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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, chaired by Rep. Arthur Yap (3rd District, Bohol), will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 898 in another meeting.</p> <p>Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) economist Philip Amadeo Libre presented the benefits of easing regulatory barriers in the Philippine construction sector.</p> <p>Libre said that foreign direct investments (FDIs) could have been higher in the absence of the restrictive regulations imposed by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB). He emphasized the need for market competition in the construction industry that will result in easing out less efficient competitors, bring more benefits and protection to consumers, and attract more foreign investors.</p> <p>Undersecretary Roberto Bernardo of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) gave the Department's position on the issues raised in the last meeting.</p> <p>Bernardo said that the DPWH does not agree to relaxing the computation of the Net Financing Contracting Capacity (NFCC) to include capital equipment because it is a fixed asset and should not be included in current assets. He also asserted that there is no law or regulation prohibiting local contractors to partner with foreigners if they are lacking the technology needed for a certain project.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Philippine Constructors Association (PCA) Executive Director Ibarra Paulino explained that the PCA is not averse to the entry of foreign contractors in the country provided that they will be subject to the same regulations under existing laws such as the 15-year project warranty. He went on to say that PCA is open to the review and revision of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA 4566 or the Contractors' License Law and RA 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act.</p> <p>Rep. Yap directed the Secretariat to invite the members of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board to apprise the Committee of their actions to Memorandum No. 16 issued by the President which lifts restrictions on foreign participation in certain industries including the construction industry.</p>

Continuation... Economic Affairs				The resource persons present were requested to submit their respective position papers on the measure.
Games and Amusement	HR 546	Minority Leader Danilo Suarez	Investigation into the proliferation of illegal gambling	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Gus Tambunting (2nd District, Parañaque City), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on the issues relative to the four resolutions.
	HRs 712, 715 & 1445	Reps. Manalo, Batocabe, and Villafuerte	Inquiry into the alleged failure of the small town lottery (STL) operations of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) in generating its projected income resulting in the loss of billions of pesos in revenues on the part of the national government and the possible use of STL operations as fronts for jueteng and other illegal numbers games in the country	<p>Rep. Luis Raymund “LRay” Villafuerte Jr. (2nd District, Camarines Sur), author of HR 1445, alleged that the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) disregarded its corporate social responsibilities; and continuously violated the 2016 PCSO Manual of Corporate Governance, the STL implementing rules and regulations (IRR), and other laws.</p> <p>Rep. Villafuerte also disclosed that PCSO fell short of its revenue target set for STL based on its retail receipts for 2017. He claimed that the deficiency could be attributed to the non-compliance of the authorized agent corporations (AACs) with the PCSO’s formula for computing the Presumptive Monthly Retail Receipts (PMRR). This, he said, resulted in huge revenue losses on the part of the government.</p> <p>Rep. Villafuerte asked PCSO General Manager Alexander Balutan why Even Chance Gaming Corporation (ECGC), one of the AACs, was granted a license to operate despite having the lowest PMRR bid and having been disqualified by the PCSO’s STL Supervision and Monitoring Group (STL-SMG).</p> <p>Balutan said that the PCSO Board will convene tomorrow to deliberate and decide on possible actions against ECGC and other erring AACs. The Board will also discuss the issues on securing permits from local government units (LGUs) where AACs operate.</p> <p>Rep. Amado Espino Jr. (5th District, Pangasinan) commented that AACs are disregarding the powers of the LGUs by not securing the necessary permits to operate.</p> <p>Minority Leader Danilo Suarez (3rd District, Quezon) stressed that even with the best intentions of STL, without police assistance, its operations cannot be controlled and managed properly. He likewise suggested that the Committee and the PCSO should come up with a more rational formula for computing the PMRR.</p> <p>When asked about the revenues generated from STL operations, Balutan informed the Committee that the gross annual revenues generated from the operations of STL have increased by 143% from the time it started in 2016.</p> <p>However, Rep. Jose Panganiban Jr. (Party-List, ANAC-IP) stressed that the increase in the revenues from STL operations is due to the increase in the number of AACs, from 18 to 56, and not because of PCSO’s efficient collection efforts.</p>

