

Committee Daily Bulletin



17th Congress
Second Regular Session

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Appropriations	Substitute Bill to HB 2092	Rep. Tinio	Declaring February 4 of every year as the Philippine-American War Memorial Day	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles (1 st District, Davao City), approved the Substitute Bill to HB 2092.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 865, 2989, 4708 & 4980	Reps. Yap (V.), Gatchalian, Antonino, and Batocabe	Protecting senior citizens from violence, defining elderly abuse and prescribing penalties therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to the four bills with amendment.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 2310 & 2726	Reps. Escudero and Alejano	Regulating the practice of food technology in the Philippines, creating for the purpose the Board of Food Technology and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 2310 and 2726.
	Substitute Bill to HB 3163	Rep. Tan (A.)	Providing policies and prescribing procedures on surveillance and response to notifiable diseases, epidemics, and health events of public health concern, amending for the purpose RA 3573 or the law providing for the prevention and suppression of dangerous communicable diseases and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 3163 with amendment.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 491, 576, 3468 & 3895	Reps. Turabin-Hataman, Panganiban, Tan (S.), and Escudero	Prohibiting racial, ethnic and religious discrimination	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to the four bills with amendment.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 40, 436, 2445, 3534, 3560, 4107 & 4578	Reps. Yap (A.), Bravo, Vergara, Salon, and De Venecia	Strengthening the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), further amending for the purpose PD 1467, otherwise known as the Charter of the PCIC, as amended by RA 8175, otherwise known as the Revised Charter of the PCIC Act of 1995	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to the seven bills. PCIC President Jovy Bernabe expressed support for the bill, saying that this will help the farmers cope with the effects of climate change.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 299 & 2177	Deputy Speaker Singson and Santos-Recto	Granting full insurance coverage to all qualified agrarian reform beneficiaries of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), amending for the purpose Section 14 of RA 9700, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension with Reforms (CARPER)	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 299 and 2177.
	HB 731	Rep. Nograles	Amending RA 7653, otherwise known as the New Central Bank Act	The Committee approved HB 731.

Continuation... Appropriations				<p>Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) General Counsel Elmore Capule and Department of Finance (DOF) Undersecretary for Legal Services Bayani Agabin conveyed their respective office's support for the bill.</p> <p>However, Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Budget and Management B Director Rolando Toledo said that the increase in the capitalization of the BSP from P50 billion to P200 billion as proposed in the bill will affect the financial resources of the government.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HB 1554	Rep. Go (M.)	Creating the Baguio City, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sabilan, Tuba and Tublay Development Authority (BLISTTDA), defining its powers and functions and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 1554 with amendment.
	HR 243	Rep. De Vera	Urging the President to issue an executive order (EO) amending EO 248 dated May 29, 1995, EO 248-A dated August 14, 1995, and EO 298 dated March 23, 2004 to implement an increase in travel allowances for local travels of government officials and personnel	The Committee adopted the resolution.
Good Government and Public Accountability	HR 882	Majority Leader Fariñas	Inquiry into the use by the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte of its shares from the excise taxes on locally manufactured Virginia-type cigarettes or the Special Support Fund under RA 7171 for a purpose other than those provided for by the said law, and into its highly irregular purchase of motor vehicles made through cash advances without the benefit of public biddings for the total amount of P66.45 million	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), cited in contempt Mark Chua, Irene Mendoza and Gilbert Suribas who failed to attend the hearings despite proper invitations and notifications.</p> <p>Subsequently, arrest warrants will be issued against these individuals.</p>
Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Energy	HR 1161	Minority Leader Suarez	Investigation into the immediate approval of the seven power supply agreements (PSAs) of Manila Electric Company (MERALCO) by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC)	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), Chair of the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, Chair of the Committee on Energy, terminated its inquiry relative to HR 1161, but agreed to continue its inquiry on HR 566 because there are still issues which the author wants to discuss.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA), author of HR 566, inquired whether the ERC has already submitted to the Joint Committee a copy of its resolution extending the cut-off time for the filing of PSA applications not covered by the competitive selection process (CSP) requirement to 5:00 p.m. onwards of April 29, 2016 from the original deadline of November 6, 2015.</p> <p>ERC Commissioner Josefina Patricia Asirit explained that the extension of the cut-off time was not based on a resolution, contrary to what ERC Head of Planning and Public Information Service Ellen Ebcas said in a previous meeting of the Committee. Asirit added that it was based on</p>
	HR 566	Rep. Zarate	Inquiry into the alleged midnight deals of MERALCO-affiliated generation companies (GENCOs) and the ERC which may be disadvantageous to the public and may cause power rate hikes	

