

Committee Daily Bulletin

17th Congress
Second Regular Session

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agrarian Reform	HB 5487	Speaker Alvarez	Rationalizing the requirements imposed by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) regarding land registration to facilitate speed and efficiency in land registration	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rene Relampagos (1 st District, Bohol), approved the Committee Report on HB 5487.
	HB 5085	Rep. Baguilat	Regulating the establishment and implementation of agribusiness venture arrangements (AVAs) in agrarian reform lands	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the measures. The TWG will be co-chaired by Ifugao Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr. and ANAKPAWIS Party-List Rep. Ariel "Ka Ayik" Casilao.
	HR 919	Rep. Casilao	Inquiry into the impact of AVAs in the country, in light of the mounting demand of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs), farmers and agricultural workers for its revocation	Rep. Relampagos said that HB 5085 aims to strengthen existing policies regarding agribusiness venture arrangements (AVAs) to ensure that the rights and interests of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) are protected, and to maximize the use of distributed agrarian lands without compromising the farmers' tenurial rights. On the other hand, HR 919, principally authored by Rep. Casilao, calls for an investigation into the complaints of ARBs and agricultural cooperatives against existing AVAs for being an unfair arrangement resulting in ARBs' mounting debts to private investors and compromising their rights under the agrarian reform law. As defined under HB 5085, AVAs refer to the entrepreneurial collaboration between the ARBs and private investors in the implementation of an agriculturally-related business venture involving lands distributed under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). Atty. Rolly Francis Peoro, legal officer of Kaisahan Tungo sa Kaunlaran ng Kanayunan at Repormang Pansakahan (KAISAHAN), expressed support for the bill. Likewise, farmer-representatives from Linda District Employees Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association, Inc. (LINDEARBAI), Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (UMA), and Hijo Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperative (HARBCO) support

Continuation... Agrarian Reform				<p>the measures, expressing their dismay over the AVAs which only make farmers and agricultural workers poorer.</p> <p>Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Undersecretary Luis Meinrado Pañgulayan disclosed that DAR will issue an administrative order that will address the issues and concerns of ARBs with regard to the existing AVAs.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Relampagos and ACT TEACHERS Party-List Rep. France Castro, Pañgulayan said that the National AVA Evaluation Committee (NAEC) monitors around 443 AVAs involving over 57,000 hectares of agrarian reform lands. Pañgulayan added that complaints pertaining to AVAs are investigated by the NAEC which forwards its recommendations to the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) Executive Committee for appropriate action.</p>
Civil Service and Professional Regulation	Substitute Bill to HBs 1123 & 5049	Reps. Alejano and Rodriguez (M.)	Regulating the practice of criminology profession in the Philippines and appropriating funds therefor, repealing for the purpose RA 6506, or the law creating the Board of Examiners for Criminologists in the Philippines	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Mario Vittorio "Marvey" Mariño (5th District, Batangas), approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 1123 and 5049 subject to amendments.
	HBs 1693, 2548 & 3110	Reps. Rodriguez (M.), Zarate, and Aglipay-Villar	Providing for a comprehensive nursing law towards a quality health care system and appropriating funds therefor, repealing for the purpose RA 9173, otherwise known as the Philippine Nursing Act of 2002	<p>The Committee decided to consolidate the bills and prepare a substitute bill.</p> <p>BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate, author of HB 2548, said that his bill seeks to address the plight of overworked but underpaid nurses, and the questionable lack of nursing positions in hospitals despite the fact that the prevailing average nurse-patient ratio is higher than the ideal ratio.</p>
	HB 2602	Rep. Santos-Recto	Instituting reforms to further protect and develop the nursing profession, amending for the purpose RA 9173	<p>Representatives from the Professional Regulation Commission's (PRC) Board of Nursing, Alliance of Health Workers (AHW), Filipino Nurses United (FNU), and the Public Services Labor Independent Confederation (PSLINK) expressed support for the bills saying that they will encourage the nurses to stay and work in the country instead of working overseas.</p> <p>On the suggestion to increase the entry level salary of nurses both in the public and private sectors to Salary Grade (SG) 15, Atty. Avvy Cristabelle Alba of the Organization, Position Classification and Compensation Bureau (OPCCB) of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) explained that the Salary Standardization Law already addressed the salary of nurses in the public sector which is higher compared to nurses employed in private health institutions.</p> <p>SG 15 in the government service is equivalent to a monthly salary ranging from P26,192 (Step 1) to P28,344 (Step 8).</p>

