive Director Erlinda Pamintuan, expressed support for the bills.</p> <p>Commenting on HB 6379, Eisma said that the proposed 2% share of SBMA from the gross income earned from all registered enterprises within the SSEZ will allow the SBMA to be self-sufficient. On the proposed creation of SBMA police, Eisma recommended that it should be organized and maintained by SBMA instead of making it an integral part of the Philippine National Police (PNP).</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their position papers on the bills for the TWG's consideration.</p>

Cooperatives Development	HRs 1284 & 1285	Rep. Geron	Recognizing, commending and expressing congratulations to the following cooperatives for winning the Land Bank's 2017 Gawad Pitak award last August 14, 2017 at the Philippine International Convention Center: Nagkakaisang Magsasaka Agricultural Primary Multipurpose Cooperative of Talavera, Nueva Ecija; Buenavista Development Cooperative of Guimaras; and Sacred Heart Savings Cooperative of Galimuyod, Ilocos Sur	<p>The Committee, chaired by AGAP Party-List Rep. Rico Geron, adopted HRs 1284 and 1285 subject to style.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Reports.</p>
	HR 1302	Rep. Geron	Recognizing and commending the Tagum Cooperative for its outstanding achievements and leadership as a cooperative and for its significant role and contribution to cooperative development	<p>The Committee adopted HR 1302 subject to style.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p>
	HR 120	Rep. Bravo	Inquiry into the alleged violations in the contracts between Oil Palm Plantation Cooperatives in Southern Palawan and Agumil Phils., Inc. which put cooperatives in huge debts and displaced farmers from their own lands	The Committee agreed to defer the approval of the Committee Report on HR 120 to allow the inclusion of the recommendation of the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) to make the rescission of contracts an option for the cooperatives.
Information and Communications Technology	Substitute Bill to HBs 929, 2556, 2874, 2907, 3629 & 4241	Reps. Abaya, Castelo, Yap (V.), Sandoval, and Belaro	Providing for the establishment of the No Calls and No Text Registration System	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Victor Yap (2nd District, Tarlac), will deliberate further on the substitute bill in its next meeting. It agreed to study the comments and recommendations of the National Privacy Commission (NPC) for possible inclusion in the bill.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 590, 931, 1193, 1258, 2328, 2648, 2809, 3649, 3661, 4014, 4404, 4646, 5382 & 5591	Reps. Velarde, Abaya, Loyola, Biazon, Antonino, Gatchalian, Castelo, Rodriguez (M.), Sandoval, Lazatin, Almario, Lopez (M.), and Tambunting	Requiring the registration of all users of prepaid subscriber identity module (SIM) cards	<p>The Committee agreed to ask the technical working group (TWG), tasked to study the bill, to again revise the bill to incorporate the amendment introduced by Rep. Yap, which is to require the registration of not only the SIM card but also the international mobile equipment identity (IMEI) of mobile phones. (IMEI is a unique number used to identify mobile phones.)</p> <p>In reply to the query of Rep. France Castro (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS), Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, author of HB 1258, explained that telecommunication companies (telcos) will be in charge of maintaining the subscriber's information or database.</p> <p>With regard to a specific government agency that will be in charge of the SIM card registration, NPC Complaints and Investigation Division Chief Francis Acero said that the NPC shall be in charge as contained in Section 6 (Submission of Registration Form) of the bill. He emphasized that allowing a single agency to handle such registration would be easier to regulate and would not be vulnerable to hacking.</p>
	HBs 2333, 2604, 2872, 4654 & 5109	Reps. Cojuanco, Santos-Recto, Yap (V.),	Prohibiting telecommunication companies from imposing an expiration period on the validity of prepaid call and text cards and the forfeiture of load credits, providing	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to consolidate the nine measures.

