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17th Congress
Second Regular Session

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources	Substitute Bill to HBs 2178 & 4015	Reps. Santos-Recto and Romero	Establishing the National Mariculture Program, and providing funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Luis "Jon-Jon" Ferrer IV (6th District, Cavite), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HBs 2178 and 4015.
	Substitute Bills to HBs 788, 1410, 1411, 6110 & 6151	Reps. Gullas, Amante, and Mercado	Establishing fish ports in the Provinces of Cebu, Agusan del Norte, and Southern Leyte and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Committee Reports on the substitute bills to the five measures.
	Substitute Bills to HBs 407, 1363, 1412, 1961, 1962, 3063, 3554, 3576, 4455-4461, 4680, 5331, & 6289-6292	Reps. Vargas-Alfonso, Amante, Suansing (E.), Marquez, Bravo (M.), Dalipe, Tupas, Veloso, Dimaporo (M.K.), and Villafuerte	Establishing fisheries and aquatic resources research and training centers, breeding farms/stations, and hatcheries in various parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Committee Reports on the substitute bills to the 21 measures.
	HBs 48 & 2126	Reps. Fortun and Salimbangon	Establishing marine protected areas in all coastal municipalities and cities	<p>The Committee approved HBs 48 and 2126 subject to style and amendment. The Secretariat was directed to refer the bills to the Committee on Appropriations for review of their funding provisions.</p> <p>Rep. Lawrence "Law" Fortun (1st District, Agusan del Norte), author of HB 48, informed the Committee that a bill with similar subject matter was approved on third reading during the 16th Congress.</p>
	HBs 6392, 6488, 6489, 6490 & 6502	Reps. Acosta, Gonzalez, and Dimaporo (A.)	Establishing multi-species breeding farms and marine hatcheries in the Provinces of Palawan, Albay, and Lanao del Norte and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved the five bills subject to style and amendment. The Secretariat was directed to refer the bills to the Committee on Appropriations for review of their funding provisions.</p> <p>Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) head Dan Baliao informed the Committee that putting up multi-species breeding farms and marine hatcheries requires sites survey, feasibility studies, and rigid training of people to run their operations. (SEAFDEC is a regional treaty organization established in 1967 to promote fisheries development in Southeast Asia.)</p>

Continuation... Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources				<p>Rep. Jesulito Manalo (Party-List, ANGKLA) proposed that a short term course in aquaculture be offered to students to entice them to enroll in this course.</p> <p>Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Region IV-A Assistant Regional Director Roberto Abrera was requested to submit a report on Palawan's best practices in putting up hatcheries.</p> <p>Likewise, Dr. Benjamin Gonzales from the Western Philippines University was asked to provide data on the number of students who graduated from aquaculture course, those currently enrolled, and those who shifted to other courses.</p>
Games and Amusements	HB 2958	Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo	Creating an Amusement Parks Safety Board	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Gus Tambunting (2nd District, Parañaque City), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate HBs 2958 and 6424.</p> <p>Senior Inspector Rodolfo Pfeleider Jr., chief of the Bureau of Fire Protection's (BFP) Hearing Office, while expressing support for the bills, suggested the inclusion of two provisions that will give more teeth to the proposed law, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include civil, penal and administrative sanctions, as may be appropriate, in case of violations; and • Create an operating unit, preferably per city or municipality, which shall be tasked to conduct periodic inspections of amusement parks within their area of jurisdiction. The operating unit shall come from the Office of the Building Official/Municipal Engineering Office or City/Municipal Fire Station of the BFP. <p>Cynthia Mamon, chief operating officer of Enchanted Kingdom and a representative of the Philippine Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (PAAPA), recommended that the coverage of the proposed law be expanded to include mobile carnivals (<i>perya</i>) and sports amusement parks promoting wake boarding, zipline sports and other amusement sports that are not regulated by any government entity.</p> <p>Iligan City Rep. Frederick Siao, author of HB 6424, concurred with the proposal of Mamon.</p> <p>Department of Budget and Management (DBM) legal officer Avvy Cristabelle Alba cautioned that the creation of a regulatory board, as espoused in HB 2958, would create another layer in the bureaucracy. According to Alba, the functions of the proposed</p>
	HB 6424	Rep. Siao	Requiring operators of amusement or theme parks and adventure or extreme sports facilities to institutionalize safety measures and secure comprehensive general liability insurance coverage for their clients	