Continuation... Games and Amusement				<p>Meanwhile, Rep. Noel Villanueva (3rd District, Tarlac) disclosed that Balutan has been allegedly offered a bribe in exchange for one man's full control of STL operations nationwide.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Winnie Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City) to identify the person who allegedly offered the bribe, Balutan named gambling consultant Atong Ang. Balutan claimed that when Ang offered P200 million a month to him in September 2016, he (Ang) was with PCSO Director Sandra Cam.</p> <p>Cam, who was present in the hearing, denied the allegation. However, Balutan said that he has CCTV footage and pictures to prove his statement.</p> <p>The Committee requested Balutan to submit a copy of the CCTV footage as well as the pictures that he mentioned.</p> <p>The PCSO was also asked to submit the following documents/data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of monthly sales reported by AACs and the PMRR for the years 2016 and 2017; • Copy of the remittance report of ECGC to PCSO; and • Minutes of the meetings conducted by the PCSO's Board and STL-SMG from 2017 to January 2018.
Good Government and Public Accountability	HR 1551	Rep. Acharon	Investigation into the alleged payments by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) of Road Right-of-Way (RROW) claimants in General Santos City using spurious or fabricated land titles	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 1551 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Witness Roberto Catapang Jr., in his testimony, revealed the involvement of some government officials in the alleged payments amounting to P8.7 billion to fake owners of properties in General Santos City that were subject of RROW acquisitions. He also mentioned the participation of a certain Wilma Mamburam, as the mastermind of this fraudulent right-of-way claims, with Mercedes Dumlao and Nelson Ti as her accomplices. These individuals, he claimed, were responsible for falsifying land titles and appearing as the supposed land title holders themselves, who illegally received the compensations for the acquisition of the RROWs intended for DPWH infrastructure projects.</p> <p>Earlier, Catapang was granted legislative immunity by the Speaker.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Pimentel if he can substantiate his allegations, Catapang asserted that he has documents that can substantiate his accusations.</p> <p>On the other hand, Mr. Leonardo Dinopol, city assessor of General Santos City, denied any involvement with the group of Mamburam and refuted Catapang's earlier claim that he introduced Dumlao to Catapang and delivered fake land titles to the latter.</p> <p>Similarly, DPWH Region XII Legal Officer Jahara</p>

Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability				<p>Ali-Macadato refuted the P8.7 billion figure mentioned by the witness, saying that the correct amount was only P2.8 billion.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Atty. John Balderol of DPWH's ROW Acquisition and Enforcement Division presented a flow chart detailing the processes that the Department follows in its acquisition of ROWs.</p> <p>Catapang was requested to submit to the Committee a sworn statement or affidavit of his allegations as well as documentary evidences supporting his claims.</p> <p>The DPWH was also requested to submit its list of RROW claimants covering the period 2010 to 2017 as well as the exact locations of the lands involved, the amount paid, and other pertinent data.</p> <p>In its next meeting, the Committee will invite Atty. Peter Armand Henares, register of deeds of General Santos City, and Renato Bermejo, administrator of the Land Registration Authority (LRA).</p>
	HR 360	Rep. Suansing (E.)	Inquiry into the construction of barangay health stations throughout the country within the premises of public elementary schools undertaken by the central office of the Department of Health (DOH)	<p>The Committee assumed jurisdiction over the five resolutions.</p> <p>HR 1519, together with other resolutions having the same subject matter currently pending with the Committee, will be deliberated jointly with the Committee on Health.</p>
	HR 1505	Rep. Vergara	Investigation into the apparent corruption and irregularities in the imposition, collection, and distribution of taxes and fees on the quarrying operations in the Province of Nueva Ecija and other provinces in the Philippines	
	HR 1519	Rep. Atienza	Investigation into the purchase of P3.5 billion worth of Dengvaxia anti-dengue vaccines by the Department of Health (DOH) under the former administration, which have been found to pose health risks to more than 700,000 school children inoculated, and to hold accountable those responsible for the said purchase	
	HR 1520	Rep. Gonzaga	Inquiry into the alleged misappropriation of funds sourced from the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP) and the illegal and unauthorized use thereof	
	HR 1582	Minority Leader Suarez	Investigation into Sandra Cam's allegations of lavish expenditure on the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office's Christmas Party	
Health	HB 266	Rep. Villafuerte	Providing for the establishment of a women's and children's hospital in the Municipality of Pamplona in the Province of Camarines Sur to be known as the Bicol Women's and Children's hospital and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon) approved HB 266.