Continuation... Information and Communications Technology		Lazatin, and Castelo	penalties for violations thereof	
	HB 2447	Rep. Yap (A.)	Prohibiting the imposition of expiration of prepaid cards, certificates or other devices of prepayment of goods and services, providing penalties for violations thereof	
	HB 3268	Rep. Roque (H.)	Prohibiting cellular mobile phone providers from conveying unsought services that are automatically and involuntarily charged against the account of subscribers, imposing penalties on unlawful acts of the providers	
	HR 100	Rep. Castelo	Investigation into the numerous complaints of subscribers on public telecommunications companies on massive loss of prepaid loads even before they consume them	
	HR 254	Rep. Herrera-Dy	Inquiry to the current validity periods for prepaid load credits, with the aim of prohibiting any kind of expiration period on the validity of the prepaid load credits, as well as calling the attention of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) and the Office of the President (OP) over the same issues	
Justice	HBs 5134 & 6383	Reps. Tugna and Hofer	Strengthening the Office of the Ombudsman, upgrading employee skills and augmenting compensation and benefits, enhancing fiscal autonomy, appropriating funds therefor, amending for the purpose RA 6770, otherwise known as the Ombudsman Act of 1989	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Rep. Doy Leachon (1st District, Oriental Mindoro), approved the consolidated version of HBs 5134 and 6383 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Ann Hofer (2nd District, Zamboanga Sibugay), author of HB 6383, said that the bill seeks to correct the disparity in the monetary benefits of lawyers and senior officials in the Office of the Ombudsman with their counterparts in the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Judiciary.</p> <p>Rep. Henry Oaminal (2nd District, Misamis Occidental) noted the delay in the resolution of cases by the Office of the Ombudsman and asked about the reasons for this delay. Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Gerard Mosquera explained that there was already a huge case backlog even before Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales was appointed in office in July 2011. However, Mosquera said that this backlog has already been significantly reduced.</p>
	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	<p>The Committee approved the substitute bill subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy (Party-List, BAGONG HENERASYON), author of HB 3467, discussed the salient features of the substitute bill.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 8, 775, 3081 &	Majority Leader Fariñas, Reps. Aglipay-Villar,	Institutionalizing a criminal investigation system, repealing for the purpose RA 5180 or the law prescribing a uniform	<p>The Committee approved the substitute bill subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Evelina Escudero (1st District,</p>

Continuation... Justice	3296	Castelo, and Escudero	system of preliminary investigation by provincial and city fiscals and their assistants, and by State attorneys or their assistants	<p>Sorsogon), author of HB 3296, explained the need to improve the country's criminal investigation system to keep up with the current situation.</p> <p>Rep. Victoria Isabel Noel (Party-list, AN WARAY) proposed to delete Section 5 (b) of the bill arguing that it gives too much power to the investigating prosecutor which can be subject of abuse.</p> <p>Section 5 (Criminal Investigation; Initiation) of the bill provides two modes whereby a criminal investigation may be initiated: (a) upon a report received by a law enforcement agency; and (b) upon the instance of an investigating prosecutor.</p> <p>However, DOJ National Prosecution Service Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Hazel Decena-Valdez opposed the deletion of Section 5 (b), explaining that this will defeat the purpose of the proposed law, that of empowering the prosecutors. She instead suggested that the term "investigating prosecutor" be replaced with "prosecution office" so that there may still be a system of check and balance within the organization.</p> <p>Supreme Court Deputy Court Administrator Raul Villanueva commented that the provision empowering the prosecutor to initiate a criminal investigation may be retained in the bill if it is clarified that the exercise of such power is based on a report of a crime which is supported by verifiable documents or facts.</p>
Muslim Affairs	HB 968	Rep. Turabin-Hataman	Declaring the First Day of February of every year as National Hijab Day	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Mauyag "Jun" Papandayan Jr. (2nd District, Lanao del Sur), approved the Committee Report on HB 968.
	HB 4784	Rep. Dimaporo (M.K.)	Strengthening the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) and amending certain sections of RA 9997, otherwise known as the NCMF Act of 2009	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on the bill.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte).</p>
Natural Resources jt. w/ Legislative Franchises	HB 5674	Rep. Cuaresma	Requiring a legislative franchise as a prerequisite to the issuance of a Mineral Agreement or Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) for any mining project in the Philippines, amending for this purpose Sections 27 and 33 of RA 7942, otherwise known as the Mining Act of 1995	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Arnel Ty (Party-List, LPGMA), Chair of the Committee on Natural Resources, and Rep. Franz "Chicoy" Alvarez (1st District, Palawan), Chair of the Committee on Legislative Franchises, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the bills.</p> <p>Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, author of HB 5674, underscored the need for Congress to scrutinize mining projects, given their environmental and social impact, by requiring large mining companies to secure a legislative franchise as a prerequisite to the issuance of a Mineral Agreement or FTAA.</p> <p>Resource persons from the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)</p>
	HB 6259	Speaker Alvarez	Amending certain provisions of RA 7942, by prohibiting mining in watersheds, and requiring a legislative franchise for mining operations	