Continuation... Games and Amusements				<p>Amusement Parks Safety Board are already being performed by the local government units (LGUs). She suggested instead that LGUs should be more stringent in the issuance of permits to operate amusement parks.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN) relative to the insurance coverage for Enchanted Kingdom's clients, Mamon said that the amusement park's clients are covered with a third party comprehensive liability insurance.</p> <p>Department of Tourism (DOT) Assistant Secretary Frederick Alegre supports the objective of the bills in promoting the safety of clients of amusement or theme parks, especially now that they are considered tourist attractions.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their position papers on the bills.</p>
Government Enterprises and Privatization	HB 6337	Rep. Mercado	Establishing an office of Pag-IBIG Fund in Maasin City, Southern Leyte	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jesus Nonato Saccalan (1 st District, North Cotabato), approved HB 6337.
Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. w/ Public Information	HB 6271	Rep. Mercado	Mandating the transfer of Radyo ng Bayan DYSL in Sogod to Liloan, Southern Leyte	The Joint Committee, co-presided by Rep. Jesus Nonato Saccalan (1 st District, North Cotabato), Chair of the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization, and Rep. Scott Davies Lanete, M.D. (3 rd District, Masbate) of the Committee on Public Information, approved HB 6271.
	HBs 2143 & 3064	Reps. Vargas and Almonte	Establishing the People's Broadcasting Corporation, abolishing the People's Television Network, Inc. (PTNI)	The Joint Committee will deliberate further on the four bills, which seek the amendment of the PTNI charter and its merger with the Bureau of Broadcast Services (Radyo ng Bayan).
	HB 2631	Rep. Atienza	Amending Section 9 of RA 7306 or the Charter of the PTNI, by allowing the PTNI to show live proceedings of the sessions and committee hearings of the Senate and House of Representatives from gavel to gavel and that such live proceedings must be shown without editing nor commentary	
	HB 5460	Rep. Alejano	Establishing an independent broadcast system in the country, providing funds therefor	The Joint Committee agreed that the concerns raised by the labor union of the Bureau of Broadcast Services, a government-run radio station, should be discussed together with the concerned agencies such as the Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Civil Service Commission (CSC), Office of the Government Corporate Counsel, and the Governance Commission for Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations (GCG).
	HR 133	Rep. Gomez	Calling for a review of the provisions and status of implementation of RA 10390 or the law revitalizing the PTNI, before transforming the government-run television network into a public service broadcaster	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 133.</p> <p>The PTNI and other state-run television networks, IBC 13 and RPN 9, were directed to submit a report on their operations and their financial statements.</p>
Government Enterprises and Privatization jt.	HB 1103	Rep. Castelo	Creating the Metro Rail Transit Regulatory Authority to oversee fare rates in public and/or private rail transit systems	The Joint Committee, co-presided by Rep. Jesus Nonato Saccalan (1 st District, North Cotabato), Chair of the Committee on

w/ Transportation and Legislative Franchises	HB 1265	Rep. Biazon	Establishing a national railway system in the Philippines, appropriating funds therefor	Government Enterprises and Privatization, Rep. Edgar Sarmiento (1 st District, Samar), Vice Chair of the Committee on Transportation, and Rep. Ma. Lourdes Aggabao (4 th District, Isabela) of the Committee on Legislative Franchises, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the eight measures. The TWG will be chaired by Baguio City Rep. Mark Go. The Governance Commission for Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations (GCG) expressed support for HB 6593, authored by Speaker Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez (1 st District, Davao del Norte). Rep. Sacdalan sponsored HB 6593 in behalf of the Speaker. HB 6593 seeks to decouple regulatory and proprietary functions in railways administration through the creation of a single regulatory body, the PNRA, and three independent government-owned railway entities for Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. The bill also requires government and private railway operators to secure legislative franchises. The TWG will use HB 6593 as the working draft since it is comprehensive and consistent with the government's present thrust to modernize railways administration in the country.
	HB 1911	Rep. Violago	Creating the Central Luzon Railways Corporation, prescribing its power, functions and duties, and providing funds therefor	
	HB 5458	Rep. Alejano	Instituting the Philippine National Railway Authority (PNRA)	
	HBs 6593 & 6959	Speaker Alvarez and Rep. Sy-Alvarado	Restructuring the Philippine national railway system, creating the PNRA, regulating the operations of the Philippine Railways Corporations, appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 6837	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Accelerating the development of a national railway system, creating for the purpose the National Railway Authority (NRA), prescribing its powers, functions, and duties	
	HR 203	Rep. Castelo	Calling on the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to lay down the framework for the general refurbishment of the Philippine National Railways' (PNR) mass transport system	
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Energy	HB 5020	Speaker Alvarez	Abolishing the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), creating for the purpose the Board of Energy as an attached agency of the Department of Energy (DOE)	The Joint Committee, co-presided by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, Chair of the Committee on Energy, agreed to deliberate further on HB 5020 in its next meeting. Rep. Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN), who sponsored the bill on behalf of the author, Speaker Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez (1 st District, Davao del Norte), discussed the salient features of the proposed law. ERC OIC-Executive Director Ma. Corazon Gines made a brief presentation of ERC's mandate, power and functions, and organizational structure. ERC Chair Agnes Devanadera apprised the Committee of the status of the suspension order issued by the Office of the Ombudsman against four ERC commissioners allegedly involved in anomalous power supply agreements. Devanadera admitted that the problems and controversies besetting the ERC have created a substantial impact on the efficiency of the