Continuation... Health	HB 6189	Rep. Siao	Establishing an annex hospital of the Northern Mindanao Medical Center in the Lone District of Iligan City to be known as the Northern Mindanao Medical Center-Iligan City Annex and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 6189 subject to style and amendment.
	HBs 1247, 3061, 3145 & 5370	Deputy Speaker Abueg, Reps. Relampagos, Savellano, and Lopez (M.L.)	Increasing the bed capacity of hospitals in certain parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the four bills subject to style and amendment.
	HBs 4439, 5140 & 6569	Reps. Bautista-Bandigan, Gullas and Lagman	Changing the names of district hospitals in certain parts of the country, increasing their bed capacities and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the three bills subject to style and amendment.
	HBs 220, 484, 2826, 4998 & 7028	Deputy Speaker Villarica, Reps. Villar, Suansing (E.), Aglipay-Villar, and Lanete	Integrating hospice and palliative care into the Philippine health care system and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to draft a substitute bill to the five bills.</p> <p>Rep. Linabelle Ruth Villarica (4th District, Bulacan), author of HB 220, said that integrating hospice and palliative care into the structure and financing of the country's health care system is in recognition of the World Health Assembly's call to make palliative care as a core component of integrated, people-centered health services.</p> <p>World Health Assembly is the decision-making body of the World Health Organization (WHO).</p> <p>Rep. Tan, who sponsored HB 2826 in behalf of the author, Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija), said that the bill ensures that palliative and hospice care will help improve the quality of life of patients with life-threatening illnesses and their families as well.</p> <p>Representatives from Department of Health (DOH), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Social Security System (SSS), and Philippine Hospital Association (PHA) expressed their support for the bill.</p>
	HBs 542, 893 & 1646	Reps. Yap (V.), Tan (A.), and Deputy Speaker Villarica	Strengthening the regulation of health facilities and services in the Philippines, repealing for the purpose RA 4226, otherwise known as the Hospital Licensure Act and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to draft a substitute bill to the three bills.</p> <p>PHA President Dr. Jesus Jardin suggested that the validity period of the license to operate and maintain a health facility should be extended to four years. He also requested that the PHA be consulted in the drafting of the proposed law's implementing rules and regulations (IRR).</p>
HB 6718	Rep. Advincula	Establishing a 50-bed capacity district hospital in the City of Imus, Province of Cavite, otherwise known as "Ospital ng Imus" and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee deferred its deliberation on HB 6718.	