Continuation... Civil Service and Professional Regulation				<p>Atty. Lovelika Bautista, Officer-in-Charge of PRC's Office of the Professional Regulatory Boards, said that a similar bill which had undergone extensive deliberations in the Senate may be incorporated in the consolidated bill to be crafted by the Committee. She then submitted the PRC's proposed version of the Comprehensive Nursing Bill which consolidates the versions of the Senate and the House of Representatives.</p> <p>The DBM was requested to provide data on the number of nurses who are still receiving a salary below SG 15 both in the public and private sectors, and the estimated cost for granting the SG15 entry level salary for nurses nationwide.</p>
	HB 2320	Rep. Chipeco	Regulating the practice of microbiology in the Philippines	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 2320 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Esperanza Cabrera, representative of the Philippine Association of Microbiology, manifested her support for the bill. She particularly favored the provision in the bill allowing the issuance of a certificate of registration and professional license to one who is a member of the Philippine Society of Microbiology or a Diplomate of the Philippine Academy of Microbiology and has been practicing the profession for at least 10 years, without the necessity of undergoing and passing the licensure examination for microbiology.</p> <p>On the other hand, Marian Tangingco, member of the PRC Board of Medical Technology, expressed reservation on the proposed law.</p> <p>Rep. Mariño requested the resource persons to talk among themselves and thresh out their issues on the bill. He also requested them to submit their respective position papers on the matter.</p>
Dangerous Drugs	HBs 289, 587, 1868, 3406, 3616, 3627, 3733 & 4151	Reps. Romero, Bataoil, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Barbers, Acop, Pineda, Bagatsing, and Alejano	Authorizing wire tapping in cases involving violations of RA 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, amending RA 4200 or the law prohibiting and penalizing wire tapping and other related violations of the privacy of communication	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Robert "Ace" Barbers (2nd District, Surigao del Norte), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the eight bills.</p> <p>Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), author of HB 3616, emphasized that authorizing wire tapping in cases involving illegal drugs would be an effective tool for law enforcement agencies to gather evidence and apprehend, prosecute and ensure conviction of illegal drug traffickers and their protectors, coddlers and financiers.</p> <p>Signifying their support for the bills were representatives from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), Philippine National Police (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).</p>

Continuation... Dangerous Drugs	Motu Proprio Inquiry		<p>Inquiry into the alleged involvement of transport network vehicle service (TNVS) drivers in the transport and delivery of illegal drugs</p>	<p>The Committee will continue its inquiry into the alleged use of TNVS in the transport and delivery of illegal drugs in another meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Barbers revealed that drug syndicates are now using mobile-based applications of transport network companies to deliver illicit goods and using fictitious names and pre-activated sim cards to avoid being detected and intercepted by police authorities.</p> <p>According to Rep. Barbers, this was exposed during PDEA's buy-bust operation that caught and arrested Jovet Atillano who used Grab's delivery service to transport package-concealed illegal drugs to the doorsteps of his customers.</p> <p>DOJ State Counsel Rosario Elena Cuevas informed the Committee that the case filed against Atillano is now pending at the Mandaluyong Regional Trial Court (RTC).</p> <p>Meanwhile, Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Legal Officer Simon Simon reported on the existence of a "dark net," an underground layer in the internet that is used by criminal organizations in their illegal transactions.</p> <p>The existence of this dark net was also confirmed by PNP Drug Enforcement Group Legal Department Chief Enrico Rigor.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Barbers if the DICT is keeping track of the users of the dark net, Simon mentioned that the Department's Cybercrime Investigation and Coordination Center (CICC) has that mandate. However, Simon admitted that the Department is still lagging behind technologically which makes it hard put in fighting cyber criminals.</p> <p>Rep. Acop asked about past cases of drug trafficking using the internet. PDEA's Plans and Operations Service OIC-Director Maharani Gadaoni-Tosoc said that the first case was in 2014 which involved an Indian national selling ecstasy pills online using "bit coin" as mode of payment.</p> <p>Rep. Barbers instructed the Secretariat to invite UBER transport services in the next Committee meeting with a stern warning that failure to attend the next meeting will be dealt with severely.</p>
Ecology	HR 371	Rep. Pineda	<p>Inquiry into the implementation of RA 9275 or the law providing for a comprehensive water quality management, and its related regulations relative to the operations of quick service restaurants (QSRs)</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija), will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 371 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN), author of HR 371, said that he filed the resolution to look into the reasons behind the continued deterioration of the Laguna Lake,</p>

Continuation... Ecology				<p>which is probably the most precious water resource of Metro Manila and its nearby provinces. In his resolution, Rep. Pineda stated that studies suggest that a large part of the pollutants affecting the Laguna Lake is the effluent wastewater composed of grease and oil from quick service restaurants (QSRs) operating in Metro Manila, and in the Provinces of Rizal, Laguna and Cavite.</p> <p>Leza Cuevas, supervising environmental management specialist of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), discussed the various issuances of DENR that regulate business establishments, including QSRs.</p> <p>Cuevas lamented that several studies conducted by the EMB revealed that only 10% of the restaurant sub-sector were able to comply with DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 1990-35 or the Revised Effluent Regulations of 1990.</p> <p>Atty. Zenaida Ongkiko-Acorda of the QSR Management Link Association, an organization composed of various QSRs in the country, argued that based on several studies conducted by the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), Greenpeace, and the World Bank, a huge percentage of the pollution load of the Laguna Lake came from domestic wastes, and not from the grease and oil discharged by QSRs.</p> <p>Acorda asserted that, contrary to the allegations in HR 371, QSRs are heavily regulated by the DENR and the LLDA, as their stores are regularly visited by inspectors from the aforesaid regulatory agencies.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso (3rd District, Leyte) if the EMB has the authority to close non-compliant QSRs, Cuevas said RA 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 only provides for the closure of the pipes and not of the stores. Rep. Arlene Arcillas (1st District, Laguna) explained that local government units (LGUs) have the authority to close delinquent stores.</p> <p>The Committee requested the DENR to submit a list of cases filed with and resolved by the EMB. It likewise requested the QSR Management Link Association to submit data on the waste management treatment being employed by its members.</p>
	HR 523	Rep. Roque (H.)	Granting congressional approval to the compromise agreement between the International Oil Pollution Compensation (IOPC) Fund and Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) to settle the country's claims for the cleanup of the 13 August 2006 M/V Solar 1 oil spill off Guimaras Island in the amount of	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HR 523 in its next meeting.</p> <p>KABAYAN Party-List Rep. Harry Roque Jr., author of HR 523, briefly discussed the nature of the International Oil Pollution Compensation (IOPC) Fund, which was established by</p>

