

# Committee Daily Bulletin



17<sup>th</sup> Congress  
Second Regular Session

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Civil Service and Professional Regulation	HBs 4259 & 4319	Reps. Rodriguez (M.) and Lobregat	Environmental Engineering Act of the Philippines	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Mario Vittorio "Marvey" Mariño (5th District, Batangas), agreed to consolidate HBs 4259 and 4319.</p> <p>The Secretariat will prepare a substitute bill after the representatives from the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and related professions such as the Environmental Engineering, Sanitary Engineering, Agricultural Engineering, and Forestry have discussed and resolved among themselves the issues raised by the Members during the meeting.</p>
	HBs 4749, 5330, 5812, 6403, 6480 & 6546	Reps. Alejano, Nieto, Tan (A.), Villafuerte, Antonio, and Vargas	Regulating the practice of speech language pathology in the Philippines and providing funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to consolidate the six measures and come up with a substitute bill.</p> <p>Representatives from the Philippine Association of Speech Pathologists (PASP), PRC, and Department of Budget and Management (DBM) expressed their support for the proposed law.</p>
Housing and Urban Development	HB 165	Rep. Belmonte (F.)	Authorizing the sale of parcels of land in Barangay Krus na Ligas, Quezon City to its legitimate and qualified residents, amending for the purpose RA 9500, otherwise known as the University of the Philippines Charter of 2008	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental), approved the Committee Report on HB 165.
	HR 1223	Rep. Benitez	Inquiry into the status of implementation of the proposed pilot on-site medium rise building project for socialized housing in Doña Imelda, Quezon City	<p>The Committee agreed to defer its consideration of HR 1223 pending the holding of a dialogue between the Quezon City Government and G.A. Properties Inc. to settle the issue of ownership of the planned site for socialized housing project.</p> <p>Quezon City Government's Housing and Homesite Regulation Officer Narciso Alvarado informed the Committee that the ownership of the property at Doña Imelda along Araneta Avenue in Quezon City, the proposed site for a socialized housing project, is being contested by G.A. Properties Inc., a company owned by the Aranetas and the supposed successor of the donor.</p> <p>The said property was donated by J.M. Tuazon and Company Inc., another company owned by the Aranetas, in November 1966 to the local</p>

Continuation... Housing and Urban Development				<p>government of Quezon City. However, the said donation is now being rescinded by the Aranetas due to alleged violations of conditions of the donation.</p> <p>According to Manolito Martin of the Real Estate Management Unit of the Quezon City Government, the condition of the donation was that the property should be dedicated for public use as school sites, parks, playgrounds, and other recreational activities.</p> <p>Atty. Godofredo Linaac, counsel for G.A. Properties, asserted that the property must revert back to the Aranetas because the conditions of the donation were not complied with. He also pointed out that the donation was not perfected because the acceptance was not made in a public document.</p> <p>Members of the Committee and the representatives of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP) and the Quezon City Government appealed to G.A. Properties not to pursue its claim over the property for the benefit of the informal settler families (ISFs) living in the area.</p>
Legislative Franchises	Substitute Bill to HB 6347	Rep. Ferrer (L.)	Extending for another 25 years the franchise granted to Advanced Media Broadcasting System, Inc. under RA 8061	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Franz "Chicoy" Alvarez (1st District, Palawan), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 6347.
	Substitute Bill to HB 6348	Rep. Ferrer (L.)	Extending for another 25 years the franchise granted to Raven Broadcasting Corporation (RBC) under RA 8084	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 6348.
	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 approved HB 4974 subject to the submission of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) of its position paper/comments on the bill.
	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	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 6023 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Iloilo City Councilor Joshua Alim expressed the Iloilo City Council's objection to PECO's franchise renewal and asked the national government to take over the operations of PECO until such time that another qualified distribution utility can provide quality electric services in the area.</p> <p>Alim disclosed that PECO is underperforming as evidenced by the recurring and unannounced power outages and the deteriorating condition of electric posts. He also alleged that PECO is overcharging its consumers.</p> <p>PECO Assistant Vice President for Operations Randy Pastolero denied Alim's allegations, explaining that power outages are the effect of PECO's maintenance works and the Department of Public Works and Highways'</p>