Health jt. w/ Civil Service and Professional Regulation	HBs 539, 1605, 3529 & 4955	Reps. Yap (V.), Baguilat, Tan (A.), and Salo	Institutionalizing a pre-hospital emergency medical care system, providing for the establishment, supervision and regulation of the pre-hospital emergency care profession,	The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Sandra Eriguel, M.D. (2nd District, La Union), Vice Chair of the Committee on Health, and Rep. Divina Grace Yu (1st District, Zamboanga del Sur), Vice Chair of the Committee on Civil Service and Professional

Continuation... Health jt. w/ Civil Service and Professional Regulation			providing penalties for violations thereof and appropriating funds therefor	<p>Regulation, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to draft a substitute bill to the four bills.</p> <p>Reps. Tan and Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN), authors of HBs 3529 and 4955, respectively, said that their bills seek to institutionalize a pre-hospital emergency medical care system (EMS) in the country and create a National Emergency Medical Services System Council which will be tasked to formulate and implement policies and develop national standards for the provision of emergency medical services.</p> <p>Representatives from the Department of Health (DOH), Bureau of Immigration (BI), Civil Service Commission (CSC), Philippine College of Emergency Medicine (PCEM), and the Philippine Red Cross expressed their support for the bill but presented their respective recommendations to firm up certain provisions of the proposed law.</p>
Overseas Workers Affairs	HB 6519	Rep. Manalo	Creating the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) Sovereign Fund	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jesulito Manalo (Party-List, ANGKLA), approved HB 6519.
	HR 1485	Rep. Manalo	Inquiry into the reported anomalies and corruption in the issuance of overseas employment certificates (OEC) to OFWs by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), and to determine whether there are modifications to be made with respect to the latter's systems, processes or procedures	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 1485 in its next meeting.</p> <p>POEA Governing Board Vice Chairman Bernard Olalia informed the Committee that the reported anomalies and corruption in the issuance of overseas employment certificates (OEC) to OFWs are currently being investigated by the POEA's fact-finding committee. Olalia promised that POEA will furnish the Committee with a copy of the committee's report as soon as its investigation is completed.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Aniceto "John" Bertiz III (Party-List, ACTS OFW) informed the Committee about the allegations that Value Systems Philippines Inc., an IT management and consulting company, is still in possession and in control of the data system which holds all the data used for the Balik Manggagawa Online Processing System (BMOPS). This, despite the fact that Value System's contract, which expired in 2016, stipulates that it should surrender to the POEA all data systems and applications used for the program immediately after the expiration of the contract.</p> <p>BMOPS is a web-based program that determines if the OFW is exempted from securing an OEC.</p> <p>Rep. Bertiz added that the private company's possession of such important data can very well be in violation of RA 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012.</p> <p>Olalia said that he is not aware of this issue but promised just the same to look into the matter and report back to the Committee in the next meeting.</p>
Revision of Laws	HB 6285	Majority Leader Fariñas	Declaring January 18 of every year as a special nonworking holiday for all kasambahay in the entire country to be known as "Araw ng Kasambahay"	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Marlyn Primicias-Agabas (6 th District, Pangasinan), approved HB 6285.

<p>Continuation... Revision of Laws</p>				<p>Rep. Eugene Michael de Vera (Party-List, ABS) sponsored the bill in behalf of the author, Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1st District, Ilocos Norte), and manifested that the explanatory note attached to the bill be considered as the author's sponsorship speech.</p> <p>Rep. De Vera explained that the rationale behind the chosen date is in recognition of the day RA 10361 (Domestic Workers Act or Batas Kasambahay) was signed into law by then President Benigno Aquino III on January 18, 2013.</p> <p>Assistant Secretary for Legal, Legislative and International Affairs Joji Aragon of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) expressed full support to the bill in recognition of the invaluable service of the kasambahay to the Filipino household. She also mentioned that the declaration of "Araw ng Kasambahay" is in fact prescribed in RA 10361, the date of which shall be approved by the President.</p> <p>Aragon added that the activities for this special day may include the holding of special programs for the kasambahay such as skills training and capacity building seminars to be sponsored by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).</p> <p>Likewise, a Kasambahay Registration Day will be spearheaded by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) with the aim of improving the registration system of kasambahays where only 18,000 are recorded under the Registry of Domestic Workers in barangays, out of the 1.9 million official total estimates of kasambahays in the country.</p> <p>De Vera also conveyed that the low turnout of registered kasambahays per barangay is due to the rigorous documentary submission required by the local government which further discourages kasambahays to participate.</p>
