

# Committee Daily Bulletin

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Economic Affairs	HR 898	Rep. Yap (A.)	Inquiry into the desired economic policy direction of the Philippines with regard to foreign participation in the ownership and operation of corporations and firms engaged in the business of construction of buildings and other infrastructure in the country	<p>The Committee, presided by Rep. Henry Ong (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Leyte), listened to the presentation of the Philippine Constructors Association (PCA) Inc. on the issues and concerns relative to the Philippine construction industry.</p> <p>PCA Executive Director Ibarra Paulino said that the PCA is not averse to the entry of foreign contractors in the country as long as they pour in foreign direct investments (FDIs).</p> <p>To address problems affecting the construction industry, Paulino gave several recommendations, among which are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reactivate the project management office for flagship infrastructure projects of the past administration to ensure better monitoring of project development and implementation;</li> <li>• Streamline procurement policies and procedures and make them adaptable to current situations;</li> <li>• Ensure “complete staff work,” such as the preparation of accurate cost estimates and documentation, especially for major infrastructure projects, prior to roll-out for local or international bidding to prevent delays or cancellations; and</li> <li>• Promptly solve right-of-way acquisition problems.</li> </ul> <p>Rep. Luis Raymund “LRay” Villafuerte Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Camarines Sur) agreed that there is a need to revise the procurement policies of the government. He cited, for instance, the requirement that a contractor can only bid on a project the cost of which is based on the cost of the project it completed in the past.</p> <p>Rep. Villafuerte and Deputy Speaker Ferdinand Hernandez (2<sup>nd</sup> District, South Cotabato) claimed that contractors who fail to meet this requirement resort to paying “royalty” to qualified contractors just so they are able to bag government projects.</p>

Continuation... Economic Affairs				<p>Rep. Bayani Fernando (1<sup>st</sup> District, Marikina City) said that the President's marching orders opening the local construction industry to foreign contractors will prejudice local contractors.</p> <p>Also during the meeting, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) briefed the Committee members on the status of implementation of big ticket infrastructure projects under the "Build, Build, Build" Program of the Duterte administration.</p>
Poverty Alleviation	<p>Substitute Bill to HBs 17, 41, 73, 207, 293, 318, 366, 399, 501, 518, 699, 823, 887, 901, 1098, 1429, 1548, 1661, 1694, 1948, 2278, 2456, 2545, 2688, 2772, 4135, 4155, 5401, 6536 &amp; 6600, HR 464, and Privilege Speech 277</p>	<p>Rep. Biazon, Deputy Speaker Quimbo, Reps. Vargas, Violago, Suansing (H.), Primicias-Agabas, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Belmonte (J.C), Yap (V.), Deputy Speaker Castro, Reps. Macapagal-Arroyo, Yap (A.), Tan (A.), Fortuno, Castelo, Tupas, Angara-Castillo, Rodriguez (M.), Santos-Recto, Tambunting, Pineda, Tan (S.), Mercado, Bag-ao, Bolilia, Olivarez, Villarin, Romero, and De Jesus</p>	<p>Institutionalizing the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) to reduce poverty and promote human capital development and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Raymond Democrito Mendoza (Party-List, TUCP), approved the Substitute Bill to the 32 measures subject to style and amendment.</p>
	HB 4700	Rep. Garcia (J.E.)	Institutionalizing community-based monitoring system in all barangays, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee agreed to consolidate the two bills.
	HB 5588	Rep. Zubiri	Establishing a nationwide geo-tagging and poverty tracking system and appropriating funds therefor	
	HR 1522	Rep. Mercado	Urging the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to hasten the process of improving the targeting of beneficiaries so as to lessen program leakage; to increase the level of effectiveness of the delivery of social protection/welfare services to 4Ps beneficiaries; and to immediately lift the suspension of registration of new beneficiaries of the 4Ps	<p>The Committee adopted HR 1522.</p> <p>DSWD's 4Ps National Program Manager Leonardo Reynoso informed the Committee that DSWD OIC-Secretary Emmanuel Leyco had already signed the order lifting the suspension of the registration of new beneficiaries under the 4Ps last December 11, 2017.</p>