<p>Continuation... Natural Resources jt. w/ Legislative Franchises</p>				<p>expressed their support for the two measures. Also in support of the bills was <i>Alyansa Tigil Mina</i> (ATM) National Coordinator Jaybee Garganera.</p> <p>Solicitor General Jose Calida opined that it is well within the power of Congress to impose additional control which it deems necessary for the protection of the country's natural resources.</p> <p>On the other hand, Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) Executive Director Ronald Recidoro objects to the bills, saying that Congress may just exercise its oversight function and closely monitor mining activities, rather than requiring mining companies to secure a legislative franchise. He pointed out that acquiring a legislative franchise would add another layer to an already lengthy process of acquiring mining permits and licenses and would likely drive away potential investors.</p> <p>Recidoro went on to say that Congress may not have the technical expertise to assess mining operations, a statement which did not sit well with the lawmakers.</p> <p>Rep. Alvarez retorted that Congress will always have the option to seek technical advice or assistance from other government agencies in evaluating franchise applications of mining companies. Several Committee Members also asserted that one does not have to be an expert to see the ill-effects of mining on the environment and the people. Recidoro later apologized to the legislators for his remarks.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Peter "Sr. Pedro" Unabia (1st District, Misamis Oriental), who advocates responsible mining, lamented that the mining industry, at its peak, has contributed only 1.63% to the country's gross domestic product (GDP).</p> <p>Recidoro explained that the areas currently being mined across the country only account for less than one percent of the country's total land area. Nevertheless, he said, if allowed to expand its operations, the mining industry will be able to contribute more to the economy.</p> <p>The Joint Committee also agreed to include in the TWG's discussion HBs 2165, 2915 and 3229, authored by Reps. Erlpe John "Ping" Amante (2nd District, Agusan del Norte), Joseph Stephen Paduano (Party-List, ABANG LINGKOD), and Francisco Jose "Bingo" Matugas II (1st District, Surigao del Norte), respectively. These bills provide for the domestic processing of all mineral ores.</p>
<p>Public Information</p>	<p>Substitute Bill to HBs 1557, 1570 & 3134</p>	<p>Reps. Villafuerte, Vargas, and Revilla</p>	<p>Granting incentives to Filipino filmmakers who are given honors in notable international film festivals and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy (Party-List, BAGONG HENERASYON), approved the substitute bill subject to style.</p>

Continuation... Public Information	HBs 1647 & 4399	Deputy Speaker Villarica and Rep. Vargas	Strengthening the powers and functions of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), amending for the purpose PD 1986, creating the MTRCB	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HBs 1647 and 4399 in its next meeting.</p> <p>The MTRCB was requested to submit a comprehensive study on the implementation of PD 1986.</p>
	HB 4780	Rep. Dimaporo (M.K.)	Prohibiting the use of the word "Lanao" to generalize the area in the Provinces of Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur and Iligan City in mass media and providing penalties therefor	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 4780 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte), author of HB 4780, underscored the need to put a distinction in describing and naming the Provinces of Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur as well as Iligan City in news reporting, and not generally refer to these places as "Lanao," in order to avoid sweeping generalization especially when there are negative connotations to news reports.</p> <p>Raymund Villanueva of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) recommended that an information dissemination campaign must be done first with regard to the correct usage of the word "Lanao" before penalizing media practitioners for using the word incorrectly.</p> <p>KBP Executive Director Reynaldo Hulong suggested that self-regulation must be encouraged in the media industry, including the imposition of penalties and disciplinary actions against erring journalists.</p> <p>The Department of Justice (DOJ), Philippine Information Agency (PIA), Commission on Human Rights (CHR), and National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) were requested to submit their position papers on the bill.</p>
	HBs 913 & 2395	Reps. Roque (H.) and Zarate	Providing for a journalist protection, security and benefit program	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HBs 913 and 2395 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Legal Officer Eunice Manahan lauded the intent of the proposed law, saying that the CHR recognizes the challenges the journalists face in the course of doing their jobs.</p> <p>Representatives from the DOJ, KBP and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) were requested to submit their position papers on the two bills.</p> <p>The Social Security System (SSS) and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) will be invited in the next meeting of the Committee to comment on the bills.</p>
Public Works and Highways	HBs 943 & 4905	Reps. Tiangco and Del Rosario	Amending Sections 2 and 3 (B) of RA 8794, otherwise known as the Motor Vehicle User's Charge (MVUC) Act of 2000, by exempting tricycles from the coverage of the road user's tax	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the measures.</p> <p>The authors of the various measures present during the meeting delivered their respective sponsorship speeches.</p>
	HB 2603	Rep. Santos-Recto	Creating the Special Mass Transit System Support Fund, amending for the purpose Sections 7 and 8 of RA 8794	

