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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food	HR 842	Rep. Bravo (A.)	Inquiry into the current status of the country's 2016 rice importation under the National Food Authority's (NFAs) minimum access volume (MAV) policy, in light of the NFA Administrator's issuance of a memorandum circular halting and setting the arrival of rice importations on February 28, 2017 without any extension	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jose Panganiban Jr. (Party-List, ANAC-IP), will deliberate further on the issues raised in the resolutions in its next meeting.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Panganiban remarked that the purpose of the inquiry is to clarify the conflicting pronouncements of the NFA and the Department of Agriculture (DA) on the status of the country's rice supply, and to determine the need for a new legislation to ensure food security. He recalled that the NFA announced recently that its rice supply inventory will only last for two days; while the DA reported that there is no rice shortage.</p> <p>Rep. Panganiban pointed out that the NFA is required a 15-day buffer stock of 400,000 metric tons (MT) of rice at any given time and a 30-day buffer stock of 800,000 MT of rice during lean months of July, August and September. The volume is based on the current daily rice consumption of 33,000 metric tons.</p> <p>DA Secretary Emmanuel Piñol stressed that there is no rice shortage in the country. He also clarified that the statements of NFA and DA are not conflicting since the former talks about shortage of NFA rice, while the latter's statement refers to the overall rice supply in the country.</p> <p>Piñol reported that the volume of palay harvested last year reached 19.4 million metric tons (MT). For the first quarter of 2018, the buffer stock is at 2.8 million MT of rice. Based on the average daily consumption of 34,000 MT of rice, the rice buffer may last for three months.</p> <p>With the expected rice harvest of three million MT this year, the total rice buffer stock is expected to be 5.8 million MT, Piñol added.</p> <p>NFA Administrator Jason Aquino confirmed that what NFA is referring to is the low supply of affordable rice for poor Filipinos, which is the NFA rice.</p> <p>Aquino recounted that the NFA has already observed the decreasing NFA rice supply since</p>
	HR 951	Rep. Lopez (M.)	Inquiry into the possible existence of rice shortage in the Philippines if the directive of President Rodrigo Duterte to temporarily halt the importation of rice is carried out	
	HR 993	Rep. Villafuerte	Investigation on the true state of rice inventory in the Philippines with a view to ensuring adequate and affordable rice supply during the traditional lean months	
	HR 1013	Rep. Bravo (A.)	Inquiry into the current rice supply and stock in the country	
	HR 1588	Rep. Geron	Investigation into the P120 million smuggled rice seized by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) in a cargo ship off in Zamboanga Sibugay with the end in view of designing measures deterring such illegal activities	
	HR 1648	Rep. Alejano	Investigation into the true state of the country's rice supply with the end in view of proposing remedial measures to arrest possible shortage as well as to institute policies to improve domestic rice production and ensure the country's food security	
	HR 1658	Rep. Panganiban	Investigation into the reported shortage of rice quantity available in the market and the buffer stock of the NFA	

<p>Continuation... Agriculture and Food</p>				<p>last year that is why the agency requested to replenish its stocks as early as October 2017. But the request was disapproved by the NFA Council, an inter-agency body tasked to set policies on food security and price stability of rice.</p> <p>NFA Council Member and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Assistant Secretary Mercedita Sombilla said the Council did not approve the importation because there is no rice shortage. The Council gives importance to the procurement of rice from local farmers, she added.</p> <p>Nevertheless, Sombilla said that the NFA Council approved NFA's standby authority to import rice subject to the condition that the delivery will be in June 2018.</p> <p>Several House Members expressed dismay at the NFA Council's decision to set the delivery date in June, stressing that there may be no more available affordable rice for poor Filipinos in the next three months.</p> <p>Rep. Micaela Violago (2nd District, Nueva Ecija) suggested to the NFA to increase its procurement price for palay from P17/kg to P20/kg to help the farmers earn good profit. However, Sombilla explained that such increase may have adverse effect on the poor consumers who will bear the increase in the price of NFA rice.</p> <p>On the issue of rice cartel, Rep. Manuel Luis Lopez (1st District, Manila) revealed that huge warehouses in his district seem to be hoarding rice. He requested the NFA to inspect the said warehouses, to which Aquino agreed, with the help of law enforcers.</p> <p>The Committee will invite in its next meeting rice traders in Manila to shed light on the issue raised by Rep. Lopez.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Reps. Gary Alejano (Party-List, MAGDALO), Rico Geron (Party-List, AGAP), and Violago brought up the issue of rice smuggling in the country.</p> <p>Bureau of Customs' Formal Entry Division Chief Antonio Meliton Pascual apprised the Committee of the recent smuggling case in Zamboanga Sibugay which is pending before the BOC's Legal Division for decision.</p> <p>Pascual said that the smuggled rice is now subject of litigation and awaiting the issuance of warrant of seizure and detention.</p> <p>On January 7, 2018, about 60,000 sacks of rice were confiscated by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) from a local cargo ship some 25 nautical miles southwest of Olutanga town in Zamboanga</p>
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Continuation... Agriculture and Food				Sibugay for lack of an import permit from the NFA. According to the PCG, the ship may have come from Vietnam and transferred illegal cargo in Sulu.