Continuation... Legislative Franchises				<p>(DPWH) road widening projects. He further said that all other concerns mentioned by Alim are operational problems that can be appropriately addressed.</p> <p>On the other hand, Iloilo City Mayor Jose Espinosa III and the Iloilo Chamber of Commerce support the renewal of PECO's 25-year franchise, but that PECO should resolve the complaints against it as soon as possible.</p> <p>Espinosa said that as of the moment, there is no viable alternative distribution utility that will ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity to Iloilo City.</p> <p>The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) was requested to submit a report on the "acceptable" level or frequency and duration of power disruptions as well as on the performance of electric companies.</p>
	HB 4513	Rep. Vargas	Renewing the franchise granted to Radio Marine Network, Incorporated, under RA 4607, as amended by RA 7512	The Committee deferred consideration of HB 4513 pending the referral to the Committee of Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo's bill, which has a similar subject matter.
Natural Resources	HBs 4387, 5789, 6011 & 6405	Reps. Cosalan, Ungab, Tejada, and Acosta	Declaring certain parts of the country as mining-free zones	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Arnel Ty (Party-List, LPGMA), approved the four bills.
	HB 4527	Rep. Savellano	Requiring all deep-well owners and operators, including applicants for water extraction permits to incorporate, construct, and install artificial recharge wells so that the water they extract from the aquifers will be replenished thus helping mitigate the effects of the El Niño, climate change, and other problems on fresh water	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune the bill.
People's Participation	Substitute Bill to HB 146	Rep. Acosta-Alba	Institutionalizing volunteerism as a strategy for national development, amending for the purpose RA 9418 or the Volunteer Act of 2007	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Maria Valentina Plaza (1st District, Agusan del Sur), gave an update on the status of the two substitute bills on volunteerism.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 5842, 6120, 6237 and 6323	Reps. Vargas, Nieto, Lee, and Sy-Alvarado	Encouraging volunteerism during emergencies by protecting volunteers from liability	Rep. Plaza said that with the approval of both substitute bills by the Committee, the corresponding Committee Reports are now ready for filing.
	Substitute Resolution to HRs 780 & 799	Reps. Batocabe and Mangaoang	Inquiry into the status of implementation of RA 9418 and various volunteering efforts undertaken by concerned national government agencies (NGAs), local government units (LGUs), and other stakeholders towards national development	<p>The Committee listened to the report on the programs of various government agencies and private institutions in connection with their commitment to implement RA 9418.</p> <p>Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) Senior Volunteer Service Officer Kenneth Siruelo reported that the PNVSCA continues to partner with the League of Corporate Foundations (LCF) and coordinates with the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), civil society organizations (CSOs), and private sector relative to the implementation of RA 9418. However, he mentioned that the</p>

Continuation... People's Participation				<p>advocacy on volunteerism as a development strategy has not fully reached the local level.</p> <p>LCF Executive Director Helen Orande gave an overview of the LCF, which is a network of corporate foundations and corporations committed to promote and advocate corporate social responsibility (CSR) among its members towards national development.</p> <p>Several corporate foundations presented their respective CSR activities, which include the Knowledge Channel Foundation, Inc. (KCFI); Manila Water Foundation, Inc. (MWF); Asian Hospital Charities, Inc. (AHC); ABS-CBN Foundation; and Don Antonio O. Floirendo Sr. Foundation, Inc.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba (1st District, Bukidnon) if MWF installs water systems in remote areas as part of its volunteerism effort, MWF Resource Mobilization Manager Sam Coronado answered in the affirmative.</p> <p>Rep. Plaza inquired on the process of choosing communities that will benefit from the services offered by these private foundations. ABS-CBN Integrated Public Service's Emergency Monitoring and Response Officer PJ Theamtusana replied that the ABS-CBN Tulong Center has social workers on the ground who receive requests for assistance and determine qualified beneficiaries.</p>
Public Information	Substitute Bill to HB 685	Rep. Del Mar	Providing for the venue of the criminal and civil action in libel cases against community or local journalist, publication or broadcast station	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy (Party-List, BAGONG HENERASYON), approved the Committee Report on the substitute bill.
	Substitute Bill to 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	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the substitute bill.
	Substitute Bill to HB 3702	Rep. Sy-Alvarado	Declaring August 30 of every year as Marcelo H. Del Pilar National Responsible Press Freedom Day	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the substitute bill.
	Substitute Bill to HB 4503	Rep. De Venecia	Amending RA 8370, otherwise known as the Children's Television Act of 1997, strengthening the composition of the National Council for Children's Television (NCCT) Advisory Committee	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the substitute bill.
	HBs 737 & 6070	Reps. Escudero and Mariño	Requiring all broadcast media to provide adequate public service time to educate the public on important government issues	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare a substitute bill to the two measures, incorporating therein the proposed amendments agreed upon during the meeting.</p> <p>The Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) was requested to submit its proposed amendments to the bill.</p>