<p>Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Energy</p>				<p>an update by the technical working group (TWG) during a regular meeting of the Commission held on April 26, 2016. During this ERC meeting, it was clarified that applicants for PSA approval must be within the ERC premises before 6:00 p.m. on April 29, 2016, with complete documents, in order that their applications would be accepted and processed.</p> <p>Reps. Zarate and Pimentel asserted that the deadline posted at the ERC website, which is at the close of business hours (5:00 p.m.) of April 29, 2016, should have been strictly followed.</p> <p>Rep. Carlos Roman Uybarreta (Party-List, 1-CARE) asked the ERC to submit the logbook of its security personnel to verify if the seven PSA applicants subject of the inquiry indeed were inside the ERC premises within the prescribed period.</p> <p>Cheryl Calindog, secretary at the ERC General Records Division, confirmed that the applications of Panay Energy Development Corporation (PEDC), Central Luzon Premiere Power Corporation (CLPPC), Mariveles Power Generation Corporation (MPGC), and Global Luzon Energy Development Corporation (GLEDC) were all received on April 29, 2016. However, she did not put a time stamp on the documents pertaining to these four generating companies as instructed by her former head, Jojo Thomas, because they were then still being assessed by the TWG. The documents were transmitted to the docket section only in the morning of May 2, 2016, Calindog said.</p> <p>Asirit described the tedious process of filing and accepting PSA applications, saying that it takes around two to five hours to complete this process. She also disclosed that out of the 92 PSA applications received by the ERC, 62 were filed on the last day.</p> <p>The ERC was asked to submit data on the number of PSA applications received after the deadline.</p> <p>The Joint Committee requested the resource persons and other stakeholders to submit their respective position papers on HR 566.</p> <p>A representative from the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) will be invited to attend the Joint Committee's next meeting.</p>
<p>Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Justice</p>	<p>HR 867</p>	<p>Speaker Alvarez</p>	<p>Inquiry into the alleged grossly disadvantageous contract entered into by the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) and the Tagum Agricultural Development Company, Inc. (TADECO)</p>	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), Chair of the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2nd District, Oriental Mindoro), Chair of the Committee on Justice, will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 867 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Speaker Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez (1st District, Davao del Norte) inquired about the corporate</p>

<p>Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Justice</p>				<p>structure of the Anflo Management and Investment Corporation (ANFLOCOR). In reply, ANFLOCOR president and CEO Anthony Alexander Valoria said that ANFLOCOR is the holding company of the Floirendo family. Valoria also presented to the body the corporation's affiliate companies. He said that each company, including the mother company, is independently paying taxes.</p> <p>Teodoro Santos Jr., finance director of the Stanfilco Tropical Fresh (DOLE Philippines), testified that his company does not procure bananas from the plantation which is subject of the joint venture agreement (JVA) between TADECO and BuCor. On the other hand, Del Monte Fresh Produce Philippines Inc. (DMFPPI) General Manager Danilo Bernardo Roman confirmed that DMFPPI purchases bananas from the areas covered by this JVA. But TADECO also supplies DMFPPI bananas from plantations outside the JVA areas, according to Valoria.</p> <p>Roman said that DMFPPI's annual average purchase from TADECO amounts to US\$130 million. He added that in 2016, DMFPPI paid TADECO a total of US\$129.78 for 25.35 million boxes of bananas.</p> <p>Rep. Pimentel asserted that BuCor's profit share of P2.45 per box compared to the selling price of about P250 (US\$5.12) per box of bananas is a miniscule chunk.</p> <p>Atty. Gilbert Gallos, counsel for TADECO, argued that all the features of the JVA must be considered in computing BuCor's share, such as the guaranteed share and the profit share of BuCor and the stipend of the workers of the Davao Prison and Penal Farm (DPPF), formerly the Davao Penal Colony (Dapecol).</p> <p>Valoria also explained that in 2016, BuCor received 26% profit share from the company's net income of P542.95 million.</p> <p>ABS PartyList Rep. Eugene Michael de Vera, citing the recommendations of the Department of Justice (DOJ), pointed out that the best course of action is for the President to revoke the JVA, in the interest of the country. DOJ Chief State Counsel Ricardo Paras III agreed with Rep. De Vera.</p> <p>Commission on Audit (COA) Auditor Josefina Gonzales informed the Committee of the ongoing special audit on BuCor and the joint venture. She revealed that the audit team is having difficulty in getting documents from the Bureau of Customs (BOC) that would verify the actual volume of bananas exported by DMFPPI.</p> <p>The Committee will invite Maria Theresa Yambao, the COA resident auditor at BOC, in the next hearing. A subpoena <i>duces tecum</i> will also be issued to require the submission of documents</p>
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<p>Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Justice</p>				<p>relative to the export activities of DMFPPI.</p> <p>TADECO was requested to submit several documents relative to the questioned JVA including the land area being utilized for its banana plantation.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Regional Director Ruth Tawantawan of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 11 presented the history and land classification of the parcels of land in Panabo City, Davao del Norte where the Davao International Container Terminal, Inc. (DICT), an affiliate company of ANFLOCOR, is located. She related that the area, or portions of it, occupied by DICT was first declared as timber land way back in 1928, then reclassified as agricultural and alienable land in 1969, and back to being declared as timber land in 1982.</p> <p>Tawantawan was requested to submit documents related to the questioned parcels of land.</p>
<p>Government Reorganization jt. w/ Public Works and Highways</p>	<p>HB 5088</p>	<p>Rep. Gonzales (A.D.)</p>	<p>Providing for the creation of the Central Luzon River Control System Commission covering the Provinces of Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, and Zambales, and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Christopher V.P. de Venecia (4th District, Pangasinan) of the Committee on Government Reorganization and Rep. Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City), Chair of the Committee on Public Works and Highways, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune HB 5088.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Aniceto "John" Bertiz III (Party-List, ACTS-OFW).</p> <p>Rep. Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales Jr. (3rd District, Pampanga), author of HB 5088, explained that the bill seeks to create an office that will focus on the flood control projects in Central Luzon. He lamented that the agency that is primarily tasked to do the planning and implementation of flood control projects is not up to the task, given the unresolved problem of flooding in the region due to heavy siltation of the waterways.</p> <p>Rep. Juan Pablo "Rimpy" Bondoc (4th District, Pampanga) expressed support for the bill, noting that the frequent heavy flooding in Central Luzon puts the health and safety of the people at risk and causes damage to properties.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit to the Committee their position papers on the bill.</p>
<p>Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples</p>	<p>HB 3288</p>	<p>Rep. Catamco</p>	<p>Maximizing the contribution of indigenous peoples (IPs) to nation building, granting benefits and special privileges</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Nancy Catamco (2nd District, North Cotabato), will deliberate further on HB 3288 in its next meeting.</p> <p>John Anthony Geronimo, senior economic development specialist at the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), suggested that Section 4 of the bill which grants indigenous peoples (IPs) various privileges be studied further, saying that such privileges are the same as those granted to persons with disabilities and senior citizens.</p>