	<p>HBs 387 & 3925</p>	<p>Reps. Ocampo and Vargas</p>	<p>Penalizing parents on the refusal or failure to give child support without justifiable cause</p>	<p>The Committee deferred consideration of the two bills until its next meeting in view of the absence of the principal authors.</p> <p>The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), through Social Welfare Officer Maribel Barcenas of DSWD's Protective Services Bureau (DSWD-PSB), informed the Committee that its position papers on the two bills will be submitted as soon as possible.</p>
<p>Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development jt. w/ Poverty Alleviation</p>	<p>HBs 450, 1105, 1839, 2307, 4729 & 6709</p>	<p>Reps. Belmonte (J.C.), Baguilat, Alejano, Fortun, Tambunting, and Yap (A.)</p>	<p>Ordaining the promotion of social enterprises to alleviate poverty, establishing for the purpose the Poverty Reduction Through Social Entrepreneurship (PRESENT) Program and providing incentives and benefits therefor</p>	<p>The Joint Committee, co-presided by Rep. Peter "Sr. Pedro" Unabia (1st District, Misamis Oriental), Chair of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development, and Rep. John Marvin "Yul Servo" Nieto (3rd District, Manila), Vice Chair of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation, will deliberate further on the six bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Lawrence "Law" Fortun (1st District, Agusan</p>

<p>Continuation... Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development jt. w/ Poverty Alleviation</p>				<p>del Norte), author of HB 2307, manifested that the explanatory note attached to his bill be included in the record as his sponsorship speech.</p> <p>HB 2307 seeks to provide the framework for the formulation, establishment and institutionalization of a program on poverty reduction through the development of a social enterprise sector with the poor as primary stakeholders.</p> <p>Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA) President Marie Lisa Dacanay presented the advocacies of the Poverty Reduction through Social Entrepreneurship (PRESENT) Coalition.</p> <p>According to Dacanay, the PRESENT Coalition is an alliance of various social enterprise practitioners and advocates, non-government organizations (NGOs), and members of the academe who have joined together to advance social entrepreneurship as an approach to poverty and economic development.</p> <p>Dacanay said social enterprises (SEs) are potential game changers in addressing poverty and inequality. As such, she underscored the need to enact an enabling law and implement a social entrepreneurship program as platform for multi-stakeholder cooperation and innovative public-private-people partnership.</p> <p>Resource persons from the Departments of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Agrarian Reform (DAR), Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Office of Civil Defense (OCD), and Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) expressed their support for the bills.</p> <p>However, resource persons from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Finance (DOF), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), and Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) opposed the creation of the Social Enterprise Development Council (SEDC) and suggested that its proposed functions be integrated into the Micro, Small and Medium Development (MSMED) Council, an agency attached to the DTI.</p> <p>With regard to the funding provisions of the bills, PAGCOR legal representative Rodrigo Silverio Jr. objects to the proposal that a portion of PAGCOR funds be tapped for implementing the proposed law, explaining that it is already remitting 50% share of its gaming revenues to the National Treasury.</p> <p>Likewise, resource persons from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and Social Security System (SSS) expressed their reservation on the earmarking of five percent of their “budget surplus” to form part of the SE Guarantee Fund Pool (SEGFP) because it does not fall under their mandate.</p>
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Continuation... Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development jt. w/ Poverty Alleviation				<p>With regard the incentives and benefits provision of the bills, BSP's Inclusive Finance Advocacy Office Director Pia Bernadette Tayag said that the proposed special credit window for SEs with no collateral requirement will expose banks to risks due to unsecured loans.</p> <p>DTI Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development (BSMED) OIC-Assistant Director Alicia Opeña suggested that the six bills being discussed be consolidated with other bills amending RA 6977 or The Magna Carta for Small Enterprises, as amended.</p> <p>The stakeholders present in the meeting were requested to submit their position papers on the proposed law.</p>
