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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		
Agrarian Reform	HB 6737	Rep. Bautista-Bandigan	Establishing a Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) provincial office in the Municipality of Malita, Province of Davao Occidental and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rene Relampagos (1st District, Bohol), approved HB 6737.
Appropriations	Substitute Bill to HBs 143, 3486 & 5945	Reps. Acosta-Alba, Escudero, and Belaro	Providing for the delineation of the specific forest limits of the public domain	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles (1st District, Davao City), approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 143, 3486 and 5945.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 182, 812, 970, 1220, 1527, 2388, 2540 & 3040	Reps. Olivarez, Batocabe, Romualdez, Umali, Macapagal-Arroyo, Abad, Tambunting, and Roque (H.)	Institutionalizing energy efficiency and conservation, enhancing the efficient use of energy, granting incentives to energy efficiency and conservation projects	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to the eight bills with amendments.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 350, 547, 3275, 4748, 5216 & 5233	Deputy Speaker Quimbo, Reps. Escudero, Roque (H.), Alejano, Chipeco, and Speaker Alvarez	Further strengthening the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) by increasing its powers and functions, and redefining, expanding, and rationalizing its organization, repealing for the purpose Republic Acts 9417 and 2327, and Executive Orders 1 and 2, s. 1986, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to the six bills subject to style and amendment.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 2733, 3292, 3706, 4029, 4307, 4386 & 6039	Reps. Gonzales (A.D.), Villarin, Romualdez, Belaro, Robes, Herrera-Dy, and Villafuerte	Institutionalizing the alternative learning system (ALS) in the basic education for out-of-school children, youth and adults, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and other marginalized sectors of the society, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to the seven bills with amendments.
	Substitute Bill to HB 5898	Majority Leader Fariñas	Granting survivorship benefits to the dependent children of a deceased retired member of the Commission on Audit (COA), Civil Service Commission (CSC), Commission on Elections (COMELEC), and the Ombudsman who is a solo parent or the surviving parents or nominated persons of such deceased retiree, amending for the purpose RA 10084, entitled "An Act granting survivorship benefits to the surviving legitimate spouse	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 5898 with amendments.

Continuation... Appropriations			of a deceased retired member of the COA, CSC, COMELEC and the Ombudsman”	
	Substitute Bill to HB 1418	Rep. Garcia (J.E.)	Creating the Metro Bataan Development Authority, defining its powers and functions, providing funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 1418 with amendments.
	Substitute Bill to HB 1419	Rep. Garcia (J.E.)	Creating the Manila Bay Development Authority, prescribing its powers, functions and duties, providing funds therefor	The Committee deferred consideration of the substitute bill pending the results of the deliberation amending RA 4850 (Laguna Lake Development Authority Act of 1966) by the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization. According to Rep. Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2nd District, Bataan), author of HB 1419, his measure is patterned after the LLDA Act.
	HBs 343 & 3897	Reps. Romualdez and Zarate	Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act	The Committee will deliberate further on the proposed budget reform bills in its next meeting with HB 5590 as the lead bill.
	HBs 930 & 2828	Rep. Abaya and Deputy Speaker Andaya	Instilling fiscal discipline in the public sector by establishing the principle of responsible financial management and promoting full transparency and accountability in government revenue, expenditure and borrowing programs	As author of HB 5590, Rep. Nograles relinquished his chairmanship to Committee Vice Chair Rep. Mark Aeron Sambar (Party-List, PBA) during the deliberation on the budget reform bills. The Committee Members raised their respective concerns with regard to the country's transition to a cash-based budgeting system, with some of them asking how it will affect the implementation of infrastructure projects with multi-year contracts and those with right-of-way issues.
	HB 1056	Rep. Antonino	Revoking certain powers granted to the executive department, further amending for the purpose certain sections of Presidential Decree 1177, entitled "Revising the budget process in order to institutionalize the budgetary innovations of the new society"	With annual cash-based appropriations, agencies can only incur contractual obligations and disburse payments for goods delivered and services rendered and inspected within the fiscal year, with an extended payment period of three months. This will effectively limit agencies to submit budget proposals reflecting payment of goods and services that will actually be delivered for the year. (Source: DBM website)
	HB 2385	Rep. Abad	Institutionalizing a system of performance planning, budgeting, and accountability in all government agencies	Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Benjamin Diokno explained that the system is not much different from the present obligations-based budgeting practice. The only difference is that all projects must be completed within the year with an extension of three months.
	HBs 2387, 5590 & 5993	Reps. Abad, Nograles (K.A.), and Yap (A.)	Reforming the budget process by enforcing greater accountability in public financial management (PFM), promoting fiscal sustainability, strengthening Congress' power of the purse, instituting an integrated PFM system, and increasing budget transparency and participation	According to Diokno, this particular system is in line with the budget reform agenda and the "Build-Build-Build" program of the President. Although still in its experimental stage in the Philippines, cash-based budgeting is a superior system with certain economic benefits, Diokno added.
	HB 2832	Rep. Villarín	Regulating the power of the President to defer, rescind, or reserve expenditure of appropriations authorized by Congress	
	HB 2868	Rep. Villarín	Defining the concept of savings and regulating the process of augmentation by the President in implementation of Article VI, Section 25 (5) of the Philippine Constitution	
	HB 4652	Rep. De Jesus	Defining "unprogrammed funds" and prohibiting legislators from appropriating funds therefor	