Good Government and Public Accountability	HR 1505	Rep. Vergara	Inquiry 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	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 1505 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara (3rd District, Nueva Ecija), author of HR 1505, disclosed that the Provincial Government of Nueva Ecija does not release to the cities and barangays in the province their share in the revenues from quarrying activities in Nueva Ecija. Rep. Vergara wants to check the truthfulness of the quarry tax collections declared by the province.</p> <p>Rep. Pimentel said Nueva Ecija Governor Czarina Umali sent a letter to the Committee explaining her failure to attend the hearing because of a prior commitment.</p> <p>Rep. Pimentel, being a former governor, explained that the revenues collected from quarrying should be allocated as follows: provincial government, 30%; cities or municipalities, 30%; and barangay, 40%.</p> <p>Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) OIC-Regional Director for Region III Lope Cariño Jr. said that the provincial government issues quarrying permits for extraction of sand and gravel under 5,000 hectares and below; while the MGB issues permits for industrial sand and gravel of more than 5,000 hectares. The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) issues an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) for this activity.</p> <p>Cabanatuan City Treasurer Florida Oca disclosed that the City has not received from the provincial government of Nueva Ecija its share of tax revenues from the quarrying of gravel and sand for the period 2015-2017.</p> <p>Rep. Vergara added that in 2010, the Cabanatuan City Mayor ordered the city treasurer not to accept the city's share remitted by the provincial government of Nueva Ecija because it was way too small compared to what the city government believed to be its rightful share.</p> <p>Oca also mentioned that the Commission on Audit (COA) audit report in 2014 recommended the immediate release of Cabanatuan City's share in the revenues collected by the provincial government from quarrying.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu) said Cabanatuan City should have taken action against the provincial government of Nueva Ecija based on the COA audit report.</p>

Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability				<p>Likewise, Rep. Pimentel suggested that the Cabanatuan City government should file a case in court to compel the provincial government of Nueva Ecija to release its share in the revenues collected from quarrying.</p> <p>For its next meeting, the Committee will invite the resident COA auditor in the Nueva Ecija provincial government, gravel and sand operators from Nueva Ecija, and officials from the EMB Region III.</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)	The Committee assumed jurisdiction over the measure. It will deliberate on the issues raised in HR 360 on March 6.
	HR 1608	Rep. Zarate	Investigation into the alleged anomalies behind the slow passport processing of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)	The Committee assumed jurisdiction over the measures. It will deliberate on the measures jointly with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on March 5.