Continuation... Public Works and Highways	HB 2605	Rep. Santos-Recto	Exempting public utility vehicles from the MVUC, amending for the purpose Sections 2 and 3 of RA 8794	Minority Leader Danilo Suarez (3rd District, Quezon), author of HB 3680, also informed the Committee that his bill was approved on third reading during the 15 th Congress.
	HB 3680	Minority Leader Suarez	Reconfiguring the disposition of the monies collected and delineating the status of the special funds, amending for the purpose Sections 7 and 8 of RA 8794	Navotas City Rep. Tobias "Toby" Tiangco said that his bill, HB 943, seeks to exempt tricycles from the coverage of the road user's tax to lessen the financial burden of tricycle drivers and owing to the fact that tricycles are not allowed to ply along national roads.
	HB 4467	Rep. Go (A.C.)	Allocating 5% of the collections from the MVUC to the Department of Education (DepEd) for the inclusion of driver's education subjects in the senior high school curriculum, amending for the purpose RA 8794	Rep. Mario Vittorio "Marvey" Mariño (5th District, Batangas), author of HB 5570, urged the allocation of a portion of the MVUC funds to cover the electricity costs of street lights, traffic lights, and other road safety devices installed on national roads.
	HB 5570	Rep. Mariño	Providing funds for the payment of energy costs of street lights, and other road and safety devices installed in national roads, amending for the purpose Section 7 of Republic Act No. 8794	Rep. Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte Jr. (2nd District, Camarines Sur), author of HB 5804, proposed that the MVUC rates be increased on the basis of the officially published inflation rate computed cumulatively from 2005 to 2017, and after the first year of implementation, the rates shall be automatically increased by 4% annually.
	HB 5804	Rep. Villafuerte	Amending RA 8794 by increasing the MVUC rates	
	HB 5851	Rep. Roque (H.)	Amending Section 6 of RA 8794 on the penalty for overloading	
	HR 1259	Rep. Escudero	Inquiry into the implementation RA 8794 with the end in view of enacting legislative measures to address the same	Rep. Ana Cristina Siquian Go (2nd District, Isabela), author of HB 4467, said that her bill earmarks 5% of the MVUC funds to the Department of Education (DepEd) for the inclusion of driver education subjects in the Senior High School curriculum. Senior high school students are already mostly qualified to apply for a student and non-professional driver's license. Meanwhile, Rep. Evelina Escudero (1st District, Sorsogon), author of HR 1259, calls for an inquiry into the alleged misuse of the MVUC funds, which is considered the third biggest source of tax revenue for the government. She also sees the need to look into the findings of the Commission on Audit (COA) on the unreconciled balances of the MVUC funds as per the records of agencies involved in the collection, remittance and use of the said funds. Representatives from the Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Road Board, Land Transportation Office (LTO), and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) expressed support for the bills. Rep. Lobregat asked the stakeholders to submit their respective position papers on the measures and the Road Board to submit a list of all projects funded by the MVUC funds.
Reforestation (Special Committee)	HBs 536, 3446, 3632, 4430 & 5549	Reps. Olivarez, Primicias- Agabas, Go (M.), Abayon, and Kho	Requiring parents to plant one or two trees for every child born to them	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Noel Villanueva (3rd District, Tarlac), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to draft a substitute bill to the five measures.