Continuation... Appropriations	HB 6847	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Professionalizing the government accounting service to serve as a tool for effective management and control of government resources, creating for the purpose the Government Accountancy Office under the Department of Budget and Management (DBM)	<p>In the next meeting, the Departments of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Tourism (DOT), and Education (DepEd) will be invited to give their comments and suggestions on the bills.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Deputy Speaker Rolando Andaya Jr. (1st District, Camarines Sur) manifested his intention to withdraw his measure (HB 2828) upon discerning that his proposed budget reform measure is not in line with the current budget system.</p>
Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Justice	HR 867	Speaker Alvarez	Inquiry into the alleged grossly disadvantageous contract entered into by the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) and the Tagum Agricultural Development Company, Inc. (TADECO)	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), Chair of the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Rep. Henry Oaminal (2nd District, Misamis Occidental), Vice Chair of the Committee on Justice, will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 867.</p> <p>In today's hearing, the Joint Committee focused its discussion on the condition of the lands around the Davao Penal Colony (DAPECOL) which are being utilized by TADECO for its banana plantation.</p> <p>Ruben Tacugue, former municipal engineer of the local government of Panabo, Davao del Norte, testified that under Presidential Proclamation (PP) 103, series of 1948, a parcel of land covering an area of 10,000 hectares in Kapitalong and Tagum in the Province of Davao del Norte, was reserved for agricultural plantation purposes. However, based on surveys, the actual area covered was approximately 14,000 hectares. Nevertheless, this figure was corrected with the issuance of Proclamation 127, series of 1949, which limited the area to only about 9,860 hectares, Tacugue recounted.</p> <p>Regional Director Ruth Tawantawan of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 11 commented that several surveys were already undertaken in the subject area with varied results. However, she claimed that it is PP 132 signed in 1955 that contains the correct information and is the latest issuance on the matter.</p> <p>TADECO President Anthony Alexander Valoria denied the allegation of Tacugue that TADECO has put up roadblocks and checkpoints which limit access to some public roads in Barangay A.O. Floirendo. He maintained that the public roads are open, but admitted that TADECO has set up a "tire dip" on roads leading to the banana plantation for sanitation purposes.</p> <p>However, Speaker Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez (1st District, Davao del Norte) said that when</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Justice</p>				<p>he went around the DAPECOL area, he personally saw the roadblocks and checkpoints referred to by Tacugue. He also mentioned that the checkpoints are manned by armed personnel of TADECO. Speaker Alvarez asserted that these are public roads that should remain open and accessible to the people.</p> <p>The Philippine National Police (PNP) was directed to clear all public roads around the DAPECOL from any road blockage, checkpoints and enclosure and to disarm private individuals manning such areas.</p> <p>The Joint Committee requested Tacugue, who owns a private land surveying firm, to conduct a land survey of DAPECOL, including the areas owned and operated by TADECO. The survey will be undertaken jointly with the DENR, with the assistance of the PNP.</p> <p>Likewise, the Joint Committee will issue a show cause order to Governor Anthony del Rosario of Davao del Norte, Mayor James Gamao of Panabo City, and Bureau of Customs (BOC) Commissioner Isidro Lapeña for their failure to appear in today's meeting despite due notice.</p>
<p>Government Enterprises and Privatization</p>	<p>HBs 1989 & 4732</p>	<p>Reps. Ting and Salceda</p>	<p>Mandating the insurance of all government properties and interest with the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), amending for the purpose RA 656, as amended, otherwise known as the Property Insurance Law</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan (1st District, North Cotabato), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the two bills, using HB 4732 as the working draft.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go will act as the TWG Chair.</p> <p>Rep. Randolph Ting (3rd District, Cagayan), author of HB 1989, said that his bill seeks to require the insurance of all government properties including those owned by or issued to municipalities below first class classification. The existing Property Insurance Law (RA 656) exempts municipalities below first class from insuring their properties with the GSIS. It is to the best interest of the said municipalities if their properties are insured rather than be exposed to the risk of non-indemnification in case of damage during a disaster, Rep. Ting added.</p> <p>In behalf of Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), Rep. Go sponsored HB 4732 and manifested that the explanatory note attached to the bill be considered as the author's sponsorship speech.</p> <p>GSIS President and General Manager Jesus Clint Aranas expressed support for the bill and welcomed the inclusion of the 2nd to 6th class municipalities in the GSIS' insurance coverage.</p>