Women and Gender Equality	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 2592, 1471, 2664, 2850 & 5153	Deputy Speaker Villarica, Reps. Abayon, De Jesus, Cuaresma, and Tambunting	Defining electronic violence against women (eVAW) and their children, providing protective measures, and prescribing penalties, amending for the purpose RA 9262, otherwise known as the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Rep. Geraldine Roman (1st District, Bataan), approved the draft substitute bill subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Among the agreements reached during the meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the penalty for acts causing electronic violence against a woman or her child from <i>prision correccional</i> to <i>prision mayor</i>; • In cases of electronic violence, the complaint may be filed in the place where the victim learned of the offense committed; • Include the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), and two civil society organizations (CSOs) in the composition of the Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and their Children (IAC-VAWC); • Integrate in the proposed law the duties of an internet service provider (ISP) as provided for in Section 9 of RA 9775 (Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009); and • Add a provision on extra-territorial jurisdiction over e-VAWC cases.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Human Rights (Technical Working Group)	HBs 222, 714, 732, 1304, 2282 & 2790	Reps. Roque (H.), Belmonte (J.C.), Nograles (K.A.), Relampagos, Villarin, and Tambunting	Protecting the rights of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) and penalizing the acts of arbitrary internal displacement	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2nd District, Zambales), agreed to draft a substitute bill to the six measures using HB 714, authored by Rep. Jose Christopher Belmonte (6th District, Quezon City), as the working draft and incorporating therein the pertinent recommendations of the resource persons.</p> <p>The substitute bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p>

<p>Continuation... Human Rights (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>Among the agreements reached during the TWG meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt the definition of the term “arbitrary internal displacement” under HB 2282, authored by Rep. Tom Villarin (Party-List, AKBAYAN); • Include Sections 17 (Damages), 18 (Liabilities), and 19 (Financial Assistance to IDPs) of HB 714 in the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the proposed law instead; and • Exclude the Members of Congress from the membership of the proposed Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee that will monitor the implementation of the proposed law. <p>Rep. Villarin noted that the “aggressive” implementation of development projects, such as if they involve land conversion, causes deprivation of rights and displacement of people.</p> <p>Analisa Ugay, advocacy officer of the Balay Rehabilitation Center, explained that the implementation of development projects, whether big or small, causes displacement of people. However, she emphasized that these people should be afforded protection, just compensation and resettlement.</p> <p>Department of Justice (DOJ) state counsel Paulito de Jesus opined that any implementation of development projects is imbued with public interest and should therefore be given due consideration.</p> <p>However, Rep. Deloso-Montalla pointed out that the main objective of the proposed law is to protect the IDPs, adding that there is a need to balance development with the welfare of the IDPs.</p>
<p>Public Order and Safety (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>HBs 2741, 5830, 6250, 6433 & 6662</p>	<p>Reps. Biazon, Cuaresma, Bertiz, Alejano, and Villafuerte</p>	<p>Mandating all law enforcement officers and personnel of all government institutions, agencies and subdivisions to wear body cameras during law enforcement operations and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Makmod Mending (Party-List, AMIN), will deliberate further on the five bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, author of HB 2741, explained that his bill seeks to mandate the wearing of body cameras by all law enforcers except those from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). The purpose of wearing such equipment is to deter the commission of human rights violations by law enforcement officers as well as to protect them from wrongful or false accusations, with the video recording serving as a solid evidence, Biazon said.</p> <p>The resource persons from the following government agencies expressed support for the bills, with some of them presenting their respective comments on the proposed law: Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), Philippine National Police (PNP), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM), Bureau of Immigration (BI), and Department of Science and Technology (DOST).</p> <p>The PCG, NAPOLCOM and PDEA informed the TWG that they have already procured body camera equipment for their personnel, while the PNP said it has received body cameras as donations from the local government units (LGUs). In addition, the PNP disclosed that a P334 million budget has already been allocated for the procurement of such cameras, but added that there is no</p>