Continuation... Reforestation (Special Committee)				<p>The TWG will be chaired by Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, author of HB 3632.</p> <p>Thomas Kabigting, forest management specialist of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Forest Management Bureau (DENR-FMB), suggested that the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) be involved in the crafting of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the proposed law.</p>
	HB 772	Rep. Aglipay-Villar	Requiring the planting of trees for any construction of residential, commercial or industrial structures	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to consolidate HBs 772 and 3290.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by ABANG LINGKOD Party-List Rep. Joseph Stephen Paduano.</p>
	HB 3290	Rep. Catamco	Requiring sufficient canopy trees and flora in the construction of buildings and appurtenant lands and structures	
	HB 1154	Rep. Alejano	Requiring all graduating elementary, high school, and college students to plant at least 10 trees as a prerequisite for graduation	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to consolidate HBs 1154 and 3132.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by MAGDALO Party-List Rep. Gary Alejano, author of HB 1154.</p>
	HB 3132	Rep. Revilla	Requiring every student to plant trees every year	<p>Cynthia Hernandez, supervising education program specialist of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), expressed support for the bills.</p>
Sustainable Development Goals (Special Committee)	HR 933	Rep. Castelo	<p>Inquiry into the need to increase investment in water and sanitation to meet the targets under the sustainable development goals (SDGs) as underscored by the World Health Organization (WHO) in its new report published on behalf of the United Nations (UN)-Water as it warned that almost two billion people currently consume contaminated water</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Elisa "Olga" Kho (2nd District, Masbate), will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 933 in its next meeting.</p> <p>National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Economic Development Specialist Kevin Godoy said that NEDA is currently formulating the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan (PWSSMP), which involves the development of strategies, policy reforms, and identification of priority programs and projects to achieve the goals and targets relevant to the SDGs.</p> <p>Godoy added that a unified financing framework (UFF) for water supply and sanitation projects should be established to rationalize government grant and concessional loan programs, accelerate expansion of service coverage, and improve operational efficiency and sustainability of water service providers.</p> <p>He also informed the Committee that NEDA was able to accomplish the 2016 Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS) in coordination with the World Health Organization-Western Pacific Region Office (WHO-WPRO) and various government agencies. [The GLAAS monitors the inputs and the enabling environment required to sustain and extend water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems and</p>

Continuation... Sustainable Development Goals (Special Committee)				<p>services to all, especially to the most vulnerable population groups.]</p> <p>National Water Resources Board (NWRB) Policy Formulation Section Head Luis Rongavilla gave a brief background on the functions and mandate of the NWRB. He also clarified that the NWRB has no direct mandate on the development of infrastructures for water supply and sanitation. However, Rongavilla said, the NWRB has available information that can be referred to by investors in preparing feasibility studies on water supply and sanitation projects.</p> <p>Rongavilla likewise informed the Committee of the NWRB's initiative called "Listahang Tubig" or water register which is a national survey of all water service providers. According to Rongavilla, the data collected from this survey can be used by concerned agencies and local government units (LGUs) in reaching areas that have no access to safe drinking water.</p> <p>Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), author of HR 933, urged the NEDA and the NWRB to exercise their oversight functions to ensure the quality of water supplied by water service providers.</p> <p>KABAYAN Party-List Rep. Ron Salo lamented that the government has yet to come up with concrete plans and programs to achieve the targets of the SDGs, when they should have already been identified as an offshoot of the millennium development goals (MDGs).</p> <p>Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) Division Manager Virgilio Bombeta emphasized the importance of identifying the areas that have available water resource in order to determine the investments needed to put up the necessary infrastructures for water supply.</p>
Tourism	HR 1270	Rep. Cagas	Urging the President to renew the travel tax exemption policy that covers all passengers departing from all seaports and airports in Mindanao and Palawan to any destination in the Brunei-Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA)	The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Rep. Franz "Chicoy" Alvarez (1 st District, Palawan), adopted HR 1270.
	HB 3518	Rep. Arcillas	Granting 20% discount on travel tax to senior citizens and persons with disabilities	The Committee agreed to consolidate HBs 3518 and 3557.
	HB 3557	Rep. Go (M.)	Expanding travel tax exemption to include the country's representatives to international sports tournaments, academic conferences and beauty pageants, amending PD 1183, as amended	
	HR 1087	Rep. Sarmiento (E.)	Inquiry into the roadmap, programs, projects and action plans of the	The Committee will deliberate further on HR 1087 in its next meeting.