Continuation... Government Enterprises and Privatization				<p>GSIS Insurance Group Senior Vice President Maria Obdulia Vitug-Palanca apprised the Committee that the total value of assets insured with GSIS is P1.1 trillion, while the gross premium payments collected is P5 billion. GSIS rates are also patterned after the Insurance Commission tariff rates, Palanca added.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills. In addition, the GSIS will also submit its inventory of insured properties of the government and those yet to be insured.</p>
	HB 6760	Speaker Alvarez	Further amending Section 27 of PD 1146, exempting the reinsurance policies of the GSIS from the provisions of RA 9184, also known as the Government Procurement Reform Act	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to draft a substitute bill to the two measures.</p> <p>Explaining GSIS' recommendation to be exempted from the Government Procurement Reform Act, Aranas said that it will allow GSIS to choose reinsurers which are more financially sound and will encourage international insurance companies to participate in the bidding for GSIS' reinsurance policies.</p>
	HR 1502	Speaker Alvarez	Inquiry into the reinsurance contracts awarded to domestic insurance companies by the GSIS	<p>Deputy Executive Director Melissa Santiago-Yan of the Government Procurement Policy Board's (GPPB) Technical Support Office, Department of Budget and Management (DBM), said that the concern of the GSIS can be addressed through the revision of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA 9184.</p> <p>The Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines will be invited to attend in the TWG meeting.</p>
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Public Works and Highways	Substitute Bill to HBs 6236, 3278, 3855, 4466, 5683 & 2394	Majority Leader Fariñas, Reps. Ocampo, Bravo (A.), Go (A.), Tan (A.), and Zarate	Abolishing the Road Board created by RA 8794 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	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City), Chair of the Committee on Public Works and Highways, approved the substitute bill subject to style. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN), chairman of the technical working group (TWG) on the abolition of the Road Board, reported to the Committee the main features of the substitute bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abolition of the Road Board; • Re-channeling of the Motor Vehicle User's Charge (MVUC) Funds to the implementing agencies (DPWH, DOTr, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources) to ensure prudent management and utilization of the Road User's Tax; and • Creation of a Congressional Oversight Committee as the monitoring body.