Continuation... Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples				<p>Representatives from the NEDA, Departments of Agriculture (DA), Labor and Employment (DOLE), and Trade and Industry (DTI), Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) expressed their support for the bill.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill.</p>
	HB 3558	Rep. Cuaresma	Ensuring equal employment opportunities to members of indigenous cultural communities and preference in certain cases	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune the bill.</p> <p>Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2nd District, Zambales), who sponsored HB 3558 in behalf of the author, Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, said that the bill ensures equal employment opportunities to the members of indigenous cultural communities (ICCs) and their preferential treatment in areas where ICCs are predominant. She explained that the benefits and safeguards embodied in the bill are mechanisms that guarantee the realization of the IPs' rights, taking into consideration their customs, traditions and values.</p> <p>Likewise, Rep. Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II (1st District, Zamboanga Sibugay) said that the benefits proposed to be given to IPs will encourage them to live a more productive life.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Catamco, Margery Bautista, senior labor and employment officer at DOLE, said that the Department has been implementing livelihood programs aimed at providing economic opportunities to vulnerable sectors in the country, including the IPs.</p> <p>Abigail Gorospe, manager of the Research and Advocacy unit of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP), said that her organization provides IPs equal opportunities for employment.</p> <p>On the other hand, the NEDA representative suggested that DOLE and the Civil Service Commission (CSC) be consulted on the legality and viability of Sections 4 and 5 of the bill.</p> <p>Section 4 proposes that government offices in areas where ICCs predominate should reserve at least 10% of their rank and file positions for members of the ICCs. Likewise, Section 5 requires private enterprises operating in areas where ICCs predominate to allocate at least 10% of the labor force to the members of ICCs.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill.</p>
Legislative Franchises	HB 6347	Rep. Ferrer	Extending for another 25 years the franchise granted to Advanced Media	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Franz "Chicoy" Alvarez (1st District, Palawan), approved HB 6347.

Continuation... Legislative Franchises			Broadcasting System, Inc. under RA 8061	National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) Deputy Commissioner Edgardo Cabarios expressed support for the bill.
	HB 6348	Rep. Ferrer	Extending for another 25 years the franchise granted to Raven Broadcasting Corporation (RBC) under RA 8084	The Committee approved HB 6348. The NTC interposed no objection to the passage of the proposed law.
	HB 4974	Rep. Bataoil	Renewing the franchise granted to Ultrasonic Broadcasting System Incorporated (UBSI) under RA 8081 for another 25 years from the effectivity of this Act	The Committee will deliberate further on HB 4974 in its next meeting. Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2 nd District, Pangasinan), author of HB 4974, agreed to defer the approval of the bill to allow UBSI to respond to the queries raised by Rep. Anthony Bravo (Party-List, COOP NATCCO).
	HB 6023	Rep. Romualdo	Renewing the franchise granted to Panay Electric Company, Inc. (PECO) under RA 5360 and extended by the National Electrification Administration (NEA) to establish, operate, and maintain a distribution system for the conveyance of electric power to end users in the City of Iloilo	The Committee will deliberate further on HB 6023 in its next meeting. NEA Legal Department Manager Xerxes Adzuara interposed no objection to the proposed law. Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) Legal Counsel Krisha Buena expressed support for the bill but sought clarification on certain provisions of the bill. On the other hand, KABAYAN Party-List Rep. Harry Roque Jr. informed the Committee of a resolution he filed, HR 1108, which seeks to investigate into the alleged irregularities in the operation of PECO. Majority of the Members of the Committee agreed to invite representatives from the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Iloilo, Iloilo Chamber of Commerce, and other stakeholders relative to the renewal of PECO's franchise. The resource persons were requested to submit their position papers on the bill.
Natural Resources	HB 5921	Rep. Antonio	Amending RA 7076, otherwise known as the Small-Scale Mining Act of 1991	The Committee, chaired by LPGMA Party-List Rep. Arnel Ty, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate HBs 5921 and 5980.
	HB 5980	Rep. Roque (H)	Imposing an annual production limit in small-scale mining activities, amending for the purpose RA 7076	The TWG will be chaired by Kalinga Rep. Allen Jesse Mangaoang. Rep. Harry Roque Jr. (Party-List, KABAYAN), author of HB 5980, said that his bill imposes an annual production limit in small-scale mining activities to stop the continued degradation of the environment, pointing out that current laws governing small-scale mining operations have not set this limit. Atty. Josephine Sescon, legal officer of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), expressed support for the bill but suggested that the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) issued by the DENR be excluded from the list of

