

# Committee Daily Bulletin

17<sup>th</sup> Congress  
Second Regular Session

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Basic Education and Culture	HB 58	Rep. Tinio	Institutionalizing support mechanisms for public school teachers and school personnel in matters of student discipline and mechanisms for classroom management and providing for their protection in cases related thereto	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ramon "Red" Durano VI (5th District, Cebu), approved HB 58.</p> <p>The bill seeks to amend RA 7610 or the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act, by providing that any act committed by a teacher or school staff pursuant to the disciplinary rules and procedures issued by the Department of Education (DepEd) shall not be deemed as "child abuse."</p> <p>Rep. Antonio Tinio (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS), author of HB 58, manifested that the explanatory note to the bill be registered as his sponsorship speech.</p> <p>Rep. France Castro (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS), co-author of the bill, explained the salient features of the proposed law.</p> <p>Representatives from the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) in the National Capital Region (NCR) and Region IV-A manifested their support for the bill, saying that this will protect them in cases related to student discipline and classroom management and afford them legal assistance and representation whenever a case will be filed against them. They lamented that the implementation of RA 7610 and Department Order 40, s. of 2012 on Child Protection Policy issued by the DepEd made them vulnerable to abuse.</p> <p>Representatives from the DepEd and the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations of the Philippines (COCOPEA) also expressed their support for the bill.</p>
	HB 1022	Rep. Bataoil	Declaring "Baybayin" as the national writing system of the Philippines, providing for its promotion, protection, preservation and conservation	<p>The Committee approved HB 1022.</p> <p>Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2nd District, Pangasinan), author of HB 1022, manifested that the explanatory note to the bill be registered as his sponsorship speech.</p>

Continuation... Basic Education and Culture				Representatives from the DepEd, National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), and advocacy group <i>Baybayin Buhayin</i> , expressed their support for the bill.
HR 1099	Rep. Savellano	Acknowledging the great contribution of the late famed artist Mauro "Malang" Santos to Filipino culture and arts and extending the House of Representatives' deep condolences and empathy to the bereaved family		The Committee adopted HR 1099.  Rep. Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN), sponsored HB 1099 on behalf of the author, Rep. Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1st District, Ilocos Sur).
HR 1232	Rep. Gomez	Inviting regional and national stakeholders to a consultation assembly on marking the 500th anniversary of Magellan's arrival in the Philippine archipelago on March 16, 2021		The Committee adopted HR 1232 subject to amendment.
Substitute Bill to HB 4463	Rep. Garcia (J.E.)	Creating a regional high school for the arts in the Province of Bataan to be known as the Bataan High School for the Arts and appropriating funds therefor		The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 4463.  Rep. Salo sponsored the bill on behalf of the author, Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2nd District, Bataan).
Substitute Bill to HB 4512	Rep. Uybarreta	Recognizing the Everest Academy as an educational institution of international character and granting the academy certain prerogatives to promote its development		The Committee, after considering the legal study made by the Reference and Research Bureau (RRB) of the House of Representatives which finds that the proposed measure is constitutional and without any legal infirmities, finally approved the Substitute Bill to HB 4512.  Earlier, the Committee reconsidered its previous approval of the substitute bill due to certain constitutional and legal issues that cropped up after the bill was approved.
HB 6306 in consolidation with HBs 6032 & 6063	Reps. Lacson, Salo, and Escudero	Recognizing the British School Manila as an educational institution of international character and granting the school certain prerogatives conducive to its development		The Committee, after considering the legal study made by the House's RRB which finds that the proposed measure is constitutional and without any legal infirmities, finally approved HB 6306 in consolidation with HBs 6032 and 6063.  Earlier, the Committee reconsidered its previous approval of the proposed law due to certain constitutional and legal issues that cropped up after it was approved.
HB 4304	Rep. Zubiri	Converting the Bocboc National High School - Kiara Annex in the Municipality of Don Carlos, Province of Bukidnon into a national high school to be known as Kiara National High School and appropriating funds therefor		The Committee approved HB 4304 and the corresponding Committee Report.
HB 5033	Rep. Limkaichong	Establishing a separate school's division office in the City of Canlaon, Province of Negros Oriental		The Committee approved HB 5033.
HB 5307	Rep. Cortes	Separating the Cabangahan National High School - Cordova Annex in the Province of Cebu from the Cabangahan		The Committee approved HB 5307.

Continuation... Basic Education and Culture			National High School, converting it into an independent national high school to be known as the Cordova National High School, and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 6998	Rep. Ungab	Renaming the Tawantawan Elementary School in Barangay Tawantawan, Baguio District, Davao City to be known as Aglay Ayag Elementary School and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 6998.
	HB 7117	Rep. Fortuno	Renaming the Inoyonan High School in the Municipality of Bula, Province of Camarines Sur to Felipe P. Pantan High School	The Committee approved HB 7117.
	HB 473	Rep. Tinio	Regulating class size in all public schools and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG), to be chaired by Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, to deliberate further on HB 473.</p> <p>Rep. Tinio, author of HB 473, manifested that the explanatory note to the bill be registered as his sponsorship speech.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Julieta Cortuna (Party-List, A TEACHER) as to what the DepEd is doing right now to address oversized classes, DepEd Undersecretary Jesus Lorenzo Mateo said that the Department is currently constructing multi-storey school buildings to maximize the use of the land and build more classrooms to reduce the number of students per class.</p> <p>Mateo added that the Department has adopted the “busing system” wherein students from overcrowded schools are transported to nearby schools that have the capacity to absorb large number of students. The local government units (LGUs) are being encouraged to adopt this program in their respective areas of jurisdiction, Mateo said.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Cortuna if teachers handling bigger class size and more classes are given additional incentives, Mateo said that they are entitled to additional leave credits. He also informed the Committee that the DepEd is requesting the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for additional compensation for teachers with this kind of workload.</p> <p>The DepEd was requested to submit the documents required by the Members of the Committee.</p>
	HR 1607	Rep. Tinio	Inquiry into the delayed release of the performance-based bonus for fiscal year 2016 of public school teachers, non-teaching personnel, and other employees under the DepEd	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 1607 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Tinio inquired on the reasons for the delay in the release of the performance-based bonus (PBB) of teaching and non-teaching personnel of the DepEd for FY 2016.</p>