	Privilege Speech	Rep. Bravo (A.)	On the current state of DFA's passport application process	
Local Government jt. w/ Muslim Affairs and Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 92, 6121, 6263 & 6475	Deputy Speaker Sema, Reps. Macapagal-Arroyo & Dimaporo (M.K.), Speaker Alvarez	<p>Providing for the Basic Law for the Bangsamoro and abolishing the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), repealing for the purpose RA 9054, or the law strengthening and expanding the Organic Act for the ARMM, and RA 6734 or the law providing for an Organic Act for the ARMM</p>	<p>The Joint Committee, chaired by Reps. Pedro Acharon Jr. (1st District, South Cotabato and General Santos City), Maanyag "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, will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City) clarified that contrary to BTC's assertion, the peace council tasked by former President Benigno Aquino III to review the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) recommended that "once the territorial boundaries are established in the plebiscite for the ratification of the BBL, the core Bangsamoro territories should not be allowed to increase indefinitely by the periodic vote of 10% of registered voters in the outer territories."</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Ferdinand Hernandez (2nd District, South Cotabato) also expressed his reservation on the periodic plebiscite for the delimitation of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (BAR). He said that the proposed Bangsamoro political entity must prove first its success before it plans to expand its geographical territory.</p> <p>The draft BBL provides that five years after the ratification of the proposed BBL and every five years thereafter for a period of 25 years, a plebiscite shall be held in the cities, municipalities and other geographical areas which may want to be part of the BAR.</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Local Government jt. w/ Muslim Affairs and Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity</p>				<p>Meanwhile, Acting Director for Plans (DPL) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Edwin Roque recommended that the recruitment of the officers and members of the Bangsamoro Regional Police should be in accordance with the provisions set forth under RA 8551 or the Philippine National Police Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998. He added that the power to deploy, assign, and reassign, and to impose administrative penalties on the Bangsamoro police must be reserved to the Bangsamoro police commander.</p> <p>On the proposal to create a Bangsamoro Regional Police Board, Acting Staff Service Chief Chito Noel Bustonera of the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) said that the board members should have a background in law enforcement. He went on to say that the selection of the head of the Bangsamoro police and his/her deputies should not be centralized to the Chief Minister but must be within the power of the city or municipal mayors in the BAR.</p> <p>Defense Undersecretary Ricardo David Jr. emphasized that external as well as internal security should be under the reserve powers of the national government.</p> <p>David and Assistant Chief Rocky Binag of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Peace and Development Office manifested that there is no need to create a separate AFP Bangsamoro command once the BAR is established.</p> <p>The representatives of the AFP, PNP, and Association of Generals and Flag Officers, Inc. (AGFO) agreed with Rep. Lobregat's suggestion to delete Section 151 (Calling Upon the AFP) of the bill. They likewise have the same opinion to remove the provision on the establishment of coordination protocols between the national government and Bangsamoro government regarding the movement and deployment of military personnel.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) supported the proposed creation of their counterpart office in the BAR.</p> <p>The Joint Committee Members agreed to invite former ARMM Governor Nur Misuari or his authorized representative as well as the officials of the local government units (LGUs) that are proposed to be part of the BAR in its next meeting.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the draft substitute bill.</p>
<p>Science and Technology</p>	<p>Substitute Bill to HB 4581</p>	<p>Rep. Salceda</p>	<p>Establishing the Science for Change (SCP)</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Erico Aristotle Aumentado (2nd District, Bohol), approved the Substitute Bill to HB 4581.</p>

Continuation... Science and Technology	HB 850	Deputy Speaker Villarica	Improving the opportunities for the development of the next generation of scientific researchers	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to study the bill further. Deputy Speaker Linabelle Ruth Villarica (4 th District, Bulacan) will act as the TWG Chair.
	HB 1444	Rep. Belaro	Granting tax incentives for research activities	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to study the bill further. Rep. Alberto Ungab (3 rd District, Davao City) will act as the TWG Chair.
	HB 2973	Rep. Yu	Establishing a research and development center for mammalian cell lines and animal virus repository and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to study the bill further. Reps. Divina Grace Yu (1 st District, Zamboanga del Sur) and Scott Davies Lanete M.D. (3 rd District, Masbate) will co-chair the TWG.
	HB 6706	Rep. Belaro	Creating a research fund providing for its administration	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to study the bill further. Rep. Ungab will also act as its TWG Chair.
	HBs 7048 & 7132	Reps. Aumentado and Arcillas	Strengthening and expanding the promotion of research, basic research, and evidenced or science-based policy research of Act 4120 also known as the National Research Council of the Philippines of the Department of Science and Technology and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to consolidate the two bills. Reps. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY) and Benhur Lopez Jr. (Party-List, YACAP) will co-chair the TWG.