<p>Continuation... Constitutional Amendments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subcommittee III</li> <li>• Subcommittee IV</li> </ul>	<p>commission and the strengthening of the political party system are proposed under Article IX.</p> <p>The Committee agreed not to discuss anymore the proposed amendments to the Preamble, National Territory (Article I), Declaration of Federal State Principles and Policies (Article II), General Provisions (Article XVI), and Transitory Provisions (Article XVIII) which were reviewed by the Subcommittee III as there are no contentious issues involved.</p> <p>Subcommittee III is chaired by Rep. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Negros Occidental).</p> <p>The Subcommittee IV, chaired by Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Leyte), reviewed Articles XI to XV of the 1987 Constitution. Rep. Veloso mentioned that two proposed amendments to Article XII (National Economy and Patrimony) may be the subject of an extensive debate, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening of lands to foreign ownership and reviewing the 60-40 local-foreign equity sharing; and</li> <li>• Reclassification and conversion of lands, particularly agricultural lands, for commercial and industrial purposes.</li> </ul> <p>Rep. Veloso reported that the Subcommittee agreed that the provisions under Article XIII pertaining to Social Justice and Human Rights may be reflected as basic principles under Article II (Declaration of Principles and State Policies) of the Constitution.</p> <p>At the end of the discussion, the Committee directed the Secretariat to consolidate the outputs of the four Subcommittees and come up with a working draft of the proposed Constitution, for deliberation in its next meeting.</p>
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SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
<p>Joint Subcommittee of the Committee on Local Government, Committee on Muslim Affairs, and Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity</p>	<p>HBs 92, 6121, 6263 &amp; 6475</p>	<p>Deputy Speaker Sema, Reps. Macapagal-Arroyo and Dimaporo (M.K.), and Speaker Alvarez</p>	<p>Providing for the Basic Law for the Bangsamoro and abolishing the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), repealing for the purpose RA 9054, or the law strengthening and expanding the Organic Act for the ARMM, and RA 6734 or the law providing for an Organic Act for the ARMM</p>	<p>The Joint Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II (1<sup>st</sup> District, Zamboanga Sibugay), agreed to deliberate further on the four bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>In today's meeting, the Joint Subcommittee agreed that the geographical area of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region will be composed of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing geographical area of the ARMM; and</li> <li>• Any province or city contiguous and outside the geographical area of the existing ARMM where there is resolution of the local government unit (LGU) or a petition of at least 10% of the registered voters in the area asking for their inclusion at least two months prior to the conduct of a plebiscite of the Basic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region and the process of delimitation of the Bangsamoro geographical area.</li> </ul>

<p><i>Continuation...</i>  Joint Subcommittee of the Committee on Local Government, Committee on Muslim Affairs, and Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity</p>				<p>It was likewise agreed that the Philippine National Police (PNP) shall have the primary responsibility over public order and safety within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region.</p> <p>The Joint Subcommittee also identified the concurrent or shared powers between the National Government and the Bangsamoro Regional Government on the following matters: auditing; operation of public utilities; financial and banking system; education and skills training; science and technology; research councils and scholarships; and management of libraries, museums, cultural and historical sites.</p> <p>Issues on the rights and welfare of indigenous peoples (IPs) will be discussed at the mother Committee level.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food (Technical Working Group)	HBs 2453 & 6278	Rep. Yap (A.) and Deputy Speaker Garin	Promoting and supporting the development of the corn industry	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Jose Panganiban Jr. (Party-List, ANAC-IP), will deliberate further on the six bills in its next meeting.
	HBs 3422, 5835, 6132 & 6324	Reps. Romero, Siquian-Go, Panganiban, and Sy-Alvarado	Establishing the Philippine Corn Research Institute (PCRI) and appropriating funds therefor	<p>Commenting on HBs 2453 and 6278, Department of Agriculture (DA) Undersecretary for Policy and Planning Segfredo Serrano said that the DA implements various programs aimed at developing corn as an important agricultural product.</p> <p>On the proposed establishment of a Philippine Corn Research Institute (PCRI), Dr. Artemio Salazar, research professor at the Institute of Plant Breeding, University of the Philippines Los Baños (IPB-UPLB), said that it is costly to create a new research institute dedicated solely for corn. He instead suggested that funds intended for corn research and development be channeled to state universities and colleges (SUCs) which have a pool of experts who may conduct such researches.</p> <p>Likewise, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Senior Economic Development Specialist Maricel Solatre said that the creation of the PCRI is a duplication of existing research institutes having the same functions.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills.</p>