<p>Continuation... Ecology</p>			<p>P104.76 million pursuant to Section 4, Title 19 B of Executive Order 292 otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987</p>	<p>shipowners and oil companies to provide compensation for damage resulting from oil spills and to ensure that the cost of speedy clean-up during oil spills is duly covered. He explained that in exchange for the availability of funds, the liability of the shipowner and oil company is reduced, and proof of the oil spill becomes inconsequential provided the occurrence of the oil spill is established.</p> <p>Rep. Roque sought answers to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the basis of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) for entering into the subject compromise agreement, which is grossly disadvantageous to the Philippine government, considering that its original claim was P326.57 million? • How does PCG intend to spend the claim from the IOPC? • Why did the PCG fail to inform Congress about the compromise agreement when the Administrative Code provides that in case a claim or liability exceeds P100,000, the application for relief therefrom shall be submitted to Congress, through the Commission on Audit (COA) and the Office of the President, with their recommendations? <p>Captain Edgar Ybañez, director of the PCG's National Operations Center for Oil Pollution (NOCOP), said that he was not aware of the cleanup cost because it was the PCG headquarters which made the computation for the claim. He also said that whatever money recovered from the IOPC will go to the Bureau of Treasury.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Reps. Roque and Edgar Erice (2nd District, Caloocan City), Ybañez said that it was PCG's Legal Service that recommended the approval of the compromise agreement.</p> <p>Atty. Lisa Belle Villanueva, head of the PCG's Legal Service, explained that her unit deemed it wise to accept the P100 million compromise on the basis that the PCG may not be able to substantiate the original claim of P326.57 million.</p> <p>Rep. Roque recommended that Congress be the one to set the amount of the claim after due consultation with local government units (LGUs) affected.</p> <p>Thereafter, Rep. Suansing requested Angelica Sanchez, director for policy of the League of Provinces, to secure from the affected provinces the actual amount of their claims and transmit the same to the Committee.</p> <p>The PCG and COA were requested to submit,</p>
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Continuation... Ecology				<p>within seven working days, a copy of the case filed by the PCG with the Regional Trial Court (RTC) in Manila on PCG's claim amounting to P326.57 million.</p> <p>The Committee instructed the Secretariat to invite the following persons in its next meeting: Department of Transportation (DOTr) Assistant Secretary Lino Dabi, former PCG Commandant Admiral Wilfredo Tamayo (ret.), representative from the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), and officials from the provinces affected by the oil spill in Guimaras Island.</p>
Good Government and Public Accountability	HR 654	Rep. Gonzales (A.)	Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the sale of the Paskuhan Village in Pampanga by the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) to SM Development Corporation (SMDC) reportedly under the former's Asset Privatization Program	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), approved the Committee Report on HR 654 subject to style and amendment.
	HR 1212	Rep. Nograles (J.J.)	Inquiry into the alleged purchase and installation of fake train safety equipment in the Metro Rail Transit-3 Line	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 1212 in another meeting.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Pimentel said the Committee will determine whether or not there is malfeasance, misfeasance or nonfeasance committed in the purchase and installation of train safety equipment by the Busan Universal Rail Inc. (BURI), the maintenance service provider of MRT-3. He underscored the importance of having a safe, working and reliable mass transit system such as the MRT-3 to benefit the riding public.</p> <p>HR 1212, authored by PBA Party-List Rep. Jericho Jonas Nograles, seeks to look into the alleged purchase and installation of P4 million worth of fake train safety equipment on the MRT-3 trains. The resolution also states that the equipment were purchased from Diamond Pearl Manufacturing which is not an authorized supplier and distributor of proprietary parts from Bombardier Transportation Signal Ltd., a Canadian company that holds exclusive proprietary rights to supply new components of the MRT-3 signaling system.</p> <p>BURI Legal Counsel Charles Mercado denied allegations that BURI purchased and installed two fake vehicle logic units (VLU) to MRT-3 trains. VLUs are components of the MRT-3 signaling system that prevents over speeding and manages distances between trains.</p> <p>According to Mercado, the VLUs were delivered to the DOTr warehouse but were eventually pulled out by Diamond Pearl Manufacturing due to its inability to produce a certificate of origin for the said devices.</p> <p>DOTr Undersecretary Cesar Chavez refuted the statement of Mendoza, and asked his staff to present to the Committee several</p>