Transportation	Substitute Bill to HBs 106, 296, 758 & 4433	Reps. Tan (A.), Suansing (H.), Aglipay-Villar, and Abayon	Establishing the rights of taxi, tourist car transport service (TCTS) and transport network vehicle service (TNVS) passengers	The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, approved the substitute bill subject to amendment.
	HBs 5111, 6725 & 7043	Reps. Rodriguez (M.), Unabia, and Cortuna	Establishing district/extension offices of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) in certain parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the three bills, subject to style.
	HB 6447	Rep. Alcala	Converting the Quezon licensing center of the LTO In Lucena City, Quezon Province into a regular licensing center to be known as the Quezon Licensing Center of Lucena City, Quezon Province, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the bill, subject to style.
	HB 6979	Rep. Nava	Converting the Guimaras LTO extension office into a regular LTO district office	The Committee approved the bill, subject to style.
	HB 6638	Rep. Gonzales (A.D.)	Prohibiting the construction of mall, sports center, convention center, and exhibition center within a three-kilometer radius from the exit and entrance of an expressway to prevent traffic congestion therein and providing penalties for violation thereof	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune the provisions of HB 6638.</p> <p>The TWG will be headed by Rep. Maximo Rodriguez Jr. (2nd District Cagayan de Oro City).</p> <p>Rep. Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales Jr. (3rd District, Pampanga), explaining the importance of his bill, said that prohibiting the construction of malls, sport centers and similar facilities near the exit and entrance of expressways would ease traffic in these areas.</p> <p>Rep. Robert "Ace" Barbers (2nd District, Surigao del Norte) agreed that traffic congestion is mostly experienced in places near malls.</p> <p>Atty. Vince Bayhon, representative of SM Prime Holdings Inc., expressed support for the bill, adding that his company is also trying to find ways to address traffic congestion near SM malls.</p>

IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Justice	Determination of probable cause in relation to the verified complaint for impeachment against Supreme Court (SC) Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, filed by Atty. Lorenzo Gadon and endorsed by 25 House Members	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2nd District, Oriental Mindoro), will continue its 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 continued its discussion on the following allegations against Sereno:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-disclosure of her earnings as government counsel in an arbitration case against the Philippine International Air Terminals Co., Inc. (Piatco) in her Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN); • Betrayal of public trust in the hiring of Helen Perez-Macasaet, an IT consultant, with an excessive compensation without public bidding; and

Continuation...
Justice

- Procurement of a P5 million worth 2017 Toyota Land Cruiser as her personal vehicle in violation of Administrative Order 233, series of 2008, which prohibits the acquisition and use of luxury vehicles for government operation.

Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Deputy Commissioner Arnel Guballa submitted to the Committee a copy of the Income Tax Returns (ITR) of Sereno for the years 2004 to 2010, the period when the Chief Justice worked as a lawyer in the Piatco case. Sereno allegedly earned P37 million in the Piatco case which she failed to disclose in her SALN.

Rep. Eugene Michael de Vera (Party-List, ABS) reminded the Committee that Sereno also failed to file 17 SALNs during the years she worked as a law professor at the University of the Philippines (UP).

Replying to the query of Rep. De Vera, Guballa explained that he could not say if there are anomalies in Sereno's tax records because the BIR has not yet conducted any formal investigation on the matter.

Guballa was given two weeks to conduct the investigation and thereafter report to the Committee the BIR's findings.

On the questionable hiring of Macasaet, the Committee noted that it was lawyer Michael Ocampo, staff at the Office of the Chief Justice, who determined Macasaet's compensation which was P100,000 for the first six months and P250,000 for the subsequent months.

Ocampo explained that the compensation given to Macasaet by the SC was lower compared to the current market price for similar projects and taking into consideration Macasaet's experience and expertise.

Rep. Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP) underscored Ocampo's lack of technical knowledge to be able to make an accurate determination of the compensation level for IT consultants and dismissed the latter's claim that he conferred with former SC Management Information Systems Office (MISO) Acting Chief Ed Davis, who is now deceased.

MISO Acting Chief Carlos Garay along with MISO Chief Judicial Staff Officer Joselito Enriquez said neither of them was consulted regarding the hiring of Macasaet. Garay added that if things were up to him, he would have hired a team of IT experts instead.

When asked if there were substantial improvements in the Judiciary's performance during the years when Macasaet was consultant for the SC's Enterprise Information Systems Plan (EISP), Garay answered in the negative but clarified that it can partly be due to the non-procurement of the required software. The EISP aims to digitize judicial processes to speed up case litigations.

Defending herself from the accusations, Macasaet claimed that she was able to create savings for the government of up to P152 million during the first six months of her being an IT consultant at the SC. She added that she was earning a lot more in her previous projects but believed that the project with the SC was a way for her to give back to the government.

The Committee instructed Macasaet to submit a narrative report on what she has accomplished as consultant for the implementation of the EISP as well as how the EISP affected the processes and performance of the Judiciary.