Continuation... Public Information	HB 2395	Rep. Zarate	Providing for mandatory additional insurance coverage and benefits for journalists, employees of media entities on field assignment, and freelance journalists	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 2395 in its next meeting.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare a substitute bill to the two measures, incorporating therein the proposed amendments agreed upon during the meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA) clarified that the concerned media outfits shall shoulder the cost of the insurance coverage for journalists and their employees on field assignment.</p> <p>Atty. Denis Cabucos, legislative liaison officer of the Insurance Commission (IC), expressed his support for the bill.</p> <p>The Committee will invite the association of insurance companies to attend its next meeting.</p>
Public Works and Highways	HB 238	Rep. Almonte	Appropriating P250 million for the construction of a trans-axial highway to be known as the Governor William Chiongbian National Highway from Barangay Poblacion in the City of Oroquieta, to Barangay Mansawan in the Municipality of Don Victoriano, Province of Misamis Occidental and connecting to a national highway in the Municipality of Josefina, Province of Zamboanga del Sur	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Celso Lobregat (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Zamboanga City), approved HB 238 in principle, subject to the completion and submission of feasibility study and other related documents by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).
	HBs 599 & 627	Minority Leader Suarez and Rep. Lanete	Mandating the construction of the Quezon-Bicol Expressway (QUBEx)	The Committee approved in principle HBs 599 and 627 subject to the submission of feasibility study and other related documents by the DPWH.
	HB 2524	Rep. Mercado	Mandating the construction of San Juan to Nava, Hinunangan Road in Southern Leyte	The Committee approved the bill subject to the submission of feasibility study and other related documents by the DPWH.
	HB 3383	Minority Leader Suarez	Providing for the construction of the Pacific Palisades Superhighway connecting the Provinces of Bicol, Quezon, Aurora, Quirino, Isabela, and Cagayan	The Committee approved the bill subject to the submission of feasibility study and other related documents by the DPWH.
	HBs 2779, 3136 & 4165	Reps. Dimaporo (A.) and Dimaporo (M.K.)	Providing for the construction of national highways connecting the Province of Lanao del Norte to other provinces	The Committee approved the bills.
Transportation	HBs 4836, 5099, 6319, 6428, 6539 & 6540	Reps. Collantes, Suansing (E), Relampagos, Cortuna, and Zubiri	Establishing satellite or extension offices/district branches of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) in certain parts of the country	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, approved the six bills subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>LTO's Chief Administrative Officer Maribel Salazar expressed support for the bills. She welcomed the offer of the authors to provide the lands where the proposed LTO offices will be established in their respective districts and promised to conduct an ocular inspection of the proposed sites.</p>