<p>Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability</p>				<p>documents showing that VLUs have been delivered and installed by BURI in MRT cars. He also cited the report of Bombardier Transportation saying, among others, that the VLUs have been opened and its circuitry tampered.</p> <p>Mercado insisted that the VLUs in question were pulled out by Diamond Pearl Manufacturing and that his company also has documents to support this claim.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales Jr. (3rd District, Pampanga) pointed out that the Notice of Award for the DOTC-MRT3 procurement of 43 light rail vehicles (LRVs), maintenance service, general overhauling, and replacement of signaling system was issued on December 23, 2015 to Busan Transportation Corporation, Edison Development and Construction, Tramart Mercantile, Inc., TMICorp Inc., and Castan Corporation.</p> <p>However, BURI, the consortium of the above-cited four companies, was only registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on January 4, 2016. As such, Rep. Gonzales asserted that the contract between BURI and DOTr was questionable as BURI was not yet incorporated when the Notice of Award was issued.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to invite members of the DOTr's Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) who were involved in the awarding of the contract to BURI; DOTr personnel whose signatures appear in the documents presented during the meeting; and representatives from the Diamond Pearl Manufacturing.</p>
<p>Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. w/ National Defense and Security</p>	<p>HBs 1137 & 5673</p>	<p>Reps. Alejano and Matugas</p>	<p>Amending pertinent laws on the retirement benefits and pension of the uniformed personnel of the uniformed services and providing funds therefor</p>	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan (1st District, North Cotabato), Chair of the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization, and Rep. Amado Espino Jr. (5th District, Pangasinan), Chair of the Committee on National Defense and Security, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune the bills.</p> <p>The Joint TWG will be co-chaired by MAGDALO Party-List Rep. Gary Alejano and Baguio City Rep. Mark Go.</p> <p>Rep. Gary Alejano, author of HB 1137, said that his bill seeks to provide immediate and adequate benefits and other alternative forms of assistance to war veterans and veterans of military campaigns and their surviving spouses and orphans.</p> <p>According to Rep. Alejano, it is the government's responsibility to ensure that retirees will continue to receive the much needed benefits commensurate to the service</p>
	<p>HB 4709</p>	<p>Rep. Antonino</p>	<p>Establishing a single retirement and separation benefit system for government employees, including members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP), amending for the purpose PD 1146, as amended, otherwise known as the Government Service Insurance Act of 1997</p>	

<p>Continuation... Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. w/ National Defense and Security</p>				<p>they have rendered even after their retirement.</p> <p>Rep. Francisco Jose "Bingo" Matugas II (1st District, Surigao del Norte), author of HB 5673, emphasized the importance of reforming the benefit and pension system of uniformed personnel to make it more sustainable considering that the budget for pension is rapidly increasing every year.</p> <p>Rep. Go inquired about the benefits being received by military officers and the amount of unpaid obligations of the government to the retirees.</p> <p>Department of National Defense (DND) Internal Audit Service (IAS) Director Ronald Patrick Rubin replied that he could not give a detailed answer at the moment. But, he said, a TWG composed of various agencies including the DND and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) was created to study reforms in the benefits and pension system of uniformed personnel.</p> <p>GSIS Senior Vice President for Actuarial and Risk Management Group Severina Resurreccion said that the GSIS is asking concerned government agencies to help in gathering data on the number of active military and other uniformed personnel and the number of pensioners to help resolve issues pertinent to their retirement benefits and pension.</p> <p>The Committee directed the DND, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Corrections (BuCor), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), and the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) to submit pertinent information about their employees and retirees or pensioners.</p>
<p>Government Reorganization jt. w/ Transportation</p>	<p>HBs 190, 1725, 2731, 3116, 5042 & 5480</p>	<p>Reps. Bravo (A.), Biazon, Alejano, Villafuerte, Deputy Speaker Garcia, and Rep. Vargas</p>	<p>Creating a National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Joint Committee, co-presided by MANILA TEACHERS Party-List Rep. Virgilio Lacson, Vice Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, Chair of the Committee on Transportation, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the six bills.</p> <p>The TWG will be co-chaired by Reps. Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN) and Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1st District, Samar).</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, author of HB 1725, said that after the sinking of MV Princess of the Orient in 1998, the government's Board of Marine Inquiry (BMI) gave its recommendations to Congress but nothing happened until another tragedy happened again in 2008 involving the MV Princess of the Stars. One of the</p>

Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ Transportation				<p>recommendations of the BMI was the creation of a National Transportation Safety Commission which shall be an independent and non-regulatory agency that will ensure the conduct of thorough and impartial investigations of transportation-related accidents.</p> <p>Rep. Biazon said that the country must learn from the lessons of past accidents to come up with legislations that will prevent accidents or at least make the repeat of such accidents least likely.</p> <p>Atty. Ivy Abad of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) expressed reservation on the bills, claiming that there are already existing agencies that are performing investigatory functions which could be strengthened, instead of creating a separate government office.</p> <p>Former MAGDALO Party-List Rep. Francisco Ashley Acedillo, who chaired the TWG that thoroughly deliberated on similar bills in the past Congress, said that the creation of the proposed NTSB will also entail the abolition of certain agencies which will address DBM's stand against a bloated bureaucracy. Acedillo also claimed that allowing transportation regulatory agencies to conduct investigations on accidents involving their areas of responsibility will not result in impartial conclusions.</p>
People's Participation	Substitute Bill to HBs 5842, 6120, 6237 & 6323	Reps. Vargas, Nieto, Lee, and Sy-Alvarado	Encouraging volunteerism during emergencies by protecting volunteers from liability	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Maria Valentina Plaza (1st District, Agusan del Sur), approved the substitute bill subject to style.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p>
Public Order and Safety	HB 6208	Majority Leader Fariñas	Establishing the Philippine Legislative Police (PLP) and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune HB 6208 and incorporate in it the pertinent recommendations of the Members and the resource persons.</p> <p>Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1st District, Ilocos Norte), author of HB 6208, said that the establishment of a legislative police will allow Congress to fully exercise its responsibilities with independence such as in the issuance of subpoenas and will better secure the safety of the Members of Congress.</p> <p>The organizational structure of the proposed legislative police will be patterned after the United States Capitol Police that was established for the same purpose of protecting the United States Congress.</p> <p>House Sergeant-at-Arms Ronald Detabali manifested his support for the bill, citing Congress' need for more security personnel</p>

<p>Continuation... Public Order and Safety</p>				<p>given the increase in the number of buildings and House Members throughout the years.</p> <p>The Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC) and the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) also signified their support for the proposed measure.</p> <p>However, Director Joel Crisostomo Garcia of the Police Security and Protection Group, Philippine National Police (PSPG-PNP) suggested that the proposal to create the PLP be thoroughly studied first, pointing out a possible duplication of functions between the PNP and the proposed PLP. Garcia added that the PSPG is ready to address the security concerns of Congress.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit to the Committee their positions papers for the consideration of the TWG.</p>
	<p>HBs 2741, 5830, 6250 & 6433</p>	<p>Reps. Biazon, Cuaresma, Bertiz, and Alejano</p>	<p>Mandating law enforcement officers to wear body cameras in law enforcement and special police operations and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to draft a substitute bill to the four measures.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon and Party-List Reps. Aniceto "John" Bertiz III (ACTS OFW) and Gary Alejano (MAGDALO), respective authors of HBs 2741, 6250 and 6433, explained that the wearing of body cameras will promote transparency and accountability among law enforcement personnel in the conduct of police operations.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Acop if indeed body cameras would encourage police's compliance with the operational procedures, PNP Deputy Director for Operations Emmanuel Licup responded that it will serve as a deterrent against irregularities and wrongdoings in the police force.</p> <p>NAPOLCOM Vice Chair Rogelio Casurao added that it would help validate that police operations were done in good faith and in accordance with the law.</p> <p>Rep. Acop emphasized that extensive training and value formation in the police force would be a better approach, adding that this would inculcate discipline among the PNP personnel which would result in the strict observance of the rules of engagement and other operational procedures.</p> <p>Manifesting their full support for the measures were the NAPOLCOM, PNP, Commission on Human Rights (CHR), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), Bureau of Immigration (BI), and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).</p> <p>Department of Justice (DOJ) State Counsel Mary Grace Sadian promised to submit the Department's position paper on October 16.</p>

Youth and Sports Development	HR 1194	Rep. Roa-Puno	Expressing the support of the House of Representatives to the <i>Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas</i> in its efforts to spearhead the Philippines' bid to host the 2023 FIBA World Cup and enjoining the government to extend its full assistance and support for this bid	The Committee, chaired by ABONO Party-List Rep. Conrado Estrella III, adopted HR 1194 subject to style.
	HRs 1210, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1219, 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1233, 1236, 1238, 1239, 1240, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244, 1248, 1249, 1251, 1262, 1264, 1269, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1296, 1301, 1307, 1334 & 1343	Reps. Del Rosario, Vargas, Suansing (E.), Aglipay-Villar, Olivarez, Sambar, Antonio, Alejano, Abellanosa, Deputy Speaker Garcia, Reps. Estrella, Dalipe, Del Rosario, Vargas, Suansing (E.), Deputy Speaker Abu, and Reps. Aglipay-Villar, Velasco-Catera, and Olivarez	Congratulating and commending Filipino athletes who won gold medals in the 29th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia last August 19 to 31, 2017	The Committee adopted in principle the Substitute Resolutions to the 34 HRs.
	HRs 1333, 1335 & 1341	Reps. Bravo, Sambar, and Estrella	Congratulating and commending Ju-jitsu fighters Margarita Ochoa, Annie Ramirez, Jenna Napolis, Marc Alexander Lim, and Gian Taylor Lee for honoring the country with their gold wins in the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games (AIMAG) held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan from September 17 to 27, 2017	The Committee adopted the Substitute Resolution to HRs 1333, 1335 and 1341.
	HR 1342 in consolidation with HRs 1313, 1321 & 1344	Reps. Estrella, Sambar, and Olivarez	Congratulating and commending the Philippine team who won gold medals in the 9th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Paralympic Games held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from September 17 to 23, 2017	The Committee adopted the Substitute Resolution to HRs 1342, 1313, 1321, and 1344.
	HR 1356	Rep. Estrella	Congratulating and commending the Philippine team for winning silver medals in the fifth edition of the Asian indoor and martial arts games held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan from September 17 to 27, 2017	The Committee adopted the Substitute Resolution to HR 1356.
	HR 1357	Rep. Estrella	Congratulating and commending the Philippine team for winning bronze medals in the fifth edition of the Asian indoor and martial arts games held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan from September 17 to 27, 2017	The Committee adopted the Substitute Resolution to HR 1357.
Ways and Means	HB 1616	Rep. Zarate	Exempting the system loss charge component in the sale of electricity by distribution companies and electric	The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, approved HB 1616 and the tax provision of HBs 942 and 2297, specifically