Continuation... Tourism			Department of Tourism (DOT) that aim to regulate tourist spots in order to promote sustainability	<p>Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Wanda Corazon Teo and the local officials of the Province of Aklan and the Municipality of Malay, where Boracay Island is located, will again be invited in the next meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>Rep. Edgar Sarmiento (1st District, Samar), author of HR 1087, expressed disappointment on the absence of these officials who should have shed light on the issues and concerns raised during the Committee's previous meeting so that appropriate actions may be undertaken to immediately address the problems besetting Boracay Island so that the same problems will not happen to other tourist destinations in the country.</p> <p>Nennette Graf, president of the Boracay Foundation Inc. (BFI), discussed the problems besetting Boracay, such as flooding, illegal discharge of wastes to drainage lines, neglected roads, traffic congestion, and depletion of forests and natural waterways due to conversion of these areas to resorts and hotels. She emphasized that over the past two decades, the BFI has exerted efforts to sustain a favorable business environment in Boracay not only for its members, but for everyone who relies on the tourism industry. She called on the government to implement reforms in the Island that will retain its stature as the country's most popular beach resort.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Sarmiento how the DOT intends to solve these problems, DOT Region VI Regional Director Helen Catalbas proposed that a moratorium be issued on the construction of commercial and residential structures in the area. She added that the land use policy in the province should be strictly implemented and the issuance of new business permits should be thoroughly scrutinized.</p>
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SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Subcommittee I (Constitutional Amendments)	Review of certain provisions of the 1987 Philippine Constitution in connection with the proposed shift to a federal form of government	<p>The Subcommittee I, chaired by Rep. Corazon Nuñez-Malanyaon (1st District, Davao Oriental), listened to the presentations of ABS Party-List Rep. Eugene Michael de Vera and the Federalism Study Group of the PDP-Laban Federalism Institute on their respective proposed Constitution of the Federal Republic of the Philippines.</p> <p>Rep. De Vera discussed the salient provisions of the proposed Constitution attached to Resolution of Both Houses (RBH) No. 8 which he co-authors.</p> <p>He said that the proposed federal government will consist of two levels of government. The first tier is the federal government which is presidential in form and with a bicameral legislature composed of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The second tier is the regional government which includes a Regional Assembly and</p>

<p>Continuation... Subcommittee I (Constitutional Amendments)</p>		<p>component local governments consisting of the provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays.</p> <p>The Senate shall be composed of at least two to six senators per region, who shall be elected at large by each region; the House of Representatives shall be composed of the district and party-list representatives.</p> <p>Each region, which will be headed by a Regional Governor who shall exercise executive power, will have a unicameral Regional Assembly that will legislate on areas that are not exclusively reserved to the Federal Congress.</p> <p>The local government units (LGUs) provided for under the 1987 Constitution shall continue to be governed by the provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, unless the Federal Congress will provide otherwise.</p> <p>Rep. De Vera also discussed the sharing of taxes between the Federal Government and the LGUs which is 20-80 in favor of the latter. The LGUs which collect the revenues and taxes shall exercise right of retention of their shares.</p> <p>Meanwhile, PDP-Laban Federalism Institute Executive Director Jonathan Malaya held that there is no "one-size-fits-all" model of federalism, explaining that a country's culture and history set the design for a smooth and effective shift to a federal form of government.</p> <p>Malaya went on to say that there is no need to come up with an entirely new Constitution as the mere amendment of certain provisions of the current 1987 Constitution through a "surgical approach" will already suffice.</p> <p>To gradually shift to a federalism, Malaya presented the Institute's proposed three-pronged steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, the enactment/promulgation of Regional and Local Government Code by the Federal Congress within a period of 18 months from the ratification of the amended Constitution; • Second, the establishment of Regional Commissions which shall be composed of incumbent provincial governors and mayors of highly urbanized cities and independent component cities; and • Third, the enactment of the Organic Act. <p>Reacting on Malaya's statement, Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu) said that the proposal to change the structure of the government may be construed to be more of a revision rather than a mere amendment of the Constitution.</p> <p>SAGIP Party-List Rep. Rodante Marcoleta lamented that the conditions presented are insufficient to justify any amendment to the 1987 Constitution. He, thus, urged the proponents to come up with a more substantive justification for amending the fundamental law of the land.</p> <p>The League of Provinces and the League of Cities were requested to submit a copy of their respective resolutions reflecting their stand on the proposed constitutional amendment.</p>
<p>Subcommittee III (Constitutional Amendments)</p>	<p>Review of certain provisions of the 1987 Philippine Constitution in connection with the proposed shift to a federal form of government</p>	<p>The Subcommittee III, chaired by Rep. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental), listened to the views of various resource persons on the proposed amendments to the Preamble, Declaration of Principles and State Policies (Article II), and General Provisions (Article XVI) of the 1987 Constitution.</p>

Continuation...
Subcommittee III
(Constitutional
Amendments)

University of the Philippines (UP) President Danilo Concepcion and legal luminaries, Professor Clarita Carlos of the UP College of Law and Director Nicolas Felix Ty of the UP Law Center's Institute of Government and Law Reform, were one in saying that the 1987 Constitution needs to be updated and its restrictive economic provisions should be removed in order to add flexibility to the Constitution and improve the flow of foreign direct investments (FDIs) into the country. Also supporting this position are representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

On the query of Rep. Benitez on how to address disparities in the financial capacity among regional states under a federal form of government, Carlos responded that an equalization scheme may be adopted, as practiced in other federalist countries. Under this scheme, the federal government allocates more funds to less earning states. According to Carlos, this can be done through tax reforms and modifications in the distribution of revenues.