Continuation... Transportation	HB 6326	Rep. Sacdalan	Converting the Midsayap Extension Office of the LTO located in Midsayap, North Cotabato into a regular LTO district office and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 6326 subject to style and amendment.
	HB 6438	Rep. Sarmiento (E.M.)	Establishing an extension office of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) in Calbayog City, Province of Samar and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 6438.  LTFRB Board Member Ronaldo Corpus expressed support for the bill.  However, Gerald Janda, OIC-Director of the Organization, Position Classification and Compensation Bureau of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), expressed his objection to the proposed measure, explaining that there should only be one regional franchising office (RFO) per region.  The Chair argued that the objective of the bill is to cater to the growing demand in Calbayog City and the surrounding provinces.
	HBs 5381, 5714, 5839 & 6226	Rep. Yap (V), Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Umali, and Villafuerte	Penalizing and preventing the use of motorcycles or scooters in the commission of crimes through the use of bigger plate numbers and identification marks	The Committee agreed to conduct a joint meeting with the Committee on Public Order and Safety to discuss the four bills.  Police Superintendent Edwin Engay of the Highway Patrol Group (HPG) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) expressed support for the bills. Engay said that the use of bigger plate number for motorcycles or scooters would facilitate the identification of persons involved in the commission of crimes.  Salazar, who also supports the bills, said that the LTO already intends to increase the size of the plate number of motorcycles as recommended by the Senate.  Objecting to the proposed measures were the Riders' Safety Advocate of the Philippines (RSAP), Riders of the Philippines, and Bulacan Motorcycle Confederation, arguing that there could be alternative and better solutions in deterring crimes on the road.  The resource persons were requested to submit to the Committee their position papers on the bills.

IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS			
COMMITTEE	MEASURE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Justice	Impeachment Complaint	Determination of probable cause in relation to the verified complaint for impeachment against Supreme Court Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, filed by Atty. Lorenzo Gadon	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2nd District, Oriental Mindoro), will continue its hearing on the determination of probable cause with regard to the impeachment complaint against the Chief Justice in its next meeting.  At the outset, Rep. Umali explained that "probable cause" pertains to the existence of facts and circumstances that are sufficient to engender a well-founded belief in a reasonable mind that an offense has been committed, and that the