Ways and Means	Substitute Bill to HBs 492 & 3975	Reps. Turabin-Hataman and Macapagal-Arroyo	Providing for the regulation and organization of Islamic Banks	The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, approved the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to HBs 492 and 3975 subject to style.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 2860 & 4783	Reps. Sarmiento (E.M.) and Salceda	Establishing a framework for the selection of national performing arts companies designating for the purpose certain performing arts genres and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to HBs 2860 and 4783 with amendments.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Dangerous Drugs	Update on the anti-illegal drugs symposia conducted by the Committee in Northern Luzon	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Robert Ace Barbers (2nd District, Surigao del Norte), gave an update on the anti-illegal drugs symposia it conducted in Northern Luzon.</p> <p>Rep. Barbers said that the school-based activity, which carries the slogan "Maunlad na Republika, Galit sa Droga," is in line with President Rodrigo Duterte's anti-illegal drugs campaign. Barbers underscored the importance of proper information dissemination among the students in waging this war and proposed that drug awareness should be incorporated in the school curriculum.</p> <p>The first leg of the symposium was in Vigan, Ilocos Sur; Bacnotan, La Union; and Lingayen, Pangasinan on February 1 and 2.</p> <p>Rep. Barbers inquired on the views of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB),</p>

<p>Continuation... Dangerous Drugs</p>		<p>National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and Philippine National Police (PNP) on the anti-illegal drugs symposia and the demand reduction policy of government on illegal drugs.</p> <p>DDB Board Member Benjamin Reyes supports the conduct of such symposia which he believes is an effective tool against illicit drugs. Reyes suggested that the same symposium should also be conducted for parents and officials from local government units (LGUs), down to the barangay level.</p> <p>On the demand reduction policy, Reyes stressed the need to have a higher budget for a media campaign against illegal drugs which may amount to about P1 billion annually. A tri-media approach would be effective in getting the message across all levels of society on the ill-effects of drug abuse.</p> <p>Reyes also disclosed that DDB is in the process of drafting a new Philippine anti-drug policy, which will harmonize the strategies of the various government offices combating the illegal drug problem. The draft will be submitted to the Office of the President for approval.</p> <p>NBI Task Force Illegal Drugs Commander Jonathan Galicia concurred with the opinion of Reyes that there is a need for a massive public information campaign for people to know the bad effects of drug abuse. In addition, NBI Deputy Director for Forensic Investigation Service Ferdinand Lavin said that the information campaign should be extended to the academe especially to those taking up law. He said that this will allow future lawyers to get a better grasp of court procedures and eventually prosecute drug cases successfully.</p> <p>PDEA Region III Director Joseph Ladip said that a convergence approach at the barangay level would be an excellent strategy for the demand reduction policy.</p> <p>Likewise, Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2nd District, Pangasinan) mentioned that the anti-drug information campaign of the government must cascade down to the barangay level.</p> <p>Meanwhile, PNP Drug Enforcement Group (PNP-DEG) spokesman Supt. Enrico Rigor proposed that a single agency be created to focus on the implementation of the government's demand reduction policy.</p> <p>When asked about the seized cocaine containers found floating off the coasts of Sorsogon and Isabela, PDEA Intelligence Officer Martin Francia admitted that this is a new strategy employed by illegal drug traders in sourcing illegal drugs from abroad. Lavin claimed that the recent seizure is a sign of the government's success in its demand reduction efforts.</p> <p>The NBI, DDB, PDEA, and PNP were requested to also monitor private ports and hangars as entry points of illegal drugs.</p>
<p>Science and Technology</p>	<p>Creation of an Ad Hoc Committee</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Erico Aristotle Aumentado (2nd District, Bohol), approved the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee to be chaired by Rep. Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano (1st District, Ilocos Sur) to inquire on the status of implementation of the programs and projects of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), specifically on the salt and bamboo industries and the One Town One Product commercialization project per region.</p>
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Discussion and coordination planning on the 2nd leg of the North and Central Luzon inspection trip.</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, will discuss further in its next meeting the 2nd leg of the North and Central Luzon inspection trip (3rd working travel expedition), to be conducted by Members of the House in collaboration with various government agencies. The trip is tentatively scheduled to take place from March</p>