Carlos also underscored the need to further study the division of powers between the federal and regional states including resource sharing, citing Mindanao as an example of a region with a big share of the country's vast natural resources. She went on to say that the shift to a federal form of government is just one option to improve governance in the country, adding that other options such as the parliamentary form of government may also be considered.

When asked about NEDA's recommended number of regional states under a federal system, OIC-Director Thelma Manuel of NEDA's Governance Office opined that the most feasible option is to adopt the existing number of regions, with possible modifications in the future. However, she added that before even considering how many regional states should be formed, the government should first study the income of cities and provinces and distinguish the functions of the federal state and the regional states.

League of Provinces' Director for Policy Development Angela Sanchez said that her group is amenable to a federal form of government as long as the following conditions will be adopted:

- Highly urbanized cities or provinces will be recognized as "states" or regional states;
- Regional states shall have the power to impose tax; and
- Regional states shall have a 60% share of the total tax collections of the federal government.

Meanwhile, Rep. Arnolfo "Arnie" Teves Jr. (3rd District, Negros Oriental) sought the position of the resource persons on his proposal to adopt an "on-site" tax collection and on Carlos' proposed equalization scheme. On-site tax collection would allow individuals and business entities to remit their taxes to the area where they operate or earn their incomes.

Godofredo Julius Cualteros, Senior Policy Officer of the League of Cities, expressed support for both proposals. The League of Provinces also favors the equalization of distribution of revenues, but should take into consideration the performance of local governments. NEDA's Manuel expressed support for the on-site tax collection scheme.

The Subcommittee will invite in its next meeting representatives from the DFA Maritime and Ocean Affairs Office to lend its expertise in the discussion of the constitutional provision on national territory. The UP Law Center, through Ty, was also requested to submit its proposal pertinent to amendments to the Constitution.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Government Reorganization jt. w/ National Defense and Security (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 6075, 344, 108, 596, 2638, 3093, 4203 & 4648	Reps. Salceda, Romualdez, Alejano, Pichay, Gatchalian, Castelo, Herrera-Dy, and Leachon	Creating the Department of Disaster Resilience, defining its powers and functions, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) Deputy Director Bartolome Bautista presented the possible extent of damage to properties and number of casualties and injuries in the event that the mega quake dubbed as “The Big One” occurs.</p> <p>Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Legislative Liaison Officer Shyanne Juan-Mmera said that government buildings should be assessed to determine if they are capable of withstanding natural catastrophes such as super typhoons and strong earthquakes. She also suggested that these properties be insured and penalties be imposed to government agencies and local government units (LGUs) for failure to do so.</p> <p>Maria Monina Flores of the Corporate Network for Disaster Response (CNDR) said that the proposed department should establish strategic plans and programs to be able to effectively manage the risks and respond to disasters.</p> <p>The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) was directed to make a presentation on hydrometeorology and the Philippine climatology in the TWG’s next meeting. The CNDR, Disaster Risk Reduction Network (DRRNet), and the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) were also asked to make their respective presentations on disaster risk reduction.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill for the TWG’s consideration.</p>
Housing and Urban Development (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 130, 157, 2102 & 3736	Reps. Tambunting, Belmonte (J.C.), Villarin, and Marcoleta	Prescribing a Code of Conduct for the eviction of underprivileged and homeless citizens or the demolition of their dwellings, providing penalties for violation thereof, and appropriating funds therefor, amending for the purpose RA 7279, otherwise known as the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Jose Christopher Belmonte (6th District, Quezon City), terminated its deliberations on the draft substitute bill. The bill will be presented to the Mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Rep. Belmonte discussed the revisions made by the TWG on the bill after incorporating the recommendations of the resource persons.</p> <p>One of the features of the bill, as amended, is the inclusion of additional requirements before eviction or demolition orders involving underprivileged and homeless citizens may be executed, as prescribed in Section 28</p>