With regard to the procurement of a 2017 Toyota Land Cruiser as Sereno's personal vehicle, SC head of Procurement and Assistant

Continuation... Justice		<p>Chief of Administrative Services Ma. Carina Cunanan admitted that the Chief Justice, through Ocampo, did express her preference for the said vehicle. Cunanan clarified that this was not the first time a Chief Justice has requested for a specific type of vehicle.</p> <p>Prompted by Rep. Umali's remarks on the result of Sereno's psychological exam, former Clerk of Court Enriqueta Vidal affirmed that Sereno indeed got a rating of 4 in the psychological examination she took as a requirement for the Chief Justice position. However, Vidal clarified that there were other applicants who got the same score although she could not recall their names.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Ecology (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 142, 540, 1528, 2964, 3610, 5901, 4287 & 6596	Reps. Acosta-Alba, Yap (A.), Gonzales (A.P.), Macapagal-Arroyo, Lanete, De Jesus, and Romero	Providing for a comprehensive hazardous and radioactive waste management and providing penalties for violations thereof	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba (1st District, Bukidnon), approved the draft substitute bill subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Acosta-Alba manifested that a bill with similar subject matter was approved on Third Reading during the 16th Congress.</p> <p>Charmaine Odicta, economist from the Department of Finance (DOF), expressed reservation on Chapter IX (Incentives), particularly on the exemption from the value-added tax (VAT) of the sale of domestic capital equipment, explaining that the Tax Reform Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Act has recently been passed.</p> <p>Odicta also suggested that the term "registered enterprises" be defined in the bill.</p> <p>Rep. Acosta-Alba requested the DOF and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) to submit their respective official position papers on the bill.</p>
Information and Communications Technology (Technical Working Group)	HB 2096	Rep. Tinio	Amending RA 10175, otherwise known as the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012, repealing Sections 4 (c)(4) and 6	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY), agreed to consolidate the four bills.
	HB 3295	Rep. Escudero	Repealing Section 4(c)(4), Chapter II of RA 10175	HBs 2096, 3295, and 6765 seek to repeal or amend certain provisions of RA 10175 which violate Constitutionally-guaranteed rights: free speech, privacy of communication, due process, and equal protection of the law.
	HB 6342	Rep. Batocabe	Providing for stricter penalty for certain cybercrime offenses, amending for the purpose RA 10175	HB 6342 amends certain provisions of RA 10175 by imposing the stricter penalty of <i>reclusion perpetua</i> to death against cybercriminals who launch cyberattacks that target government computers and disrupt government services.
	HB 6765	Rep. Villafuerte	Amending RA 10175, repealing Sections 4 (c)(1), 4 (c)(4), 6, 7, 12 and 19	
	HB 6184	Rep. Yap (V.)	Amending RA 10175 by mandating the Philippine National Police (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and the Department of Justice (DOJ) to create their own cybercrime divisions	The TWG agreed to draft a Substitute Bill to HB 6184 after Rep. Velarde meets with the DOJ, PNP, and Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) to resolve some issues pertinent to the bill.