Continuation... Transportation		<p>15-18, 2018.</p> <p>The success of the previous expeditions inspired the House leadership, headed by Speaker Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez (1st District, Davao del Norte) and Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1st District, Ilocos Norte), to continue this activity.</p> <p>During the expedition, the House Members will check the condition and worthiness of roads, highways and infrastructures particularly in the countryside, in order to identify which areas need crucial improvements and to ensure that the basic necessities of the regular commuter are accessible, safe and convenient.</p> <p>The inspection trip also aims to provide the legislators with insights on what legislations to pursue to improve the plight of the commuting public.</p>
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SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Subcommittee on Oversight (Legislative Franchises)	<i>Motu proprio</i> inquiry into the alleged sale of Philippine Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (PT&T) to Menlo Capital Corporation (MENLO) without Congressional approval	The Subcommittee on Oversight, chaired by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, agreed to hold an executive session to continue its discussion on the alleged sale of PT&T to MENLO.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Games and Amusements (Technical Working Group)	HBs 6111 & 6514	Rep. Pineda and Speaker Alvarez	Rationalizing and consolidating government regulations on games of chance, creating for the purpose the Philippine Amusement Gaming Authority (PAGA) and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), will deliberate further on the two bills in its next meeting using HB 6514 as the working draft.</p> <p>The resource persons were asked to submit their respective position papers on the proposed law.</p>
Population and Family Relations (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 116, 1062, 2380 & 6027	Reps. Lagman, Barbers, De Jesus, and Baguilat	Instituting absolute divorce in the Philippines	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Edcel Lagman (1st District, Albay), approved the Substitute Bill to the four bills.</p> <p>The substitute bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Rep. Lagman underscored that aside from the bill being a pro-woman legislation, where divorce becomes a viable option to leave an abusive relationship, it also equally promotes the preservation of marriage by providing for a cooling off period of six months after the filing of the petition for absolute divorce, as a final attempt of reconciling the spouses. In addition, pre-nuptial and post-matrimonial programs and activities will also be provided by the State.</p> <p>Addressing the concern of Elizabeth Angsioco, national chair of the Democratic Socialist</p>

<p>Continuation... Population and Family Relations (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>Women of the Philippines (DSWP), Rep. Lagman cited Section 3.2 of the bill, which provides that "The State shall assure that the proceedings for the grant of absolute divorce shall be affordable and inexpensive and follows an efficient process particularly for indigent litigants or petitioners."</p> <p>The bill also requires the submission of a "joint plan for parenthood" upon filing of a joint petition for absolute divorce. The plan provides for the support, parental authority, custody, and living arrangements of the common children.</p> <p>Pia Charmaine Obtinario-De Jesus, department legislative liaison specialist of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), recommended that a third party should be tasked to monitor and submit periodic reports on the compliance of both spouses with their responsibilities under the joint plan for parenthood, subject to the validation of a social worker or a social welfare officer.</p>
<p>Rural Development (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>HB 6997</p>	<p>Rep. Ramos</p>	<p>Providing for a Rural Development Amelioration Fund</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Evelina Escudero (1st District, Sorsogon), will draft a substitute bill, incorporating therein the recommendations of the stakeholders.</p> <p>Rep. Deogracias Ramos, Jr. (2nd District, Sorsogon), author of HB 6997, explained that his bill intends to spur the development of rural barangays by providing them annual budget allocations to fund specific projects.</p> <p>The bill provides for the allocation of P4 million as Rural Development Amelioration Fund for every rural barangay which will be utilized as follows: P1 million for infrastructure development; P1 million for agriculture and/or fishery development; P1 million for livelihood program; P500,000 for nutrition program; and P500,000 for burial, food, medical, transportation and educational assistance.</p> <p>All Committee Members present in the meeting expressed their support for the bill.</p> <p>Both Reps. Fernando Gonzalez (3rd District, Albay) and Orestes Salon (Party-List, AGRI) suggested the reduction in the requirements for availing the amelioration fund under the proposed law.</p> <p>Arman Mangalimot of the National Nutrition Council (NNC) also expressed support for the bill, explaining that it will ensure investments in food security and nutrition programs in every rural barangay.</p> <p>On the other hand, representatives from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) expressed apprehension on the proposed law.</p>