Continuation... Ways and Means			cooperatives from the coverage of the value added tax (VAT), amending for the purpose Section 109 (1) of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC), as amended	the exemption of systems loss from the imposition of the value added tax (VAT). Rep. Maximo Rodriguez (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City) presented the merits of his bill, HB 2297.
	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	Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, Chair of the Committee on Energy, pushed for the passage of these bills so as not to unduly burden the consumers from the additional cost of electricity due to the imposition of VAT.
	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	Department of Energy (DOE) Assistant Secretary Gerardo Erquiza informed the Committee that the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) has been advised by the DOE to review its existing guidelines on the imposition of VAT on systems loss which started in 2008. Erquiza emphasized that there should be a fair and scientific means of determining the natural loss of electricity. Majority of the Members of the Committee favor the passage of the proposed law.

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), discussed the proposed amendments to Article X (Local Government) of the 1987 Constitution.</p> <p>ABS Party-List Rep. Eugene Michael de Vera, co-author of Resolution of Both Houses (RBH) 8, said that under the draft Constitution of the Federal Republic of the Philippines attached to RBH 8, the government will consist of two levels: a federal government which is presidential in form and with a bicameral legislature; and a regional government which includes a Regional Assembly and component local governments. The sharing of taxes between the Federal Government and the Regional Governments will be 20-80 in favor of the latter.</p> <p>While Rep. De Vera suggested that the existing 18 regions will comprise the regional governments, PDP-Laban Federalism Institute Executive Director Jonathan Malaya proposes only 11 regional governments, explaining that some existing regions will be merged with other regions for taxation purposes.</p> <p>KABAYAN Party-List Rep. Ron Salo advised the body to carefully study the proposals to shift into a federal form of government, stressing that it will be a “point of no return” the moment that mini-states or sub-states are created.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Assistant Secretary Epimaco Densing III said that the DILG has already commissioned the Local Government Development Foundation (LOGODEF) to conduct a study of the regions’ financial assets and revenue generating capabilities; cultural diversities; and geographical locations. He stressed that relevant data should be looked into first before determining the number of regional governments that should be created in the event the government shifts to federalism.</p>

<p>Continuation... Subcommittee I (Constitutional Amendments)</p>		<p>Likewise, the local officials present during the meeting stressed the need to capacitate the regions in order for them to carry out their functions and responsibilities under the proposed federal government.</p> <p>Malaya said the PDP-Laban Federalism Institute is currently doing studies on the taxes to be collected by the regional government and how resources will be downloaded to local government units (LGUs).</p> <p>On the suggestion of Quirino Governor Junie Cua, the stakeholders present during the meeting agreed to constitute themselves into a technical working group (TWG) to carefully discuss the proposed amendments to Article X of the 1987 Constitution and submit their recommendations to the Subcommittee in its next meeting.</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, presided by Rep. Carlos Roman Uybarreta (Party-List, 1-CARE), listened to the views of the resource persons on the proposed amendments to the National Territory (Article I) and Transitory Provisions (Article XVIII) of the 1987 Constitution.</p> <p>Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Assistant Secretary Jose Eduardo Malaya III said that the DFA agrees to the adoption of the 1987 Constitution's definition of "National Territory" for the proposed Constitution of the Federal Republic of the Philippines.</p> <p>Director General Romulo Miral Jr. of the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department (CPBRD) of the House of Representatives, who is also a member of the Federalism Study Group of the PDP-Laban Federalism Institute, recommends an expanded definition of the Philippine territory which will include the territorial limits prescribed under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to which the Philippines is a signatory.</p> <p>Professor Clarita Carlos of the University of the Philippines (UP) said that with the regional integration under the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the term National Territory should be defined in general terms and based on the UNCLOS.</p> <p>The UNCLOS, which came into force on November 1994, "lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources. It enshrines the notion that all problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be addressed as a whole."</p> <p>However, Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso (3rd District, Leyte) expressed reservation on basing the definition of National Territory on the provisions of UNCLOS alone, explaining that it may waive the country's right of claim over Sabah, a region east of Malaysia which the Philippines has historical claims. At present, however, Malaysia exercises sovereignty over the area but admits of continued payment of its lease to the Sultanate of Sulu.</p> <p>Sought to comment on Article XVIII, Malaya and Carlos suggested that Section 25 of the said Article be deleted, explaining that this provision is already obsolete. ACT TEACHERS Party-List Rep. Antonio Tinio urged the body to instead place the said provision under Article II (Declaration of Principles and State Policies).</p> <p>Section 25 states that "After the expiration in 1991 of the Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and the United States of America concerning military bases, foreign military bases, troops, or facilities shall not be allowed in the Philippines except under a treaty duly concurred in by the Senate and, when the Congress so requires, ratified by a majority of the votes cast by the people in a national referendum held for that purpose, and recognized as a treaty by the other contracting State."</p>