<p>Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ Energy</p>				<p>operations of the Commission and on the morale of its employees who fear losing their jobs. Nonetheless, Devanadera assured the Committee that the ERC continues to realign some of its policies and implement changes in order to meet the demands of the job and address the problems of the Commission.</p> <p>Minority Leader Danilo Suarez (3rd District, Quezon) underscored the need to study the current set-up of the ERC and compare it with similar bodies in other countries.</p> <p>Reps. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara (3rd District, Nueva Ecija) and Carlos Roman Uybarreta (Party-List, 1-CARE) expressed the view that the ERC should be maintained as an independent regulatory commission.</p> <p>Rep. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL) emphasized the need to delineate the functions of the DOE and ERC to address overlapping of functions, with DOE focusing on policy-making and the ERC on regulatory functions.</p> <p>The following resource persons support the strengthening of the ERC instead of replacing it with the proposed Board of Energy: from the government, National Electrification Administration (NEA), National Power Corporation (NPC), and National Grid Corporation (NGCP); and from civil society organization, the United Filipino Consumers and Commuters.</p> <p>On the other hand, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and National Transmission Corporation (TransCo) conveyed their support to any move that would promote efficiency and transparency in the delivery of service to the electric consumers.</p> <p>Rep. Velasco informed the Committee that he has authored a bill which seeks to reorganize and strengthen the ERC and renaming it as the Philippine Power Regulatory Commission.</p> <p>Rep. Romualdo explained that the body has to discuss whether there is a need to abolish the ERC as espoused in the bill or just institute reforms in the Commission.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit to the Committee their proposed reforms for the ERC for consideration in its next meeting.</p>
<p>Government Reorganization jt. w/ Public Works and Highways</p>	<p>HB 2394</p>	<p>Rep. Zarate</p>	<p>Abolishing the motor vehicle user's charge, repealing for the purpose RA 8794, otherwise known as the Motor Vehicle User's Charge Act, and rechanneling the same for the establishment of a mass transport system support fund</p>	<p>The Joint Committee, co-presided by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Deogracias Ramos Jr. (2nd District, Sorsogon), Vice Chair of the Committee on Public Works and Highways, agreed to hold an executive session to</p>

Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ Public Works and Highways	HBs 3278, 3855, 4466, 5683 & 6236	Reps. Ocampo, Bravo (A.), Go (A.), Tan (A.), and Majority Leader Fariñas	Abolishing the Road Board and transferring its powers and functions to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Transportation (DOTr), amending for the purpose RA 8794	continue its discussion of the issues relative to the six bills.
Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples	Substitute Bill to HB 115	Rep. Baguilat	Recognizing, protecting and strengthening the indigenous peoples and local communities conserved areas and territories (ICCA), acknowledging their contribution to biodiversity conservation and protection of key biodiversity areas, and establishing the National ICCA Registry, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, presided by its acting Chair Rep. Amihilda Sangcopan (Party-List, AMIN), approved the Substitute Bill to HB 115.
Local Government jt. w/ Muslim Affairs and Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity	HBs 92, 6121, 6263 & 6475	Deputy Speaker Sema, Reps. Macapagal- Arroyo & Dimaporo (M.K.), and Speaker Alvarez	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>The Joint Committee, chaired by Reps. Pedro Acharon Jr. (1st District, South Cotabato and General Santos City), Mauyag "Jun" Papandayan Jr. (2nd District, Lanao del Sur), and Ruby Sahali (Tawi-Tawi), for the Committees on Local Government and on Muslim Affairs and the Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, respectively, considered the Joint Subcommittee Report and agreed to use the attached draft substitute bill as the working draft in the deliberations at the Joint Committee level.</p> <p>Rep. Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II (1st District, Zamboanga Sibugay), chairman of the Joint Subcommittee, promised to furnish the Members a summary of the adopted provisions and issues tackled by the Joint Subcommittee.</p> <p>The Chairpersons of the three Committees expressed their gratitude to Rep. Palma for leading the Joint Subcommittee in its task of studying and consolidating the four bills.</p> <p>Afterwards, the Joint Committee approved and adopted with amendments its Rules of Procedure for the task of crafting the Basic Law for the Bangsamoro.</p> <p>The Joint Committee also announced that the series of meetings for the proposed law will be held Mondays to Wednesdays from February 5 to March 21, 2018, while the public consultations will be held Thursdays to Saturdays from February 8 to March 10, 2018.</p>
People's Participation	HRs 780 & 799	Reps. Batocabe and Mangaoang	Inquiry into the status of implementation of RA 9418 or the Volunteer Act of 2007, and on the various volunteering efforts undertaken by the concerned national government agencies (NGAs), local government units (LGUs), and other stakeholders towards national development	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Maria Valentina Plaza (1st District, Agusan del Sur), discussed with various agencies the status of their implementation of RA 9418.</p> <p>Civil Service Commission's (CSC) Public Assistance and Information Office Director Maria Luisa Salonga-Agamata informed the Committee that the CSC issued Memorandum Circular No. 2, series of 2012, enjoining all heads of agencies to establish and implement</p>

Continuation... People's Participation				<p>volunteer programs, on top of the agencies' regular mandate and functions, and to promote the value of volunteerism in the public sector.</p> <p>Similarly, Chief Education Program Specialist Nena Asingjo of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) said that volunteer programs are also incorporated in the schools' National Service Training Program (NSTP).</p> <p>As for the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Capacity Building Bureau Assistant Director Leah Mejias mentioned that DSWD's volunteer programs are classified into three categories: community-based; center-based; and disaster response or <i>bayanihan</i>-based.</p> <p>Commissioner James Ceasar Ventura of the National Youth Commission (NYC) explained that the NYC establishes and maintains linkages with organizations and agencies that are willing to support its programs and advocacies, and that help provide voluntary work for youth volunteers.</p> <p>Other agencies which also reported on their respective volunteer programs were: Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA), and Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP).</p> <p>Considering that volunteerism is a component of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Arriane Alligayu and Timothy Gabuna, representatives from the Habitat-Philippines and the Philippine Coalition on Volunteerism, respectively, also presented their volunteer programs and partnership projects.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit to the Committee a comprehensive report on their volunteerism plans and programs, including pictures showing their accomplishments.</p>
	Privilege Speech 310	Rep. Villarín	Essence of democracy and value of dissent	The Committee agreed to refer the privilege speech to the Archives.
Population and Family Relations	Substitute Bill to HB 6446	Deputy Speaker Cayetano	Recognizing the valid foreign decree of termination of marriage or divorce and allowing its subsequent registration with the Philippine Civil Registry, amending for the purpose EO 209, otherwise known as the Family Code of the Philippines	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sol Aragonés (3rd District, Laguna), approved the Substitute Bill to HB 6446 subject to style and amendment and the corresponding Committee Report.
Women and Gender Equality	HB 6595	Speaker Alvarez	Recognizing the civil partnership of couples, providing for their rights and obligations	The Committee chaired by Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy (Party-List, BAGONG HENERASYON), agreed to draft a Substitute Bill to HB 6595, incorporating therein the

Continuation...
Women and
Gender Equality

relevant recommendations of the resource persons.

Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu), co-author of HB 6595, explained that the bill allows couples, whether they are of the opposite or of the same sex, to enter into civil partnership and gives them due recognition and protection from the State. The bill also penalizes unlawful and discriminatory practices committed by persons or institutions against them on the basis of their civil partnership.