<p>Continuation... Justice</p>		<p>person charged is probably guilty thereof and should be held for trial. It does not require an inquiry as to whether there is sufficient evidence to secure a conviction.</p> <p>Before delving into the discussion of probable cause, the Committee first resolved two issues raised by some House Members, including Reps. Edcel Lagman (1<sup>st</sup> District, Albay), Kaka Bag-ao (Dinagat Islands), Jose Christopher Belmonte (6<sup>th</sup> District, Quezon City), and Tom Villarin (Party-List, AKBAYAN). These are: (1) whether legislators who are not members of the Committee be allowed to participate in the proceedings, and (2) whether Sereno has the right to cross-examine the witnesses against her through counsel.</p> <p>Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1st District, Ilocos Norte) stressed that based on the rules, only Members of the Committee would be allowed to participate and vote during the proceedings. However, non-members are not restrained from attending and listening to the proceedings.</p> <p>The Majority Leader also opined that the impeachment hearing is akin to a preliminary investigation, with the sole purpose of determining the existence of probable cause and where cross-examinations are not allowed.</p> <p>After putting the two issues to a vote, the Committee decided that only its Members shall be allowed to participate in the impeachment hearing, and that the lawyers of Sereno cannot cross-examine the witnesses on her behalf.</p> <p>Thereafter, the Committee proceeded to examine the 27 acts allegedly committed by Sereno, as contained in the verified complaint, which amounted to impeachable offenses of culpable violation of the Constitution (11 acts); corruption (three acts); other high crimes (four acts); and betrayal of public trust (nine acts).</p> <p>The charges against the Chief Justice, filed by complainant Gadon, include the alleged falsification of a temporary restraining order (TRO) regarding the case of the Coalition of Associations of Senior Citizens in the Philippines, Inc. vs. Commission on Elections (COMELEC) in 2013, where Associate Justice Teresita Leonardo-De Castro was head of the division handling the case; and non-disclosure of the Sereno's earnings from handling a government arbitration case against the Philippine International Air Terminals Co., Inc. (Piatco) in her Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN), which amounted to P37 million.</p> <p>In her Verified Answer, the Chief Justice refuted the charges levelled against her.</p> <p>Asked by the lawmakers whether he has personal knowledge of his allegations against Sereno, particularly the alleged falsification of the TRO, Gadon admitted that he only got his information from Manila Times reporter Jomar Canlas and not directly from Associate Justice De Castro.</p> <p>Some legislators questioned Gadon's basis for his allegations in his verified complaint and the authenticity of the documents he presented.</p> <p>Also, upon questioning by Siquijor Rep. Ramon V.A. "Rav" Rocamora, Gadon admitted that he did not know whether Sereno, then a law professor at the University of the Philippines (UP), had already declared in her SALN her earnings from the Piatco case before she joined the judiciary</p>
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Continuation... Justice			in 2010.  The Committee agreed to invite De Castro and the other SC justices, SC's Public Information Office (PIO) Chief Theodore Te, SC Clerk of Court Felipa Anama, and retired SC Clerk of Court Enriqueta Vidal to attend its next meeting. It shall also issue a subpoena to Jomar Canlas to compel his attendance next meeting.
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Dangerous Drugs (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 1257 & 3809	Reps. Biazon and Barbers	Strengthening and intensifying the campaign against illegal drug trafficking, amending for this purpose certain sections of RA 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Acting Committee Secretary Virgilio San Diego, will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>Among the suggestions raised by the resource persons during the meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide additional laboratory equipment for drug testing and to include chemists among the medical practitioners who may administer a drug test;</li> <li>• Establish a set of criteria to determine if a person is a drug user; and</li> <li>• Provide an operational definition for the term "drug dependency."</li> </ul> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their additional comments and recommendations to the TWG before the finalization of the bill.</p>
Health (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 621, 2466, 3924, 4391, 5503, 5914, 6356, 6526, and HRs 244 & 1048	Reps. Paduano, Yap (A.), Vargas, Tan (A.), Go (M.), Silverio, Villarica, Aquino-Magsaysay, Zarate, and Lanete	Providing for a comprehensive renal replacement therapy for patients with end-renal disease and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon), terminated its deliberation on the substitute bill.</p> <p>The resource persons were asked to submit their suggestions that may be incorporated in the bill. After which, the bill will be submitted to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>The members of the TWG agreed, among others, on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Register all patients with renal disease in the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation's (PhilHealth) database; and</li> <li>• Include kidney transplant as one of the procedures that will be covered by PhilHealth.</li> </ul>
Higher and Technical Education (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HB 2819	Rep. Suansing (E.)	Establishing a voluntary student loan program by private banks and government financial institutions	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1<sup>st</sup> District, Nueva Ecija), will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>The TWG agreed on the following amendments to the draft substitute bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exclude "government financial</li> </ul>

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education (Technical Working Group)				<p>institutions” from the coverage of the bill (Section 2);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow the disbursement of loan directly to the student-borrower instead of coursing it through the technical-vocational institute (TVI) or higher education institution (HEI) (Section 9);</li> <li>• Limit the repayment of loan to five years instead of eight years after the student-borrower ceases attending the TVI or HEI (Section 12); and</li> <li>• Exclude the Chamber of Thrift Banks (CTB), Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP), and Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP) as members of the inter-agency team which shall be responsible for policy guidance and direction, monitoring and evaluation of the program (Section 14).</li> </ul> <p>CTB Executive Director Suzanne Felix recommended the provision of additional incentives to entice private banks to be involved in the program.</p> <p>BAP Associate Director Arnel Almaden suggested that the participation of private banks in the student loan program be made on a voluntary basis.</p> <p>Association of Local Colleges and Universities (ALCU) Executive Director Dalisay Brawner recommended the involvement of ALCU in the drafting of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the proposed law.</p>
Special Committee on Reforestation (Technical Working Group)	HB 1154	Rep. Alejano	Requiring all graduating elementary, high school, and college students to plant at least 10 trees each as a prerequisite for graduation	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Gary Alejano (Party-List, MAGDALO), agreed to consolidate the bills using HB 1154 as the working draft.
	HB 3132	Rep. Revilla	Requiring every student to plant trees every year	The consolidated bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.
Transportation (Technical Working Group)	HB 126	Rep. Lobregat	Allowing local government units (LGUs) to suspend the mandatory wearing of motorcycle helmets, amending for the purpose RA 10054, otherwise known as the Motorcycle Helmet Act of 2009	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY), will deliberate further on the three bills.
	HB 2337	Rep. Calixto-Rubiano	Amending RA 10054, by prohibiting the use of helmets with tinted face covers and the riders’ use of ski-masks and other paraphernalia or accessories that hide their face	Rep. Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City), author of HB 126, said that the proposed temporary suspension of wearing helmets to reduce crimes perpetrated by motorcycle riders may be complemented by the imposition of speed limit by the local government units to reduce accidents on the road.
	HB 6542	Rep. Velarde	Amending RA 10054, by requiring motorcycle riders using motorcycles with lower than 400-cubic centimeter (cc) engine to wear half-faced helmets and those using motorcycles with 400 cc and above engine to wear full-faced helmets, as well as prohibiting riders from wearing any mask or facial cover that may conceal	Pasay City Rep. Emi Calixto-Rubiano, author of HB 2337, said that her bill prohibits the use of tinted helmets to show the face of the motorcycle driver and the back rider and thus thwart motorcycle-riding criminals from