Continuation... Subcommittee III (Constitutional Amendments)		The Subcommittee decided to suspend its discussion on Article XVIII until after all the other articles of the proposed Constitution shall have been discussed and completed. It will invite the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) in its next meeting to provide its views on Article I.
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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)	HB 108	Rep. Alejano	Establishing the Emergency Management Agency (EMA), amending for the purpose RA 10121 or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction Management Act of 2010	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), also the author of HB 6075, listened to the comments and recommendations of the resource persons relative to several bills on disaster preparedness and mitigation.</p> <p>PAGASA Weather Division Director Esperanza Cayanan warned that the country is already experiencing the effects of global warming. She said that the rise in temperature is noted in the increasing number of hot days and warm nights and decreasing days of cold days and cool nights. She also confirmed the rising of the sea level in the country which is three times higher than the global average.</p> <p>Cayanan said that due to the increase in greenhouse gas concentration, by the mid-21st century, the number of tropical cyclones that may hit the country will be lesser in number but the intensity will be stronger.</p> <p>PAGASA has installed additional data gathering and monitoring facilities throughout the country that will enhance weather data gathering and forecasting, Cayanan said.</p> <p>Mayfourth Luneta of the Disaster Risk Reduction Network Philippines (DRRNet-Phils), meanwhile, presented the following recommendations relative to disaster preparedness and mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a streamlined policy for early warning system, clear communication system, and responsive preparedness activities at the community level; • Standardize comprehensive risk assessment processes and tools; • Augment funds for the low income and highly vulnerable municipalities; • Engage the civil society organizations (CSOs) in all the processes of disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM); • Review the policy and structure vis-à-vis risk of armed conflicts and other situations of social instability or tension; and • Uphold and protect the rights of internally displaced persons.
	HBs 344, 3093, 4203, 4648 & 6075	Reps. Romualdez, Castelo, Herrera-Dy, Leachon, and Salceda	Creating the Department of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, defining its mandate, powers, and functions, and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 596	Rep. Pichay	Establishing the Philippine Emergency and Disaster Management Authority and providing funds therefor	
	HB 2638	Rep. Gatchalian	Instituting a National Disaster Rehabilitation Program and establishing the Philippine Disaster Rehabilitation Commission	
	HB 138	Rep. Noel	Providing for emergency warehouses in areas devastated by calamities to provide affected consumers access to basic necessities or prime commodities at discounted and tax-free prices	
	HB 805	Rep. Batocabe	Mandating all schools and universities to establish an area-specific disaster risk management and education program in their respective jurisdictions, amending for the purpose RA 10121	
	HBs 397 & 2661	Reps. Belmonte (J.C.) and Angara-Castillo	Strengthening the Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Change Adaptation Linkages, amending RA 10121	
	HB 1132	Rep. Alejano	Granting disaster service volunteers a paid leave during period of disasters	
	HBs 1149 & 1379	Reps. Alejano and Vargas	Including responsive, empowered and service-centered youth in the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council in all levels, amending for the purpose RA 10121	
	HBs 1374, 1763, 1812, 2146 & 2608	Rep. Tan (A.), Zarate, Vargas, Pineda, and Santos-Recto	Providing for the establishment of evacuation centers in provinces/cities/municipalities or other strategic areas throughout the country during times of calamity or disaster	

Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ National Defense and Security (Technical Working Group)	HB 1485	Rep. Abayon	Requiring local government units (LGUs) to prepare their disaster preparedness plans using up-to-date industry standards and the best technology available	Corporate Network for Disaster Response (CNDR) Director Maria Monina Flores suggested the inclusion of positions for earth scientist, disaster risk communication specialist, and community mobilization specialist in the plantilla of local disaster risk reduction and management offices. Flores likewise acknowledged the contribution of the private sector in strengthening disaster preparedness and recovery and recommended that these sectors be made part of the NDRRMC. Meanwhile, Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) President Rene Meily suggested that a nationwide training for disaster preparedness and business continuity during disasters be conducted. The Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) and several international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) will be invited in the next meeting of the TWG to hear their views and insights on the bills.
	HBs 2555 & 3083	Rep. Castelo	Expanding the Philippine DRRM system thereby institutionalizing a comprehensive recovery and reconstruction plan through a whole-of-society approach with the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), through the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), as lead agency	
	HBs 2804 & 5593	Reps. Castelo and Vargas	Mandating the conduct of fire, earthquake and other hazardous phenomena drills in educational establishments, school buses, workplaces and healthcare institutions	
	HBs 3094 & 3889	Reps. Castelo and Escudero	Institutionalizing a system of effective fund administration of cash donations or humanitarian aid from local or foreign donors and sponsors during natural or man-made disasters, crises, tragedies, or emergencies	
	HB 3509	Rep. Ortega	Providing for alternative source of livelihood for small-scale fishermen and subsistence fisherfolks in coastal communities in the Philippines by deputizing them as auxiliary response team in natural and man-made calamities and disasters	
	HB 4521	Rep. Yu	Establishing the Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards (NOAH) center to strengthen disaster prevention and mitigation program and appropriating funds therefor	
	HBs 454, 2784 & 2854	Reps. Gomez and Rodriguez (I.)	Establishing disaster and emergency centers in certain areas in Leyte and in the 2 nd District of Rizal, appropriating funds therefor	
	HR 439	Rep. Castelo	Directing the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), and PHIVOLCS to submit to the House of Representatives a joint comprehensive report on the nation's preparedness for natural calamities before and after their occurrences with the end in view of formulating an efficient and systematic national scheme of reducing risks to lives and properties	
	HR 721	Rep. Alejano	Inquiry into the strategy of the national government in preparing the whole citizenry to respond to national emergencies	

Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples (Technical Working Group)	HB 115	Rep. Baguilat	Recognizing, protecting and strengthening the indigenous peoples and local communities conserved areas and territories (ICCA), acknowledging their contribution to biodiversity conservation and protection of key biodiversity areas, establishing for the purpose the National ICCA Registry, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Ifugao Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr., will deliberate further on HB 115 in its next meeting.</p> <p>The TWG thoroughly discussed Sections 1 to 10 of the bill.</p>
Tourism (Technical Working Group)	HB 1828	Rep. Vargas	Preventing the harassment of tourists	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Erico Aristotle Aumentado (2nd District, Bohol), agreed to consolidate the two bills using HB 2963, authored by Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga), as the working draft. The Secretariat will prepare a draft substitute bill incorporating the suggestions of the resource persons</p> <p>The members of the TWG also agreed, among others, on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To incorporate Section 6 (Tourism Help Desk and Regular Patrol) of HB 1828 in Section 2 (International Visitor Task Force) of HB 2963; To add a new provision on the Definition of Terms; To include in the proposed Task Force the following agencies as members: Departments of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Justice (DOJ), Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Philippine National Police (PNP). <p>The DOJ was requested determine the appropriate penalties for offenses committed against tourists, as identified by the Department of Tourism (DOT).</p>
	HB 2963	Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo	Establishing an intergovernmental task force for international visitor assistance	

AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)	<p>Briefing on the plans and programs of the following agencies for North Luzon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Health (DOH) 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1st District, Ilocos Sur), listened to the briefing by the Department of Health (DOH) and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) on their plans and programs for North Luzon.</p> <p>The Regional Directors of DOH in the Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR) and Regions I and II presented the Department's programs and projects in their respective regions, which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAR - Construction, repair and rehabilitation of barangay health facilities; repair and rehabilitation of local government unit (LGU) hospitals; implementation of public health programs; and establishment of a Cancer Center in the Baguio General Hospital; Region I - Rehabilitation of the Dagupan Provincial Hospital; establishment of the Regional Blood Center in the Bacnotan District Hospital (BDH) in La Union;

<p>Continuation... North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) 	<p>provision of medical and technical assistance to LGU health centers; upgrading of LGU and DOH hospitals; and deployment of health workers in LGUs; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Region II - Improvement of barangay health stations; development of the framework for the proposal to establish one district hospital per legislative district; completion of the Cagayan Valley Medical Center which is now classified as a tertiary hospital; and improvement of the Batanes General Hospital. <p>PhilHealth Regional Vice President Walter Bacareza presented PhilHealth's programs, among which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded membership coverage - PhilHealth has covered the poor identified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and senior citizens nationwide. Implementation of the "no out of the pocket expense" policy for PhilHealth members who are confined in government hospitals. Enhanced client experience - all audited offices of PhilHealth have passed the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certification. <p>Bacareza also boasted that PhilHealth is one of the top three agencies that are compliant with the Anti-Red Tape Act (ARTA). He went on to say that PhilHealth is implementing a drug-free workplace policy in all PhilHealth offices.</p> <p>Rep. Savellano requested the DOH regional offices to coordinate the implementation of their projects with the district legislators, explaining that monitoring the proper utilization of the budget is part of the oversight function of Congress.</p> <p>Rep. Ma. Lourdes Aggabao (4th District, Isabela) requested the DOH to come up with a program that will assist patients who undergo dialysis including the standardization of the price of the procedure. She mentioned the growing number of patients undergoing dialysis most of whom are indigents.</p>
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