Government Reorganization jt. w/ Transportation (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 190, 1725, 2731, 3116, 5042 & 5480	Reps. Bravo (A.), Biazon, Alejano, Villafuerte, Deputy Speaker Garcia and Rep. Vargas	Creating the Philippine Transportation Safety Board (PTSB), defining its mandate, powers and functions, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), co-chaired by Rep. Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN), of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Edgar Sarmiento (1st District, Samar), Vice Chair of the Committee on Transportation, will deliberate further on the substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>Among the agreements reached during the meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt the international definition of the terms used in the substitute bill for uniformity purposes;</li> <li>• Consider the provisions of HB 5042 with regard to the creation of the PTSB as an independent body whose primary function is to investigate transportation-related accidents and recommend preventive measures;</li> <li>• Streamline the functions, mandate and powers of the PTSB; and</li> <li>• Adopt Sections 9 (Relationship with other Government Agencies) and 10 (Disclosure, Availability and Use of Information) of HB 3116.</li> </ul>
Information and Communications Technology (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 590, 931, 1193, 1258, 2328, 2648, 2809, 3649, 3661, 4014, 4404, 4646, 5382 & 5591	Reps. Velarde, Abaya, Loyola, Biazon, Antonino, Gatchalian, Castelo, Rodriguez (M.), Sandoval, Lazatin, Almario, Lopez (M.L.), and Tambunting	Requiring the registration of all users of prepaid Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) cards	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY), terminated its deliberation on the substitute bill. The substitute bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Among the amendments to the substitute bill agreed upon in today's meeting are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SIM card registration forms should contain the subscriber's personal information such as the subscriber's full name, complete address, date of birth, and gender. The subscriber is also required to show in person a valid government issued identification document with photo and submit a photocopy of the same;</li> <li>• The direct seller shall forward the accomplished registration forms to the concerned Public Telecommunications Entity (PTE), which in turn shall forward it to the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT);</li> <li>• The DICT will serve as the government custodian of the information and will ensure that the data is kept with utmost confidentiality; and</li> <li>• The PTE shall disclose SIM card registration information only upon the issuance of a subpoena, upon order of a court, or upon a written request from a law enforcement agency in relation to an ongoing investigation.</li> </ul>

AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
East ASEAN Growth Area (Special Committee)	Briefing on Sweden's infrastructure development program on transportation, energy, and sustainable development and its potential connectivity projects in Mindanao, Palawan, and East ASEAN Growth Area	<p>The Committee, chaired by Davao del Sur Rep. Mercedes "Didi" Cagas, listened to the briefing of Sweden Ambassador to the Philippines Harald Fries and Business Sweden's Country Manager Ulf Wennblom on Sweden's infrastructure development program on transportation, energy, and sustainable development and its potential connectivity projects in Mindanao, Palawan, and the East ASEAN Growth Area.</p> <p>Business Sweden is an organization jointly owned by the Government of Sweden and representatives from the Swedish business community.</p> <p>Ambassador Fries gave a brief background on Sweden's investments in the Philippines. He reported that Sweden's exports to the Philippines have increased over the last few years and about 40 Swedish companies are already doing business in the country with more expected to follow suit in the coming years. In the field of business process outsourcing (BPO), Fries said that the Swedish company, Transcom, already employs around 10,000 Filipino call center agents.</p> <p>Fries assured the Committee that the Embassy of Sweden in Manila can act as the initial point of contact for Swedish companies and entrepreneurs planning to do business in the Philippines.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Wennblom discussed Sweden's sustainable innovation efforts which it intends to share to the Philippines. He likewise expressed Sweden's keen interest in the Build, Build, Build Program of the Duterte administration and volunteered to impart Swedish technology in urban transport system, renewable energy, construction of airports and maritime ports, city digitalization, and public safety.</p> <p>When asked by Rep. Cagas on the challenges that Swedish entrepreneurs are currently encountering in setting up their businesses in the Philippines, Wennblom enumerated the following: corruption in the public and private sector; tax policies that are not transparent; and red tape in the bureaucracy. Wennblom stressed that if these challenges will be addressed, more investors will be encouraged to put up their business in the country.</p> <p>Rep. Cagas invited Ambassador Fries and Wennblom to visit Mindanao and identify possible areas for investment in the field of infrastructure, agriculture and tourism. Ambassador Fries requested the Committee Members to submit their proposed projects in their respective districts for the evaluation of the Swedish government.</p>