Continuation... Transportation (Technical Working Group)			their identity or hinder facial recognition	<p>concealing their identity. To address the concern of riders who said that tinted helmets protect their eyes from the sun's glare, Rep. Calixto-Rubiano said that they can use anti-glare devices for this purpose.</p> <p>The Land Transportation Office (LTO), Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) and Philippine National Police-Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG) expressed support for HB 6542, authored by Rep. Velarde. These agencies favor the use of helmets for the safety of the riders but agree that certain specifications shall be imposed.</p> <p>On the other hand, Director Roy Taguinod of the Traffic Discipline Office of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) expressed reservation on HB 6542, explaining that imposing a specific type of helmet for a particular motorcycle may be construed as discriminatory.</p> <p>Likewise, the Department of Trade and Industry's Bureau of Product Standards stated that the type and size of the motorcycle is not relevant in determining the type of helmet that will ensure the safety of riders.</p> <p>Jobert Bolanos of the Riders of the Philippines explained that motorcycle riders prefer to use tinted and full faced helmets for better eye protection from the glare of the sun. He stressed that most motorcycle riders are daily wage earners, thus could not afford anti-glare equipment or devices which are deemed expensive.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon maintained his position that the safety of the motorcycle riders should be given primary consideration.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)	<p>Briefing by the following agencies on their plans and programs for North Luzon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)</li> </ul>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1st District, Ilocos Sur), listened to the presentations of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) on their plans and programs for North Luzon.</p> <p>DTI-Ilocos Sur Provincial Director Grace Lapastora said that among the objectives of the DTI are to improve the productivity and efficiency of businesses as well as to develop and promote vibrant micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the country. In support of these objectives, DTI implements various programs and projects, among which are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared Service Facilities (SSF) Project - which provides MSMEs with machinery, equipment, tools, systems, skills and knowledge under a shared system or industry clusters;</li> <li>• Project KAPATID – which aims to strengthen the mentorship program for micro and small enterprises (MSEs)</li> </ul>