Continuation... Natural Resources				<p>permits that small-scale mining may not be qualified to obtain.</p> <p>Also in support of the bills are the Chamber of Mines, Benguet Federation of Small-Scale Miners, Inc (BFSSMI), and Small-Scale Miners' Association of Camarines Norte.</p> <p>Chamber of Mines Executive Director Ron Recidoro, however, suggested that the regulatory framework for small-scale mining be reviewed citing the environmental problems caused by the inadequate regulation of this sector. He also mentioned the need to establish data on the number of small-scale miners, their outputs, revenues generated, and taxes paid.</p> <p>Sescon said that the DENR's Provincial Monitoring and Regulatory Board (PMRB) in every province is tasked to monitor mining activities in its area of jurisdiction, but she confirmed that these PMRBs lack the personnel to effectively do the job.</p>
	HBs 6336 & 6384	Reps. Velasco and Velasco-Catera	Declaring the Province of Marinduque a mining-free zone	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to consolidate HBs 6336 and 6384.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Francisco Jose "Bingo" Matugas II (1st District, Surigao del Sur).</p> <p>MATA Party-List Rep. Tricia Nicole Velasco-Catera, author of HB 6384, said her bill seeks to declare an indefinite moratorium on any and all mining activities over the entire Province of Marinduque, citing their ill-effects on the environment and the people.</p> <p>Marinduque Governor Carmencita Reyes expressed her full support to the bill which will be beneficial to the people of Marinduque and its environment. She recalled the mining disaster in her province in 1996 involving Marcopper Mining Corp., referring to it as the worst mining disaster that ever happened in the country. She reported that several children and adults were discovered to have aplastic anemia due to exposure to mining chemicals and that mining has not contributed to the growth of Marinduque, which remained to be a 4th class province.</p>
Public Information	HB 685	Rep. Del Mar	Providing for the venue of the criminal and civil action in libel cases against community journalists, publications or broadcast stations	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy (Party-List, BAGONG HENERASYON), approved HB 685 subject to style.
	HB 3702	Rep. Sy-Alvarado	Declaring August 30 of every year as Marcelo H. Del Pilar National Responsible Press Freedom Day	The Committee approved HB 3702.
	HB 2382	Rep. Escudero	Declaring July 25 of every year as the National Campus Press Freedom Day	<p>The Committee agreed to table HB 2382.</p> <p>Rep. Evelina Escudero (1st District, Sorsogon), author of HB 2382, manifested that a bill with similar subject matter, HB 6024, authored by BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate, was already approved on third reading by</p>

Continuation... Public Information				the House of Representatives in the current Congress.
	HB 1571	Rep. Vargas	Promoting local arts and entertainment industry by providing the local movie and film industry corporate tax breaks and exempting venue operators from the payment of amusement tax when showing locally produced films and music events featuring Filipino artists	The Committee agreed to come up with a consolidated bill on HBs 1571 and 2624. Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) Executive Director Reynaldo Hulog promised to submit KBP's position paper on the bills, even as he expressed reservation on some provisions of the legislative measures.
	HB 2624	Rep. Atienza	Providing a five-year tax holiday for the film industry, by amending RA 9167 or the law creating the Film Development Council of the Philippines, defining its powers and functions, appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 737	Rep. Escudero	Requiring all broadcast media to provide adequate public service time to enable the government to reach the population and educate the people on important public issues relative to health, road and traffic discipline, public safety, good values, welfare rights and benefits, and disaster preparedness programs	The Committee agreed to consolidate HBs 737 and 6070. The resource persons were requested to submit their position papers on the bills.
	HB 6070	Rep. Mariño	Requiring all television and radio facilities to allocate at least five minutes a day for airtime for public service announcements and infomercials on laws, social welfare, public safety, procedures and other matters of national interest to increase awareness and inform the public of their rights, duties, and responsibilities as citizens of the country and providing penalties for violation thereof	
	HB 4503	Rep. De Venecia	Amending RA 8370, otherwise known as the Children's Television Act of 1997	The Committee will deliberate further on HB 4503 in its next meeting. HB 4503, authored by Rep. Christopher de Venecia (4 th District, Pangasinan), seeks to amend the composition of the Advisory Committee under Sec. 6 of RA 8370.
Reforestation (Special Committee)	HBs 2469 & 2470	Rep. Dimaporo (M.K.)	Establishing an arboretum in the Municipality of Kolambugan to be known as the Kolambugan Arboretum and in the Municipality of Tagoloan to be known as the Mighty Cave Park Arboretum, both in the Province of Lanao del Norte and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Noel Villanueva (3 rd District, Tarlac), approved the three bills. Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo (2 nd District, Lanao del Norte), author of HB 3696 and co-author of the two other bills, said that the proposed measures seek to allocate a portion of land for planting trees which can be used for research, educational, and ornamental purposes.
	HB 3696	Rep. Dimaporo (A.)	Establishing the Mindanao State University – Lanao del Norte Agricultural College Arboretum in the Municipality of Sultan Naga Dimaporo and appropriating funds therefor	As defined in the bills, an "arboretum" refers to a reserved area which is essentially for a well-grown and representative collection of trees or shrubs species planted and maintained for the purpose of reference, scientific studies, and as a convenient source of seed and herbarium materials. Professor Perry Ong of the Institute of Biology of