<p>Continuation... Housing and Urban Development (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>(Eviction and Demolition) of RA 7279. The bill likewise delineates the role of the police during demolitions and provides for the observance of maximum tolerance in order to prevent the outbreak of violence.</p> <p>Atty. Arfine Ingusan of the <i>Sentro ng Alternatibong Lingap Panligal</i> (SALIGAN), said that the provision of adequate relocation for displaced informal settlers, which is one of the eight mandatory requirements laid down under Sec. 28 of RA 7279, is not generally observed by government agencies.</p> <p>Ingusan suggested that a Certificate of Compliance (COC), certifying that the mandatory requirements are complied with, should be secured first before the execution of demolition orders issued by the court. She further proposed that the authority to issue COCs be given back to the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP), which was the practice before the enactment of RA 7279 in 1992.</p> <p>On the other hand, Wilson Tabuton, Project Evaluation Officer IV at the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), argued that the LGUs should have the authority to issue the COC.</p> <p>The TWG requested the PCUP, HUDCC and the Local Housing Board (LHB) of LGUs to each prepare and submit a flowchart of the process of demolition they are observing not later than October 11.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p>Information and Communications Technology</p>	<p>Briefing by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) on the National Broadband Plan (NBP)</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Victor Yap (2nd District, Tarlac), listened to the briefing conducted by DICT Undersecretary Denis Villorente on the National Broadband Plan (NBP).</p> <p>Villorente gave an overview of the vision, major strategies, and targets of the NBP. He said that the NBP was developed pursuant to the directive of the President in his 2016 State of the Nation Address (SONA) to improve access to broadband services.</p> <p>Villorente also discussed the three major strategies in the implementation of the NBP, namely, instituting policy and regulatory reforms; investing in broadband “infostructure;” and supporting the stimulation of broadband demand.</p> <p>According to Villorente, the DICT envisions an open, pervasive, inclusive, affordable, and trusted broadband internet access through accelerated investment, mobilized and engaged public and private sectors, and increased usage.</p> <p>Rep. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental) inquired if the DICT plans to create a different infrastructure aside from the existing fiber optic networks of telcos. Villorente replied in the affirmative, adding that the NBP includes the construction of an open backbone which will allow private companies to utilize it in providing service particularly to remote areas.</p>

<p>Continuation... North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>		<p>the DSWD's total proposed budget of P137.86 billion, P5.97 billion (4.3%) will go to Region I; P3.70 billion (2.69%) to Region II; and P2.46 billion (1.79%) to CAR.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Savellano, Turalde-Jarabe disclosed that Region II is not covered by the DSWD's <i>Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan</i> – Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS) – National Community-Driven Development Program because it does not fall under any of the criteria for identifying beneficiaries. She explained that the Program's target beneficiaries are those located in areas with high poverty incidence; in 4th, 5th and 6th class municipalities; and those affected by Super Typhoon Yolanda. Nevertheless, she said that the DSWD is developing a social services program that will be applicable to all regions.</p> <p>Rep. Savellano recommended that the DSWD's Supplemental Feeding Program (SFP), benefitting currently enrolled day care children, should be integrated into the <i>Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program</i> (4Ps) by procuring the food requirements of the SFP from 4Ps beneficiaries who are engaged in farming. Turalde-Jarabe said the DSWD is considering the suggestion and she will discuss the matter with the Government Procurement and Policy Board (GPPB).</p> <p>Replying to the query of Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Turalde-Jarabe said that 4Ps beneficiaries are provided with the following on a monthly basis: financial assistance of P500; educational grant of P300 for elementary pupils and P500 for high school students for a maximum of three children per household; and rice subsidy of P600.</p> <p>The DSWD was requested to verify reports that some local government units (LGUs) are not giving the full amount of assistance to 4Ps beneficiaries, and to submit a list of 4Ps beneficiaries in Regions I and II and CAR, per district.</p>
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OTHER MATTERS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Bases Conversion	Letter-Complaint of Atty. Wilma Eisma, chair, administrator and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), on the alleged violations of Martin Diño, former chairman and head of agency of SBMA, of the <i>status quo ante order</i> of the Committee	<p>The Committee, chaired by Pasay City Rep. Emi Calixto-Rubiano, resolved to archive the letter-complaint of Atty. Wilma Eisma, chair, administrator and CEO of the SBMA, on the alleged violations of Martin Diño, former chairman and head of agency of SBMA, of the <i>status quo ante order</i> of the Committee for being moot and academic.</p> <p>President Rodrigo Duterte already issued EO 42 on September 25, 2017 which repeals EO 340 and defines the powers, functions and duties of the board of directors of the SBMA and the SBMA administrator.</p> <p>EO 340 issued by then President now Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga) in August 2004, separated the powers and duties of the SBMA administrator and chairman. EO 340 supposedly contradicts RA 7227 or the Bases Conversion and Development Act of 1992 which provides that there is only one position for the SBMA chair and administrator.</p>