Continuation... Public Order and Safety (Technical Working Group)				<p>actual utilization yet pending the issuance of the implementing guidelines.</p> <p>On the other hand, Bureau of Customs (BOC) Deputy Commissioner Teddy Raval conveyed to the TWG that the BOC rarely conducts field operations other than its visits to certain establishments to check on the payment of duties and taxes. As such, he said the wearing of body cameras by BOC personnel may not be that essential as compared with other law enforcement personnel.</p> <p>As for the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and the Department of Justice (DOJ), the agencies had reservations particularly on the proposed law's potential violation of a person's right to privacy.</p> <p>The DOST was requested to submit the appropriate technical specifications of the body camera equipment.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Foreign Affairs	Briefing by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on issues concerning the passport appointment system	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Anna Cristina Siquian Go (2nd District, Isabela), listened to the report of the DFA on the measures it adopted to improve the passport appointment system in view of numerous complaints, particularly about the difficulty of getting an appointment date to apply for a passport.</p> <p>DFA Undersecretary Jose Luis Montales admitted that there is a wide gap between the demand for passports and DFA's capacity to receive and process applications.</p> <p>However, the DFA has adopted the following mitigating measures to significantly narrow this gap:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of 1,200 appointment slots previously reserved daily for travel agencies effective August 01, 2017; • Restriction on DFA employees' access and authority to refer applicants to the courtesy lane; • Increase in the daily processing capacity of DFA-Aseana from 1,900 to 3,300 applications; • Cancellation of bogus passport appointments reaching to 57,000 slots; • Prohibition of overbooking of appointments in the different consular offices; • Opening of courtesy lane to the following: senior citizens and one family member; persons with disabilities (PWDs) and one family member; children aged seven and below and their parents and minor siblings; pregnant women; returning overseas Filipino workers (OFWs); and solo parents and their minor children; • Launching of a portal for first time OFWs on January 19, 2018 with an allocation of 1,000 slots/day; • Opening of additional consular offices in Ilocos Norte, Isabela, Bulacan, Laguna, Rizal, Misamis Occidental, and Davao del Norte; • Opening of foreign service posts in the cities of Houston, Copenhagen, Frankfurt and Al-Khobar; • Implementation of the DFA e-payment system; • Increase in the DFA website's bandwidth from 40 mbps to 100 mbps; and • Mandating Saturday work or third shift in DFA-Aseana.

OTHER MATTERS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Overseas Workers Affairs	Discussion on the status of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Trust Fund	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jesulito Manalo (Party-List, ANGKLA), discussed with OWWA the status of the latter's Trust Fund.</p> <p>OWWA Administrator Hans Leo Cacdac reported that as of December 2017, the Trust Fund has reached P19.3 billion, out of which the sea-based account amounts to P4.7 billion which represents 24% share in OWWA's equity or net worth.</p> <p>OWWA fund is a single trust fund pooled from the US\$25.00 membership contributions of foreign employers, land-based and sea-based workers, investment and interest income, and income from other sources. (<i>Source: OWWA website</i>)</p> <p>Rep. Manalo informed Cacdac of the sea-based OFWs' request for OWWA programs that will help improve their competence, particularly at the management level. The same sentiment was echoed by Capt. Ronald Enrile, who asked OWWA to set up courses, such as ship work management and vessel maintenance, to improve the seafarers' competency. Enrile is a director of the Joint Manning Group (JMG), an umbrella organization of independent, well-established and long standing maritime and manning associations in the country.</p> <p>Cacdac took note of their suggestions and said that the OWWA Board has already approved the subsidy for management level courses. He added that plans for the establishment of courses for non-maritime graduates who wish to cross over to the industry are also being studied.</p>