<p>Natural Resources jt. w/ Legislative Franchises (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>Draft Consolidated Bill on HBs 5674, 6259, 2165, 2915 & 3229</p>	<p>Rep. Cuaresma, Speaker Alvarez, Reps. Amante, Paduano, and Matugas</p>	<p>Amending RA 7942, otherwise known as the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, by promoting the development of mineral processing, banning the export of unprocessed mineral ores, prohibiting mining in watersheds, and requiring legislative franchise for mining operations</p>	<p>The joint technical working group (TWG), co-chaired by Rep. Francisco Jose "Bingo" Matugas II (1st District, Surigao del Norte), Vice Chair of the Committee on Natural Resources, and Rep. Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP), for the Committee on Legislative Franchises, will deliberate further on the draft consolidated bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>In today's meeting, the TWG focused on the technical description of mineral processing as well as the requirements and incentives for investors.</p> <p>Rep. Matugas manifested that in order to encourage investors to set up mineral processing plants in the country, incentives such as those provided by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) to locators in ecozones, must be granted.</p> <p>Similarly, Rep. Matugas suggested that the evaluation and processing of the application for Mineral Processing Permit (MPP) and Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) should be streamlined just like PEZA's system.</p> <p>PEZA Legal Counsel Francis Brillantes said that PEZA has established a one-stop shop for the processing of applications for permits and licenses and for incentives for its locators and businesses in economic zones. With this system, Brillantes claimed, permits and licenses are processed and released for a maximum of 10 days.</p> <p>Brillantes also mentioned the following incentives being granted to developers and locator enterprises registered with PEZA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income tax holiday (ITH) of four years for non-pioneer technology and six years for pioneer technology; • Another 5% special tax on gross income and exemption from all national and local taxes upon expiration of the ITH; • Duty and tax free in importing raw materials and capital equipment, machineries and spare parts; and • Zero-rated value-added tax (VAT) on local purchases subject to compliance with the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and PEZA requirements. <p>MGB Mining Permit and Evaluation Section head Manuel Binuya explained that the processing of applications for MPP and MPSA takes about six months at the minimum. He said the steps involve, among others, securing the consent of affected communities and</p>
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Continuation... Natural Resources jt. w/ Legislative Franchises (Technical Working Group)				<p>indigenous peoples (IPs) in the project area, review and evaluation by the regional and central offices of the MGB, and eventually, endorsement to the DENR Secretary for approval.</p> <p>PEZA was requested to submit to the Committee its list of incentives for ecozone developers and enterprises. In addition, both the MGB and PEZA will also submit their timelines with regard to their issuance of permits.</p>
Population and Family Relations (Technical Working Group)	HB 116	Rep. Lagman	Instituting absolute divorce in the Philippines	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sol Aragonés (3rd District, Laguna), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to draft a substitute bill to the four bills.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Edcel Lagman (1st District, Albay).</p> <p>The authors present manifested that the explanatory notes attached to their bills be included in the record as their sponsorship speeches.</p> <p>Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Undersecretary Luz Ilagan expressed support for the bills, saying that they will allow individuals, especially women, to end their dysfunctional marriages and regain dignity, self-esteem and worth as persons. She added that despite the dissolution of marriage, the best interest of the divorcees' children should never be compromised particularly their legal status, custody and financial support.</p> <p>Likewise, Deputy Speaker Pia Cayetano (2nd District, Taguig City-Pateros) said that the proposed law will help those who are suffering from a problematic married life.</p> <p>Representatives from the Democratic Socialist Women of the Philippines (DSWP), Divorce Advocates of the Philippines (DAP), and Divorce for the Philippines Now International (DPNI) expressed their support for the bills.</p> <p>On the other hand, Josefina Santamaria of the Christian for Family Movement (CFM) strongly opposed the proposed law, arguing that it does not protect or strengthen marriage, which is sacred and an inviolable social institution serving as the foundation of the family – the basic unit of the society.</p> <p>Prof. Obed dela Cruz of the Coalition of Christians for Change (CCC) also objects to the bills believing that in an annulment or divorce, it is the children who suffer the most.</p> <p>Rev. Fr. Jerome Secillano, executive secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), said that the Catholic church is not entirely against the annulment of</p>
	HB 1062	Rep. Barbers	Amending Title 1 Chapter 3, of Executive Order No. 209, otherwise known as the Family Code of the Philippines, prescribing additional ground for annulment	
	HB 2380	Rep. De Jesus	Introducing divorce in the Philippines, amending for the purpose Articles 26, 55 to 66 and repealing Article 36 under Title II of EO 209, as amended	
	HB 6027	Rep. Baguilat	Providing for grounds for the dissolution of a marriage	