Continuation... Reforestation (Special Committee)				the University of the Philippines (UP) expressed support for the bills.
	HB 4002	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Providing for the urban and countryside greening in the Philippines	The Committee approved HB 4002. Rep. Maximo Rodriguez (2 nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), author of HB 4002, said that the bill mandates the planting of trees in the urban and countryside parks, school grounds, vacant lots, and other urbanized sites all over the country in order to ensure sufficient greening.
	HB 1082	Rep. Lanete	Reforestation of 3,000 hectares of public land in certain municipalities in the Province of Masbate, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee will deliberate further on HB 1082 in its next meeting. Rep. Scott Davies Lanete M.D. (3 rd District, Masbate), author of HB 1082, said that the proposed measure seeks to reforest 3,000 hectares of public land in all the municipalities in the 3 rd District of Masbate which have been plagued by massive environmental degradation. The Committee agreed to invite the Director of the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to respond to the queries raised by the Members of the Committee.
Tourism	Substitute Resolution to HR 1270	Rep. Cagas	Strongly urging the President to renew the policy which grants travel tax exemption to travelers departing from all international airports and seaports in Mindanao and Palawan to any destination in the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines – East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA)	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Lucy Gomez (4 th District, Leyte), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Resolution to HR 1270.
	Substitute Resolution to HR 915	Rep. Sandoval	Requesting the DOT, through the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), to allocate funds for the construction and maintenance of public restrooms along the eastern and western nautical highways of the Philippines	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Resolution to HR 915.
	Substitute Bill to HB 1020	Rep. Bataoil	Providing for the establishment of the Lingayen Gulf Marine Eco-Tourism Park in the Municipality of Lingayen, Province of Pangasinan, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 1020.
	Substitute Resolution to HR 450	Rep. Castelo	Urging the Department of Tourism (DOT) to institutionalize and promote the <i>Kalapati</i> Festival of Barangay Holy Spirit in Quezon City	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Resolution to HR 450.
	HR 1087	Rep. Sarmiento (E.)	Inquiry into the roadmap, programs, projects, and action plans of the Department of Tourism (DOT) that aim to regulate tourist spots in order to promote sustainability	The Committee decided to deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 1087 in another meeting. Davao del Sur Rep. Mercedes “Didi” Cagas expressed her disappointment over the continued absence of Tourism Secretary Wanda Teo despite having been formally invited by the Committee in the past three meetings on HR 1087. Rep. Cagas said that the issues raised in the Resolution deserve the immediate attention of

Continuation... Tourism				<p>the DOT and that the Tourism Secretary herself should answer the queries of the author as well as the members of the Committee.</p> <p>DOT Undersecretary for Tourism Development Planning Benito Bengzon reported that under the National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP) 2016-2022, the DOT has given priority to Boracay Island in Aklan in terms of infrastructure and transportation support, through the Convergence Approach Program, as well as an intensified tourism promotion program.</p> <p>Rep. Edgar Sarmiento (1st District, Samar), author of HR 1087, reminded Bengzon that the thrust of the inquiry is not on tourism promotion but on the sustainability of tourist destinations, Boracay being the case in point.</p> <p>Aklan Governor Florencio Miraflores complained of the lack of infrastructure support for Boracay as one of the country's major tourist destinations, citing the much delayed modernization of the Caticlan and Kalibo airports which are servicing travelers bound for Boracay.</p> <p>On the issue of flooding in Boracay, TIEZA Department Manager Ma. Theresa Alvarez said that the second phase of the drainage project will be implemented in the area before the year ends.</p> <p>Mayor Ceciron Cawaling of the Municipality of Malay informed the Committee that the local government has engaged the services of Jun Palafox, a prominent Filipino architect, urban planner and environmentalist, to draw up a master plan for Boracay.</p> <p>Boracay Foundation Inc (BFI) president Nenita Graf presented her group's recommendations to sustain the development of tourist destinations, particularly Boracay, among which are as follows :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate a budget for coastal resource management for island tourist destinations; • Create a balance between environment and development; • Hire the services of an urban planner; and • Create a management board for tourism destinations composed of representatives from concerned government agencies, to be headed by the Mayor. <p>The Committee required the presence of Tourism Secretary Teo and the local officials of the Province of Aklan and the Municipality of Malay in its next meeting.</p>
Veterans Affairs and Welfare	Substitute Resolution to HR 608	Rep. Bataoil	Expressing the profound appreciation of the House of Representatives, on behalf of the veterans of World War II, to the United States Congress for the passage of the measure authorizing the conferment of the Congressional gold medal to the Filipino veterans of WW II	The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, adopted the Substitute Resolution to HR 608 and approved the corresponding Committee Report.