Representatives from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) expressed support for the bill. The PSA said that the bill, once enacted into law, will ease the burden of couples, who obtained civil partnership abroad, trying to seek the same legal recognition in the country. GSIS manifested that it is amenable to adjusting its social security and insurance system to cover civil partners willing to pay their insurance premiums upon enactment of a law recognizing civil partnership.

Likewise, representatives from the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), Democratic Socialist Women of the Philippines (DSWP), National Youth Commission (NYC), and Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) also expressed support for the bill, citing the Constitutional right of all Filipinos to equal protection of the laws.

Rep. Michelle Antonio (Party-List, AGBIAG) said that she supports the bill as long as it will only cover the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community, and not those who can enter into marriage under the Philippine laws as husband and wife and enjoy the rights of married couple. She emphasized that the sanctity of marriage must be protected and promoted by the State as enshrined in the Constitution.

Rep. Micaela Violago (2nd District, Nueva Ecija) recommended the inclusion in the bill of provisions that will better protect children of either contracting party or adopted children of civil partners, specifically from the psychological effect due to the civil partnership.

Bishop Reuben Abante of the Light House Bible Baptist Church (Light House BBC) said he supports the bill for as long as it does not violate the sanctity of marriage.

However, other religious groups, Intercessors for the Philippines, Inc. and Bible Mode, clearly objected to the bill, arguing that marriage is inviolable and should be protected by the

Continuation... Women and Gender Equality				<p>State, and that cohabiting should be discouraged.</p> <p>The Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) promised to submit their position papers on the bill.</p>
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SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Subcommittee on Correctional Reforms (Justice)	Update on the proliferation of illegal drug syndicates and illegal drug trade in the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) located in Muntinlupa City	<p>The Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Henry Oaminal (2nd District, Misamis Occidental), agreed to recommend the creation of a Congressional Oversight Committee to oversee the implementation and institutionalize the proposed reform measures at the NBP and to synchronize the anti-illegal drug operations of other concerned government agencies inside the NBP.</p> <p>Rep. Oaminal stated that the purpose of today's meeting is to find out what actions have been taken so far by the concerned government agencies in relation to the recommendations made by the Committee contained in Committee Report No. 14 on HR 105, which called for an investigation into the proliferation of drug syndicates and illegal drug trade in the NBP.</p> <p>Based on recent reports, Rep. Oaminal added, the illegal drug trade inside the national penitentiary has not been resolved and what is more disturbing is that the number of drug leaders even increased with the emergence of new players.</p> <p>Intelligence and Investigation Service Acting Director Jigger Montallana of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) confirmed that several illegal drug transactions detected by the PDEA have indeed been traced to have originated from the NBP, and some of these transactions involve Chinese drug lord inmates who were not in PDEA's radar before.</p> <p>PDEA Plans and Operations Service Director Majarani Gadaoni-Tosoc reported that PDEA has renewed its memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) relative to its anti-illegal drug operations inside the NBP.</p> <p>Under this MOA, PDEA has installed a satellite office inside the NBP, and deployed 15 personnel/drug enforcement agents and three canine handlers with three narcotic detection dogs.</p> <p>Atty. Frederick Anthony Santos, chief of BuCor's Internal Affairs Service (BuCor-IAS), apprised the Committee that one of the measures to contain or stop the illegal drug trade inside the prison facility is to prohibit the formation of gangs and to dismantle existing ones. He also said that the NBP's area is now divided into quadrants to limit the movements of inmates.</p> <p>On the other hand, Undersecretary Antonio Kho Jr. of the Department of Justice (DOJ) refuted earlier claims of continuous proliferation of illegal drugs in the NBP saying that the major players in this illegal trade are already confined in Building No. 14, where strict measures are being implemented to prevent them from reverting to their old ways. (The NBP is being administered by BuCor, which is under the DOJ.)</p> <p>Rep. Oaminal asked about the reason for the transfer of some high-profile inmates from Building 14 (inside the maximum security</p>