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Population and Family Relations (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>marriage but is opposed to the dissolution of marriage based on unsubstantiated grounds. This is based on the Catholic doctrine that marriage is not just any other contract or union, but a sacrament, a covenant before God, he added.</p> <p>When asked by Rep. Lagman on what grounds are valid in filing for divorce, Santamaria replied that the CFM is open to such grounds as verbal, physical and sexual abuses, but not “unhappiness,” which is so unreasonable and shallow.</p> <p>Rep. Ma. Lourdes Aggabao (4th District, Isabela) suggested that there should be programs that can help couples strengthen their marriage and stay married even with some problems.</p> <p>Rep. Robert “Ace” Barbers (2nd District, Surigao del Norte) asked what government agency could provide the TWG with data or information that could guide it in determining valid grounds for annulment. Rep. Elisa “Olga” Kho (2nd District, Masbate) said that it is the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) as it serves as the repository of data on all annulment cases in the country.</p> <p>The resource persons present were directed to submit their position papers on the bill before the TWG’s next meeting on February 13.</p>
<p>Transportation (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>HB 6455</p>	<p>Speaker Alvarez</p>	<p>Providing for a speedy processing by the Land Transportation Office (LTO) of the registration of imported motor vehicles and providing penalties for violation thereof</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, agreed to deliberate further on HB 6455.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento outlined the following issues/points that the TWG will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamlining the vehicle registration process of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) to allow the issuance of the certificate of registration for imported vehicles within 48 hours upon submission of requirements; • Harmonizing the proposed bill with the provisions of RA 10883 (New Anti-Carnapping Act of 2016) and RA 4163 (Land Transportation and Traffic Code); and • Determining if there is a need to establish a one-stop shop for the processing of the certificate of registration for imported vehicles. <p>Severino Esplana, former chief of the Bureau of Customs’ (BOC) Bureau of Import Services (BIS) Division-Section V, suggested that importers, upon entry of their vehicle shipment into the country, may encode the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) in the Import Assessment Program of the BOC, which electronically transmits to the LTO and the</p>

Continuation... Transportation (Technical Working Group)				<p>Highway Patrol Group (HPG) relevant information through the BOC's National Single Window (NSW).</p> <p>Esplana explained that the NSW is an Internet-based system that allows parties involved in trade to lodge information and documents through a single entry point to fulfill all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements. This, he said, will save time and do away with the process of stenciling the engine and chassis number of vehicles. He added that with the NSW, documentary requirements can be accomplished within a day instead of the usual seven days.</p> <p>HPG Chief Legal Service Police Superintendent Edwin Engay and Atty. Lorna Veloso, consultant for the Association of Vehicle Importers and Dealers, Inc. (AVID), supported the suggestion of Esplana.</p> <p>Engay further recommended to include in the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA 10883 the 48-hour time frame for the issuance of a certificate of registration.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento said the Committee on Transportation will send a show cause letter to the BOC for its failure to send any representative to attend the initial deliberation of the bill at the mother Committee level as well as during today's TWG meeting.</p> <p>The stakeholders were requested to submit their official position paper on the bill.</p>
Tourism (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 1828 & 2963	Reps. Vargas and Macapagal- Arroyo	Establishing an intergovernmental task force for the protection and assistance of tourists	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Erico Aristotle Aumentado (2nd District, Bohol), approved the draft Substitute Bill to HBs 1828 and 2963 with amendments.</p> <p>The substitute bill will be submitted to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga), author of HB 2963, explained the duties of the proposed intergovernmental task force as espoused under Section 3 (B) of the bill.</p> <p>Among the agreements reached during the TWG meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The short title of the proposed law shall be "Tourist Protection and Assistance Act;" • The availability and dissemination of multilingual travel and tourism information and promotional materials shall be at no cost to the government; • A toll-free telephone number for tourists needing assistance shall be established and operated by the government;

