

Committee Daily Bulletin

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COMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Higher and Technical Education	Substitute Bill to HBs 1707 & 5608	Reps. Biazon and Vargas	Creating an advanced studies development program for exceptional employees from the government and the private sector	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ann Hofer (2nd District, Zamboanga Sibugay), approved the substitute bill and the corresponding Committee Report, subject to style and amendment.
	HB 4254	Rep. Belaro	Providing for an annual research competition among colleges and universities	The Committee approved HB 4254 subject to style and amendment.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 637 & 6416	Reps. Unico and Panotes	Converting the Camarines Norte State College (CNSC) in the Municipality of Daet, Province of Camarines Norte into a state university to be known as the Camarines Norte State University (CNSU) and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the substitute bill and the corresponding Committee Report, subject to style and amendment. A joint ocular inspection and evaluation of the CNSC will be conducted by the Committee and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).
	HBs 6003 & 6778	Reps. Belaro and Mercado	Providing for the establishment of a Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) training centers in the Municipality of Goa, Camarines Sur and in the City of Maasin, Southern Leyte, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the two bills and the corresponding Committee Reports. The bills will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for review of their funding provisions.
	HB 1093	Rep. Cosalan	Establishing a state polytechnic college in the Municipality of Kabayan, Province of Benguet, to be known as the Kabayan State Polytechnic College, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to study the bill further. Director Joselito Alisuag of CHED's Office of Institutional Quality Assurance and Governance (OIQAG) commented that the site of the campus was not identified in the bill. He likewise mentioned that the school's projected student population is too small for it to be qualified as a state college, suggesting that a satellite campus of the existing Benguet State Polytechnic College be created instead. A bill with similar subject matter was approved on Third Reading during the last Congress.
	HB 2584	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Establishing a state college in the City of Gingoog, Province of Misamis Oriental, to be known as the Gingoog City State College and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to study the bill further.

IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Justice	Determination of probable cause in relation to the verified complaint for impeachment against Supreme Court Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, filed by Atty. Lorenzo G. Gadon, and endorsed by 25 House Members	<p>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.</p> <p>In today's hearing, the Committee focused its discussion on the following allegations against Sereno:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inordinate delay in the resolution of retirement benefit claims for justices and judges and their spouses; • Manipulation of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) shortlist for the six vacancies in the Sandiganbayan in 2015 by introducing the practice of "clustering" of nominees; • Inordinate delay in the resolution of the request of Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II for the transfer of cases against members of the Maute terrorist group outside Mindanao; and • Failure to disclose income in her sworn Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN). <p>Supreme Court Administrator Jose Midas Marquez informed the Committee that prior to the creation of the Special Committee on Retirement and Civil Service Benefits consisting of two technical working groups (TWGs), the Supreme Court (SC) en banc acts on the application of retirement benefit claims of spouses of deceased justices and judges within two to three weeks. He lamented that the TWGs turned out to be counterproductive as they added another layer to the process and delayed the resolution of retirement claims application to more than two years.</p> <p>SC Associate Justice Samuel Martires admitted that the TWGs' function to evaluate and recommend actions regarding benefit claims was a redundancy as the decision concerning the claims still lie solely on the Magistrates. He mentioned that the aggrieved families as a result of the delayed release of retirement benefits may file cases against SC personnel who sat on their retirement claim applications. SC Associate Justices Lucas Bersamin and Diosdado Peralta were in agreement that the TWGs should be dissolved.</p> <p>When asked by Rep. Juan Pablo "Rimpy" Bondoc (4th District, Pampanga) on who created the special committee and the TWGs, Bersamin and Peralta replied that they are unsure if it was the Chief Justice, but believed that it was well within her power to do so. Midas volunteered that the said creation was recommended by Sereno.</p> <p>On the issue of "clustering" of nominees to the Sandiganbayan, both Peralta and Bersamin averred that the practice impinges on the President's power of appointment because it limits the President's choice of nominees. Peralta added that there was no clear rule on how the names of the nominees are clustered and can therefore be used to the advantage of favored candidates.</p> <p>When asked to comment on the issue of "inordinate delay" in the resolution of the request to transfer the cases against</p>

<p>Continuation... Justice</p>		<p>members of the Maute terrorist group outside Mindanao, Bersamin said that the regular procedure would have been to submit the matter to the SC Raffle Committee so that it could have been raffled off to one of the 15 magistrates of the SC. It was, however, never done.</p> <p>Several legislators asked if there was truth to SC Associate Justice Noel Tijam's claim that the SC's decision to transfer the Maute cases to Cagayan de Oro City was made over lunch.</p> <p>Bersamin explained that although the issue was discussed informally over lunch on June 6, 2017, it should still go through the formal process. However, the Chief Justice already issued a statement on the matter the following day, which, Bersamin said, caught him by surprise.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Eugene Michael de Vera (Party-List, ABS) brought up the issue on Sereno's failure to file almost 20 SALNs during her entire career in the government. The Justices opted not to comment on the matter, explaining that the responsibility of checking documentary requirements such as the SALN is lodged with the JBC's Office of Recruitment, Selection and Nomination.</p> <p>Several lawmakers also asked the Justices if Sereno arrogated upon herself the collegiate and participatory nature of decision-making of the SC. Justices Bersamin and Peralta admitted that there were indeed instances that the collegiate nature of the SC was violated by Sereno.</p>
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