<p>Continuation... Rural Development (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>DBM's Chief Budget Specialist Aries Macaspac explained that the proposed law will have a significant implication on the expenditures program of the government as it will entail a huge budgetary requirement. He also expressed doubt on the absorptive capacity of the rural barangays, adding that the P4 million rural development amelioration fund would be higher by approximately 62% than what some of the barangays receive annually from their share in the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA).</p> <p>NEDA Senior Economic Development Specialist Ana Francesca Rosales explained that a lump sum fund is not allowed to augment funds for existing projects. Rosales also underscored the need to establish a mechanism, should the bill be enacted, that will guard against double funding of projects.</p> <p>Rep. Anthony Bravo, PhD. (Party-List, COOP NATCCO), suggested that the DBM, NEDA, Department of Agriculture (DA), and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) should closely coordinate among each other to avoid duplication of projects.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP), Raul Ludovice, supervising statistical specialist of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), said that the PSA is using its 2003 definition to classify rural and urban areas.</p> <p>Rep. Escudero emphasized the importance of classifying barangays into rural or urban as this will be the basis in determining the budgetary requirement for the implementation of the proposed law.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill. Likewise, PSA was requested to submit a report on poverty incidence from 2013 at the national, provincial, and barangay level.</p>
<p>Trade and Industry (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>HBs 528, 877, 1324, 2917 & 5970</p>	<p>Reps. Batocabe, Sarmiento (E.), Pimentel, Escudero, and Roque (H.)</p>	<p>Amending Batas Pambansa Blg. 68 or the Corporation Code of the Philippines, by incorporating international best practices and new concepts to address the needs of the Philippine corporate setting and to keep up with the realities of the times and the fast-changing technological developments</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, will deliberate further on the five bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>In an effort to come up with a thorough and responsive legislation, the TWG is also studying Senate Bill 1280 which has a subject matter similar to the four House Bills under review. SB 1280 was already approved on second reading by the Senate.</p> <p>The TWG agreed on the definition of a "one person corporation" as a corporation with a single stockholder; provided that, only a natural person, trust or an estate may form a one person corporation."</p>

<p>Continuation... Trade and Industry (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>It also agreed to adopt Sections 6 (Classification of Shares), 7 (Founder's Shares), 8 (Redeemable Shares), 9 (Treasury Shares), and 10 (Number and Qualifications of Incorporators) of Senate Bill 1280.</p> <p>After a thorough discussion of the provisions under Chapter III (One Person Corporation) of the Senate Bill, the TWG agreed on the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit a person, who is licensed to exercise a profession, from organizing as a one person corporation for the purpose of exercising such profession; • Remove the minimum capital stock requirement for one person corporation, except otherwise provided by special laws; • Designate a nominee and an alternate nominee that will act as administrator for one person corporation in case of death or incapacity of the single stockholder until a lawful heir has been determined; and • Require the submission of annual financial statements, audited by an independent certified public accountant, pursuant to RA 9298 or the Philippine Accountancy Act, if the total assets and liabilities of a one person corporation is more than P3 million. <p>Commenting on Sections 132 and 133 of the Senate Bill, Atty. Joseph Giancarlo Agdamag of the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) proposed that the conversion of an ordinary corporation to a one person corporation and vice versa be subjected to the mandatory notification under the Philippine Competition Act (RA 10667) to ensure an efficient and fair market competition among businesses.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Mindanao Affairs	Briefing by the Department of National Defense (DND) on the current situation in Mindanao under martial law	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Maximo Rodriguez Jr. (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), agreed to hold an executive session to discuss the status of implementation of martial law in Mindanao.</p> <p>Rep. Makmod Mending Jr. (Party-List, AMIN) and DND Undersecretary Cardozo Luna were in favor of discussing sensitive issues in an executive session.</p>