Continuation... Veterans Affairs and Welfare	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 1128 & 1262	Reps. Alejano and Biazon	Mandating the use of proceeds from the development, lease, or use of certain government properties for payment of pensions and other benefits of veterans	<p>The Committee will deliberate again on the draft Substitute Bill to HBs 1128 and 1262 upon the submission of additional documents and position papers by the resource persons.</p> <p>Rep. Biazon, author of HB 1262, asked the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) if it has the manpower complement to manage the lease, development or use of government properties identified in the bill.</p> <p>BCDA Executive Vice President Aileen Zosa admitted that the agency will need additional personnel for the additional mandate specified in the bill, adding that the BCDA's workforce is focused on the Clark Green City Project, which is envisioned to be a smart, green and disaster-resilient metropolis set to rise in Capas, Tarlac.</p> <p>The Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP), which manages the VFP Industrial Complex (IC) in Taguig City, was asked to submit a detailed report on the 2015-2016 income and expenses of the VFP-IC as well as its position paper on the bill. The VFP-IC is one of the properties identified in the bill that will be up for lease, development or use, the proceeds of which shall fund programs for the benefit of veterans, military retirees, and their dependents.</p>
	HR 1020	Rep. Acop	Inquiry into the performance of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) as the primary medical facility for the hospitalization and medical care of eligible veterans and dependents with the end view of charting immediate policy measures and/or report substantial recommendations that will secure and promote the health care of military veterans and retirees in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 1020 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), author of HR 1020, raised some issues concerning the operations of the VMMC. He cited an audit report by the Commission on Audit (COA) in 2015 which observed non-conformity by the VMMC to its own Annual Procurement Plan (APP) as well as the prolonged inventory lead time which resulted to an inadequate supply of drugs and medicines in the VMMC.</p> <p>Likewise, in the 2016 COA Audit Report, the VMMC was found to be lax in implementing its policies on admission and discharge of civilian patients and collection of receivables from them. According to Rep. Acop, this affected VMMC's services to veteran patients, who are the main clients of the hospital. In addition, Rep. Acop mentioned the VMMC's alleged violations of RA 9514 or the Revised Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008.</p> <p>VMMC Director Dominador Chiong Jr. admitted that there are still a lot of things the VMMC can improve on, but he said it has already taken steps to address the issues raised in the measure. He reported that the VMMC has doubled its collections from P5 million per month in 2016 to more than P10 million per month this year. On VMMC's violations of RA 9514, Chiong said that it will require around P30 million to comply with the standards prescribed under the Revised Fire Code.</p>

Continuation... Veterans Affairs and Welfare				<p>To ensure the availability of quality medicines in the VMMC at all times, Chiong proposed the amendment of RA 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act to exclude medicines and medical facilities from the coverage of the law.</p> <p>He explained that since RA 9184 provides that government offices should purchase from the lowest bidder, the VMMC is constrained to purchase generic medicines, which to him do not have the same efficacy compared to branded ones. Rep. Biazon asked Chiong to back up his claims regarding generic drugs with studies.</p> <p>The VMMC was asked to provide the Committee with a copy of its APP as well as the guidelines in the screening of residency program applicants.</p>
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SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Subcommittee III (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 III, chaired by Rep. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental), listened to the views of the resource persons on the proposed amendments to Article I (National Territory) of the 1987 Philippine Constitution.</p> <p>After thorough deliberations, the Subcommittee arrived at a tentative definition of "National Territory" to be adopted in the proposed Constitution of the Federal Republic of the Philippines, which reads as: "The national territory comprises the Philippine archipelago, with all the islands and waters embraced therein, and all other territories over which the Philippines has sovereignty, sovereign rights, or jurisdiction, consisting of its terrestrial, fluvial, maritime and aerial domains."</p> <p>Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Assistant Secretary Lourdes Yparraguirre and Deputy Administrator Efren Carandang of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) agreed with the above-stated definition, saying that it is consistent with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and other international treaty agreements.</p> <p>On the other hand, Merlin Magallona, former dean and presently a professor at the University of the Philippines (UP) College of Law, manifested the importance of stating in Article 1 that the national territory comprises of all other territories belonging to the Philippines by historic right or legal title in reference to the Treaty of Paris in 1898, which had set the territorial boundaries of the Philippines when it was ceded by Spain to the United States.</p> <p>Department of Justice (DOJ) State Counsel Wilberto Tolitol suggested retaining the second sentence of Article I of the present Constitution which states that "The waters around, between, and connecting the islands of the archipelago, regardless of their breadth and dimensions, form part of the internal waters of the Philippines."</p> <p>Likewise, Assistant Solicitor General Derek Puertollano of the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) explained that the definition of "internal waters" reflected in the second sentence of Article I was the very basis for the "Archipelagic Doctrine" being adopted in public international law by all nations. Internal waters of archipelagos such as the Philippines are defined under the said doctrine.</p>