Continuation... Subcommittee on Correctional Reforms (Justice)		<p>compound) to the medium security compound of the NBP during the time of BuCor Director General Benjamin de los Santos.</p> <p>NBP Superintendent Roberto Rabo Sr. explained that the transfer was for security reason because of a stabbing incident that occurred in Building 14. Rabo added that nine inmates who testified against Senator Leila de Lima were admitted into the witness protection program (WPP) of the government, thus were transferred to the medium security compound of the NBP.</p> <p>Rabo also disclosed that the cellphone signal jammers at the prison facility are now in poor condition and that it currently relies on the <i>Oplan Galugad</i> (jail search or inspection) operations of the Philippine National Police (PNP).</p> <p>The PDEA was requested to submit to the Committee a copy of its MOA with BuCor, a detailed report on the result of its anti-drug operations inside the NBP, and the names of new Chinese drug lords operating in the prison facility.</p> <p>Likewise, the BuCor was requested to furnish the Committee a copy of the resignation letter of former Director General De los Santos, and to submit reports on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative measures taken by BuCor to combat illegal drug trade in prison facilities; • Inmates who qualified under the WPP and their whereabouts; • BuCor's fund utilization; • Total number of cellphone jammers and their range and the number of jammers that are broken; and • <i>Oplan Galugad</i> operations.
	Update on the planned transfer of the NBP from Muntinlupa City to Fort Magsaysay in Laur, Nueva Ecija	<p>DOJ Undersecretary Kho informed the Committee that the transfer will not push through due to the huge amount of funds involved. The DOJ decided instead to just rehabilitate the existing prison facility.</p> <p>The Undersecretary was requested to submit to the Committee the DOJ's rehabilitation and expansion plan for the NBP.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agrarian Reform (Technical Working Group)	HB 5085	Rep. Baguilat	Regulating the establishment and implementation of agribusiness venture arrangements (AVAs) in agrarian reform lands	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Ifugao Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr., will deliberate further on HB 5085 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Baguilat, also the author of HB 5085, said that his bill seeks to strengthen the regulation and operation of agribusiness venture arrangements (AVAs) to ensure that the rights and interests of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) are protected when they enter into a collaborative agribusiness venture with the private sector. Rep. Baguilat also informed the TWG that a bill with similar subject matter was approved at the Committee level last 16th Congress.</p>

Continuation... Agrarian Reform (Technical Working Group)				<p>The TWG focused its discussion on Sections 2 to 6 of HB 5085.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill.</p>
Public Order and Safety (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HB 6208	Majority Leader Fariñas	Establishing the Philippine Legislative Police (PLP) and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2nd District, Pangasinan), terminated its deliberations on the Substitute Bill to HB 6208, incorporating therein the comments and suggestions of the resource persons. The substitute bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>To underscore the urgency and importance of establishing Congress' own police force to take care of the security of its Members, Rep. Bataoil cited the recent grenade blast that occurred in the Province of Abra where two of the wounded were Abra Rep. Joseph Sto. Niño Bernos and his wife La Paz Mayor Menchie Bernos.</p> <p>Sergeant-at-Arms Roland Detabali of the House of Representatives (HRep) recommended that the PLP adopt the same organizational structure as the PNP, but be given its own uniform and ranks in order to distinguish it from other police forces.</p> <p>On the other hand, the resource persons from some government agencies recommended that another name for the PLP be adopted, removing the word "police" to avoid possible conflict with the "one police force" provision of the 1987 Philippine Constitution (Article XVI, Sec. 6). They are from the Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC).</p> <p>In addition, the resource persons also presented the following suggestions for consideration by the mother Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving the PLP Board sole jurisdiction to examine and make recommendations on complaints filed against its officers and members; and • Ensuring there is a unity of command by having the PLP oversee the operations of both Houses of Congress. <p>Armando Razon of the Port Police Department, Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), recommend that PLP functions should be focused primarily on the security of the Members of Congress, leaving the exercise of police functions to the PNP.</p>