Continuation... Tourism (Technical Working Group)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The training of tourist police shall be excluded from the duties of the task force; and • Sections 4 (Unlawful Solicitation, Definition, and Penalties) and 6 (Report to Congress) shall be deleted.
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ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples	Roundtable discussion on the implications of federalism to indigenous peoples (IPs)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Nancy Catamco (2nd District, North Cotabato), in partnership with the Institute for Autonomy and Governance (IAG), conducted a roundtable discussion on the implications of federalism to indigenous peoples (IPs) on February 7, 2018 at the House of Representatives.</p> <p>Rep. Catamco welcomed the participants and guests to the roundtable discussion. She said that the purpose of the roundtable discussion is to serve as a venue for discussing and advancing the rights, interest and welfare of the IPs in connection with the ongoing review of pertinent provisions of the 1987 Constitution vis-à-vis the proposed shift to a federal form of government.</p> <p>IAG senior policy adviser Fr. Eliseo Mercado, Jr. served as the moderator of the roundtable discussion. He said that IPs have more experience on federalism, having an independent community, independent governance, and sustainable system.</p> <p>Speaker Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez (1st District, Davao del Norte) vowed to push for the creation of separate states for the IPs in Mindanao and the Cordilleras under a federal government in order to preserve their customary laws and right to self-determination. The Speaker mentioned the importance of holding a summit to identify IP territories that can be carved out from the regions.</p> <p>Representatives from the different indigenous communities expressed their support for the creation of federal state for IPs, but sought the following conditions: uphold IP’s advocacy of “one tribe, one territory, one governance;” incorporate the provisions of RA 8371 or The Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act of 1997 in the provisions of the proposed Federal Constitution; and include a representative from the IP sector in the consultative body that will discuss the creation of federal states for IPs.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Amihilda Sancopan (Party-List, AMIN) if there is a mapping of IPs nationwide, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) Commissioner for Northern and Western Mindanao Dominador Gomez replied in the affirmative, adding that the data is based on the applications for ancestral domains. Gomez informed the body that the NCIP was supposed to implement a program on Philippine IP ethnography that would determine who and where the IPs are and their prevailing situation, but it did not push through due to lack of funds.</p> <p>The NCIP was requested to furnish the Committee with a copy of the mapping of IPs nationwide. The representatives of the different IP communities were requested to participate in the summit that will be held, as earlier mentioned by Speaker Alvarez.</p>

AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Southern Tagalog Development (Special Committee)	<p>Briefing by the following agencies/entities on the their plans and programs for the development of Region IV-A (CALABARZON)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) South Luzon Tollway Corporation (SLTC) 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Isidro Rodriguez Jr. (2nd District, Rizal), listened to the presentations of NEDA, DPWH, and SLTC on their development plans and programs for Region IV-A (CALABARZON).</p> <p>NEDA Undersecretary Adoracion Navarro informed the Committee that NEDA has identified top 10 priority programs and projects for CALABARZON under the Region IV-A's Regional Development Investment Program.</p> <p>NEDA Region IV-A Assistant Regional Director Gina Gacusan reported that of these priority projects, the following have been funded for 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kaykulot Diversion Road connecting Tagaytay-Calamba Road to Sta. Rosa Ulat Tagaytay Road; Hybridization Program including hybrid rice seed distribution and installation of irrigation facilities such as solar-powered pumps; Financial assistance to "drug surrenderers" and recovering drug dependents; and Livestock development program. <p>Gacusan also informed the Committee that NEDA is currently finalizing the Regional Physical Framework Plan (RPFP) for CALABARZON, which is a 30-year infrastructure plan for the region; and currently preparing the tourism master plans for three tourism clusters in the region. The NEDA Region IV-A also conducts feasibility studies, investment programming, project development, and research and impact evaluation activities for programs and projects in the region.</p> <p>DPWH Region IV-A Regional Director Samson Hebra briefed the Committee on the DPWH's infrastructure program for the region for 2018 which aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure safe and reliable national road system; Protect lives and properties against major floods; and Implement convergence programs and local infrastructure projects. <p>Hebra highlighted the DPWH's road network development program for 2018 which is seen to solve the traffic congestion in the region. The program involves a total of 181 projects such as road widening, bypass/diversion roads, flyovers/interchanges/underpasses, and long span bridges, with a total cost of P14.2 billion.</p> <p>Other infrastructure projects for the region for the current year are also underway, including the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of roads, bridges, and flood control structures and facilities.</p> <p>Edgar Doña, vice president of San Miguel Holdings Corporation (SMHC), discussed the Toll Road 4 project that will connect Sto. Tomas, Batangas to Lucena, Quezon. The project will be implemented from 2018 to 2021.</p> <p>Doña also said the SLTC, which is a subsidiary of the SMHC, is prioritizing the expansion of Star tollways and the rehabilitation of the present tollways and bridges going to and from South Luzon.</p> <p>On the issue about the right of way being the cause of delay in implementing various infrastructure projects, Deputy Speaker Raneo "Rannie" Abu (2nd District, Batangas) said that the agency concerned should be guided by RA 10752 or the Right-of-Way Act to expedite the completion of the government's infrastructure projects.</p>

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