Continuation... Subcommittee (Constitutional Amendments)	III	Rep. Benitez stressed that the objective of the Subcommittee is to come up with a brief or general definition of National Territory which will conform to international conventions, agreements and treaties, such as the UNCLOS, to which the Philippines is a signatory. Specific references to what comprise the Philippine territory may be tackled by separate legislative acts, he added.
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 4018, 4904, 5023, 5326, 5433, 5443 & 6190	Reps. Unabia, Yap (A.), Macapagal-Arroyo, Chavez, Panganiban, Deputy Speaker Garin, and Rep. Geron	Replacing the quantitative import restrictions on rice with tariffs, amending for the purpose RA 8178, as amended, or the law replacing quantitative import restrictions on agricultural products, except rice, with tariffs, creating the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Jose Panganiban Jr. (Party-List, ANAC-IP), terminated its discussions on the draft substitute bill.</p> <p>The substitute bill will be submitted to the Mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>During the meeting, several Members of the TWG expressed concern over news reports that the Philippines has lagged behind its neighboring countries, Vietnam and Thailand, in terms of rice production. Thus, they underscored the need to create a special fund that will be utilized solely for the purpose of making the country's agricultural sector viable, efficient, and globally competitive.</p> <p>United Broilers Raisers Association (UBRA) President Elias Inciong inquired if government financial institutions (GFIs) may be allowed to administer the special fund and not the Department of Agriculture (DA), claiming that the latter failed to properly manage the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF).</p> <p>On the contrary, the Members of the TWG opined that it is the DA and not the GFIs which has the capability and structure to provide financial assistance to farmers especially those in far-flung areas. They also said that GFI's usually impose stringent requirements which farmers find difficult to comply.</p>
Housing and Urban Development (Technical Working Group)	HR 885	Rep. Benitez	Inquiry into the implementation of Proclamations 137 (series of 1987), 458 (series of 1994), and 145 (series of 2002)	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City) will deliberate further on HR 885 in its next meeting.</p> <p>During the meeting, the TWG focused its discussion on the implementation of Proclamation 137 s.1987, which declared a certain portion of the National Government Center (NGC) in Quezon City open for disposition to bona fide residents of the area.</p> <p>Rep. Castelo said that the available relocation site of the National Housing Authority (NHA) nearest to Quezon City is in Bulacan and Pampanga. However, he said, majority of the</p>

<p>Continuation... Housing and Urban Development (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>residents who will be displaced in Quezon City due to the development of the 23-hectare NGC land along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City do not want to be relocated to these provinces.</p> <p>Assistant Department Manager Roderick Ibañez of the NHA's National Government Center Housing Project apprised the TWG of the proposed mixed-use development of the 23-hectare land which will have a commercial area and an area for socialized housing project. He said that the housing project, called Infinity Grove Residences, is intended for the displaced residents, but qualified beneficiaries, and will have housing units with floor areas ranging from 24 to 42 square meters for low-income earners and bigger floor areas (50-60 sq.m.) for those who can afford a higher amortization.</p> <p>According to Ibañez, the qualified beneficiaries of this socialized housing project will be based on the present census of the NHA. The beneficiaries may either opt to pay a monthly amortization of P1,000 which will increase every five years or a straight payment of P2,500 to P 2,600 per month for a period of 30 years.</p> <p>Among the issues raised by the affected residents are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The building to be constructed is too high which is not suitable for the aged and senior citizens, and may put the life of building occupants at risk in case of strong earthquakes; • Beneficiaries of the socialized housing units have to comply with tedious requirements; • The monthly amortization is too high; and • The 23-hectare land should be utilized equally for both commercial and housing purposes (50-50 arrangement). <p>Home Guarantee Corporation (HGC) Vice President Rafael delos Santos said that the affected residents should decide immediately whether they will accept the offer or not because the proposed relocation site in Quezon City is ready for disposal.</p> <p>Armand Alboradora, representative of Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista, and Architect Mario Rillo of the Alyansa ng Mamamayan ng Controlled Zones (ALMANCO) both recommend that the displaced residents of Quezon City be given priority in the socialized housing project.</p> <p>However, Dr. Ma. Luisa Garcia, president of the Controlled Economic Zone Federation (CESFED), and Leonila Esguerra, president of the <i>Samahang Maralita para sa Makatao at</i></p>
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Continuation... Housing and Urban Development (Technical Working Group)				<i>Makatarungang Paninirahan (Sama-Sama)</i> objected to the relocation being planned by the NHA in Quezon City.
Information and Communications Technology (Technical Working Group)	HB 2096	Rep. Tinio	Amending RA 10175, otherwise known as the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012, repealing Sections 4 (c)(4) and 6	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by BUHAY Party-List Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr., will deliberate further on the bills in its next meeting. Police Senior Superintendent Bernard Tambaoan of the PNP Anti-Cybercrime Group (ACG) objected to the proposal to expand the powers of the DOJ Office of Cybercrime (OOC) that may already restrict PNP's law enforcement and investigative powers over cybercrimes. According to Tambaoan, the PNP-ACG should instead be strengthened as it is in a better position to efficiently and effectively enforce and implement RA 10175 given the nationwide institutional presence of the police down to the municipal level. He suggested that a mandatory capacity building for the PNP-ACG and the NBI Cybercrime Division be legislated to make these enforcement agencies more capable of fulfilling their mandates. Atty. Lawrence Aritao of the International Justice Mission (IJM), a global organization that protects the poor from violence in developing countries, underscored the need for proper coordination among law enforcement agencies to effectively resolve crimes and better serve the public. The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers for the TWG's consideration.
	HB 3295	Rep. Escudero	Repealing Section 4(c)(4), Chapter II of RA 10175	
	HB 6184	Rep. Yap (V.)	Amending RA 10175 by mandating the Philippine National Police (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and the Department of Justice (DOJ) to create their own cybercrime divisions	
	HB 6342	Rep. Batocabe	Providing for stricter penalty for certain cybercrime offenses, amending for the purpose RA 10175	
Special Committee on Reforestation (Technical Working Group)	HBs 536, 3446, 3632, 4430 & 5549	Reps. Olivarez, Primicias-Agabas, Go (M.), Abayon, and Kho	Requiring parents to plant at least two trees for every child born to them	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, terminated its discussion on the five bills and agreed to draft a substitute bill incorporating in it the pertinent suggestions of the resource persons. The substitute bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval. Among the recommendations which the TWG agreed to incorporate in the substitute bill were the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents shall plant at least two seedlings for every child born to them. The local government units (LGUs), in coordination with the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Community Environment and National Resources Office (CENRO) of the Department of Environment and National Resources (DENR), shall maintain a seedling bank that will serve as a ready source of tree