<p>Continuation... North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC)</li> </ul>	<p>and links MSMEs with large companies' value chains through the Mentor ME program, Adopt-an-SSF Program, and Inclusive Business Model; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One Town, One Product (OTOP) Philippines Program – which enables localities and communities to determine, develop, support, and promote products or services rooted in their local culture and competitive advantage.</li> </ul> <p>Several Committee Members suggested that DTI coordinate with other government agencies to ensure the proper delivery of services to the intended beneficiaries and avoid duplication or overlapping of programs.</p> <p>Rep. Randolph Ting (3rd District, Cagayan) pointed out that the DTI should create an efficient business environment by aligning its programs with the needs and skills of the people in a particular region.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Baguio City Rep. Mark Go said that although he appreciates the promotion of Filipino products and culture, he believes that it would be better for government agencies, especially the DTI, to focus more on revitalizing the manufacturing industry. This, according to him, will make the country a manufacturer of products and not just exporter of raw materials and importer of processed goods.</p> <p>The DTI was asked to submit a list of its projects and programs in North Luzon and the corresponding beneficiaries.</p> <p>NDRRMC Director for Rehabilitation and Recovery Management Service Edgar Posadas presented the agency's FY 2016 and 2017 NDRRM Fund releases.</p> <p>Posadas reported that in 2016 the NDRRMC released a total of P934.18 million to fund the rehabilitation of areas affected by Typhoons Ferdie and Lawin which hit the country in September and October 2016, respectively. The said amount was allocated to the Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR), P853.36 million; Region II, P46.62 million; and Region III, P34.20 million. For 2017, an additional P2.48 billion was released to CAR and P1.41 billion to Region II.</p> <p>Posadas apologized for the delays in the processing of requests for allocations from the NDRRM Fund. He explained that the Fund was already exhausted as early as the first half of the year. He informed the Committee that the NDRRMC is now using the new NDRRM Fund guidelines to streamline the process for accessing and releasing funds and to promote better transparency.</p> <p>Rep. Savellano inquired on the NDRRMC's training programs on disaster preparedness. Melchito Castro, regional director of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) - Region I, said that programs such as "Operation Listo" and "Listong Pamilyang Pilipino," are being undertaken by concerned government agencies to strengthen disaster preparedness capabilities of local government units (LGUs) and Filipinos across the country.</p> <p>Operation Listo, which was initiated by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in 2014, is a national advocacy program on disaster preparedness which guides the LGUs and DILG personnel on actions they need to undertake before, during, and after a disaster.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the Listong Pamilyang Pilipino is a partnership between the DILG and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) which engages the beneficiaries of the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Program of DSWD in the DILG's Operation Listo.</p>
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FORUM		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Welfare of Children	Forum entitled “Too Young, Too Soon: A Discussion on Ending Child, Early and Forced Marriages (CEFM)”	<p>The Committee, in partnership with the Philippine Legislators’ Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) and Oxfam, conducted a forum entitled “Too Young, Too Soon: A Discussion on Ending Child, Early and Forced Marriages (CEFM)” on November 22, 2017 at the House of Representatives.</p> <p>PLCPD Executive Director Romeo Dongeto welcomed the resource persons and guests to the forum. He underscored the need to conduct continuous dialogues with various stakeholders to put an end to CEFM.</p> <p>Mindanao State University (MSU) Assistant Dean Sorhaila Latip-Yusoph shared her experience as a victim of CEFM at the age of 16 and recalled being psychologically abused by her husband. She expressed gratitude for her years of education prior to her marriage and her knowledge of women’s rights which encouraged her to seek amicable ways to end the marriage.</p> <p>Oxfam Project and Partnership Manager Catherine Gordo, in discussing the prevalence of CEFM, said that the main reasons for early marriage are religious or cultural beliefs and traditions, poverty, and political. Gordo emphasized that ending these practices would prevent health risks among women brought about by early child bearing, prevent the likelihood of girls not finishing their education, and increase the chance of women in adulthood to earn income.</p> <p>Other speakers during the forum were Executive Director Zahria Mapandi of the Al-Mujadilah Development Foundation Incorporated (AMDF), Deputy Program Manager Nass Bunding of the United Youth of the Philippines-Women (UNYPHIL-Women), and Program Officer Angelina Ortiz of Silingang Dapit sa Sidlakang Mindanao (SILDAP). They cited the importance of education as a crucial factor in empowering children and women to resist CEFM and other abuses, as well as in making others aware of the negative effects of such acts and practices encouraging them to stop doing the same.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Philippine Usrah Foundation President Hamid Barra discussed PD 1083 or the Code of Muslim Personal Laws of the Philippines. He said that PD 1083 is not an Islamic Law, which is composed of Shari’ah and Fiqh, but a legislation that has provisions based on the Shari’ah and Fiqh.</p> <p>PLCPD Chair and Ifugao Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr. said that culture plays an important role in propagating these practices. However, Rep. Baguilat believes that culture, like religion, evolves through time and therefore cultural transformation is possible and that unfair cultural practices will be outdone in the future.</p> <p>Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy (Party-List, BAGONG HENERASYON), also a member of the PLCPD, expressed her support to end CEFM to improve the quality of life of women.</p> <p>An open forum followed after the presentations.</p>

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