<p>Continuation... North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>		<p>the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 is so low. Idefonso added that there is an inadequate number of sanitary landfills in Regions 1, II and the CAR largely due to the high cost of putting up one.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go said that Baguio City spends more than P100 million yearly for the hauling of non-biodegradable waste from the city to a private landfill in Capas, Tarlac.</p> <p>Idefonso suggested that Baguio City may consider turning solid waste into energy as this has become a trend in other countries and might very well be the solution to the country's garbage and energy woes. He also advised the LGUs to group themselves into clusters to allow them to pool their resources for the construction of sanitary landfills.</p> <p>The Committee asked Idefonso to submit a position paper on the solid waste management plan.</p>
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Briefing by the Department of Transportation (DOTr) on safety and other issues relating to the operation of the Metro Rail Transit Line 3 (MRT-3)</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, focused its discussion on the question of whether or not the MRT-3 is still a safe mode of transportation after reports indicate an increasing number of glitches in the system resulting in the offloading of passengers.</p> <p>Committee Members believe that the MRT-3 Transition Management Team, which the government organized to temporarily take over the maintenance of the MRT-3 system while waiting for the next firm that will provide such services, has no expertise on the matter.</p> <p>In November 2017, the DOTr issued a notice to terminate the maintenance contract with Busan Universal Rail Inc. (BURI) citing, among others, poor maintenance performance that resulted in train derailments, passenger offloading, and stoppages of MRT operations. The DOTr also cited the failure of BURI to meet its obligations to procure spare parts and deliver efficient and reliable trains under its contract.</p> <p>Engr. Oscar Bongon, chief of the Engineering Division of the MRT-3, apprised the Committee that it has started to upgrade the MRT-3's signaling system since December 2017 shortly after the termination of BURI's contract.</p> <p>When asked by Rep. Edgar Sarmiento (1st District, Samar) on the number of active train sets, Bongon replied that the MRT-3 is currently operating at an average of 10 train sets per day but can go down to as low as seven when there are technical problems.</p> <p>MRT-3 Director for Operations Michael Capati made the commitment that passengers will experience better train service after the delivery of the train spare parts by the 2nd and 3rd week of February.</p> <p>Meanwhile, DOTr Undersecretary Timothy John Batan reported on the government-to-government agreement between the Philippines and Japan to rehabilitate the MRT-3. He said that representatives from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will conduct a systems audit next week to determine the extent of work to be done.</p> <p>Speaker Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez (1st District, Davao del Norte) chided MRT-3 General Manager Rodolfo Garcia for not being able to resolve the problems besetting MRT-3 up to now, questioning the latter's management capability in the process.</p> <p>Garcia tried to explain the measures being undertaken by MRT-3 but the Speaker could not be convinced as these have already been proven to be ineffective.</p>

<p>Transportation jt. w/ Public Works and Highways</p>	<p>Briefing on the Traffic Management Plan (TMP), timeline, and right-of-way (ROW) acquisition for projects under the government's "Build, Build, Build" (B3) Program</p>	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento of the Committee on Transportation and Rep. Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City) of the Committee on Public Works and Highways, focused its discussion on how to mitigate the impact of B3 projects on the traffic situation in Metro Manila.</p> <p>The Joint Committee noted that while the success of the big ticket projects of the administration would be beneficial to the economy, the simultaneous implementation of these projects have significantly contributed to the traffic congestion in Metro Manila. Thus, it is important for the Joint Committee to know whether these projects have effective traffic management plans (TMP), whether the timelines for these projects are being observed, and whether problems concerning road right-of-way (ROW) acquisitions are being resolved promptly.</p> <p>Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Undersecretary Roberto Bernardo appealed for more time to prepare a comprehensive list of ongoing projects in Metro Manila with their corresponding TMPs and timelines.</p> <p>Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur) blamed the stalled projects of the DPWH for the worsening traffic congestion in Metro Manila.</p> <p>Bernardo explained that the delay could be attributed partly to the Metro Manila Development Authority's (MMDA) long process of issuing permits and clearances.</p> <p>MMDA Traffic Engineering Sector Director Noemi Recio reported that MMDA has already streamlined the process of issuing permits including reducing the number of signatories from three to one. The MMDA now issues clearances within five to eight days upon submission of complete requirements.</p> <p>Given the lack of a comprehensive and integrated TMP for Metro Manila to manage traffic while major infrastructure projects are being implemented, the Committee recommended the creation of an inter-agency committee, which will include as members the DPWH, MMDA, Department of Transportation (DOTr), and Metro Manila Council, to do the job.</p> <p>On resolving ROW acquisition issues, Supreme Court Deputy Court Administrator Raul Villanueva stressed that RA 10752 or the Right-of-Way Act already prescribes the legal processes and solutions. He opined that the government need not resort to expropriation but may explore the negotiated sale option to arrive at an agreement favorable to both the government and the landowner.</p> <p>Meanwhile, DPWH Legal Service Director Estrella Decena-Zaldivar pointed out that under RA 10752, the current market value of the property is used as basis for computing just compensation, but it is the zonal valuation that is being used as basis for the amount to be deposited in court for purposes of expropriation. These conflicting provisions in the law must be remedied, she said.</p>
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