Continuation... Special Committee on Reforestation (Technical Working Group)				<p>seedlings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sworn statement attesting to the compliance with the required tree planting shall be presented by the parents to the Local Civil Registrar as a prerequisite for the release of the child's birth certificate. • The DENR, through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) and the Forest Management Bureau (FMB), shall be tasked to formulate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the proposed law.
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AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)	Briefing by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) on its proposed FY 2018 plans and programs for North Luzon	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1st District, Ilocos Sur), listened to the presentation of the DICT on its proposed FY 2018 plans and programs for North Luzon.</p> <p>DICT's Luzon Cluster 1 Director for Field Operations William Rojas enumerated the DICT's priority thrusts for 2018, which include improved public access to technology and consumer protection and cybersecurity policy and program coordination.</p> <p>Rojas also highlighted the key DICT programs and projects that will have significant impact to North Luzon, among which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free wi-fi internet access in public places or the <i>Pipol Konek</i>, which would provide free broadband internet access to 1,634 municipalities and cities nationwide and educate the less fortunate members of the community on the internet • Technology Empowerment for Education, Employment, Entrepreneurs and Economic Development (Tech4ED) Project, which would ensure the availability of competent Tech4ED knowledge workers and sustainable centers and develop innovative ICT-enabled services and content for the socio-economic development of communities especially the unserved and underserved communities • DigitalPH, the flagship program of DICT that aims to promote digital opportunities in the countryside through the Information Technology - Business Process Management Industry (IT-BPM). The program includes various projects such as: the Next Wave Cities, which would focus on the creation of ICT hubs outside Metro Manila; SeedPH, which leverages the use of ICT through e-commerce and technology start-up businesses to promote technopreneurship; Stepping Up the Value Chain, which involves a sustained long-term development strategy to further develop the country's IT-BPM industry, and; the Rural Impact Sourcing (RIS), which intends to create meaningful ICT enabled jobs in socio economically disadvantaged areas in the country. <p>The DICT responded to the concerns of the members of the Committee with regard to their respective districts.</p>
Sustainable Development Goals (Special Committee)	Briefing by the Departments of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and Health (DOH) on their plans and programs to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs)	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Elisa "Olga" Kho (2nd District, Masbate), listened to the presentation of the DOH and DILG on their plans and programs to achieve the SDGs, the post development agenda of the United Nations after the termination of the millennium development goals (MDGs).

<p>Continuation... Sustainable Development Goals (Special Committee)</p>	<p>Health Assistant Secretary Enrique Tayag said that two out of the 17 SDGs are primary areas of responsibility of the DOH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG No. 2- “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture” • SDG No. 3 – “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.” <p>According to Tayag, to achieve SDG No. 2, the DOH implements two key programs, the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) and the First 1000 Days Program. The PPAN, which has a budget of P12.3 billion in 2018, involves among others an upgrade of nutrition services delivery, support for local government units (LGUs), systematic capacity development, and continuous improvement of the quality management systems of the National Nutrition Council (NNC).</p> <p>On the other hand, the First 1000 Days Program focuses on the full development of the child through health, nutrition, early education, and other related services from the first day of the mother’s pregnancy until the child turns two years old.</p> <p>As for SDG No. 3, the DOH intends to achieve it by implementing the following programs: Family Health, Nutrition, and Responsible Parenting Program; Expanded Program for Immunization; HIV/AIDS Sexually Transmitted Infections Program; Tuberculosis Control Program; National Malaria Control and Elimination Program; Non-Communicable Diseases Program; Dangerous Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program; DOH Deployment Program; Health Facilities Enhancement Program; National Health Insurance Program; and Medical Assistance Program.</p> <p>Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN) inquired about the life span of those diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and if symptoms already manifest in patients who have tested positively.</p> <p>Tayag said that in the case of the previous HIV virus strain, symptoms may not appear for up to 10 years from acquiring the virus, while in the case of the current strain, symptoms may appear within five years from acquiring the virus. Tayag added that the current HIV strain in the country is more potent that a patient could already be in a worse condition on its fifth year since acquiring the virus. Patients in advanced stages may live for a maximum of two years only, while those in non-advanced stages may live up to old age but with regular medication or drug maintenance.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara (3rd District, Nueva Ecija), Tayag confirmed that patients aged 20 and below need to submit a parental consent prior to HIV/AIDS testing.</p> <p>Rep. Vergara recommended that this policy be amended as it may discourage the youth from submitting themselves to testing for reason of confidentiality.</p> <p>Due to lack of time, DILG Local Government Operations Officer V Arce Fajardo said that he will just submit the materials for his presentation. He said the DILG is committed to the inclusion of the SDGs in the long-term vision, medium-term development plan, and sectoral plans of the LGUs. He also mentioned an ongoing workshop being conducted by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) for regional, provincial and municipal governments, with the aim of drafting the Local Development Investment Program. One of the goals of the said program is to harmonize the SDGs with LGU mandates.</p>
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