Continuation... Basic Education and Culture				<p>Rep. Castro, co-author of HR 1607, remarked that the delay in the release of the PBB may be attributed to the frequent revision of the guidelines for the grant of such bonus.</p> <p>Mateo explained that there are certain criteria and conditions that need to be complied with prior to the grant of the PBB.</p> <p>DBM Assistant Secretary Myrna Chua explained that the grant of the PBB is based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieve performance targets under major final outputs (MFOs) of the FY 2016 General Appropriations Act (GAA) and the targets for Support to Operations (STO) and General Administration and Support Services (GASS);</li> <li>• Satisfy 100% of the Good Governance Conditions set by the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF), created by virtue of Administrative Order No. 25 s. of 2011; and</li> <li>• Use the Civil Service Commission (CSC)-approved Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS) in rating the first and second level officials and employees of the department/agency of the national and local government.</li> </ul> <p>Nevertheless, DBM's Organization, Position Classification and Compensation Bureau (OPCCB) Director Gerald Janda said that the DBM is already processing the release of the funds for the 2016 PBB of teachers and non-teaching personnel and other personnel of the DepEd. He reported on the varying stages of processing/release of the Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) and Notice of Cash Allocation (NCA) for all regions as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regions I, III, IV-A, V, XI and XII - the SARO and NCA were already released;</li> <li>• National Capital Region (NCR) and Region II - SARO and NCA will be released within the month;</li> <li>• Regions VIII, IX, X, CAR and CARAGA – SARO and NCA are still under process; and</li> <li>• Regions IV-B, VI and VII - DBM is awaiting the submission of required documents from the DepEd.</li> </ul> <p>The DBM was requested to update the Committee on the status of fund release for the 2016 PBB of the DepEd personnel.</p>
Good Government and Public Accountability	HR 360	Rep. Suansing (E.)	Inquiry into the construction of Barangay Health Stations throughout the country within the premises of public elementary schools by the Central Office of the Department of Health (DOH)	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 360 in its next meeting.

<p>Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability</p>				<p>At the outset, Rep. Pimentel said that there is a need to determine if the Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP) of the DOH was properly implemented and whether or not there were irregularities and incidents of malfeasance, misfeasance and nonfeasance committed in the implementation of the said Program.</p> <p>HFEP envisions quality health care to be more accessible to the poor and vulnerable population through ensuring functional barangay health stations (BHS) in every barangay.</p> <p>Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1<sup>st</sup> District, Nueva Ecija), author of HR 360, reported that the program involves two phases: Phase 1, the construction of 3,200 health stations; and Phase 2, the construction of the remaining 2,700 health stations. According to Rep. Suansing, both phases have yet to be completed.</p> <p>Atty. Julieanne Jorge, member of the Board of Directors of J-Bros Construction Corporation, the construction company which won the bidding for both phases of the HFEP, explained that the delays in the construction of the health stations were largely due to the non-workability of most of the identified sites and the non-payment on the part of the DOH for the work that the construction firm has rendered so far. Jorge explained that some of the identified sites already have existing structures, have no space provision, or were not conducive for a health station.</p> <p>DOH Undersecretary Herminigildo Valle informed the Committee that the non-payment was due to the disagreement between J-Bros Construction and the DOH regarding the billed amount. While J-Bros Construction insists that it should be paid 23.5% of the total project amount, DOH maintains that J-Bros Construction has only completed 12% of the work and should only be paid correspondingly.</p> <p>Jorge revealed that the DOH has sought the opinion of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) on the matter which eventually issued an opinion in favor of J-Bros Construction. She said that the company is willing to continue with the project as long as the DOH delivers its obligations pursuant to the contract, including ensuring the workability of the sites.</p> <p>Valle informed the Committee that the DOH and J-Bros Construction have agreed on a six-month Catch Up Plan for the program.</p> <p>Several Committee Members questioned the source of funding for the program noting that it was not part of the DOH's budget proposal for</p>
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<p>Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability</p>				<p>FY 2015. They also asked the DOH why it proceeded to bid out the construction of the barangay health stations when the program had no funding.</p> <p>DOH Bureau of Local Health Systems Director Enrique Tayag explained that they were told to proceed with the bidding by DOH Health Facility Development Bureau Director Criselda Abesamis upon instructions from then Secretary Janette Garin.</p> <p>DOH Financial and Management Service Director Laureano Cruz clarified that the realigned budget for the implementation of the HFEP in 2015 did not come from DOH's savings for the same year.</p>
	<p>HR 1653</p>	<p>Rep. Datol</p>	<p>Investigation into the alleged anomalous and inappropriate use of senior citizens' Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) insurance funds on crude eye operations performed on groups of senior citizens that resulted to their blindness and/or deteriorating eyesight, and to determine the accountability of erring public officials and private individuals, including erring PhilHealth officials of the previous and present administration</p>	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 1653 and Privilege Speech 332 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Francisco Datol Jr. (Party-List, Senior Citizen), author of the two measures, said that he has received numerous complaints from senior citizens who have been victimized by private doctors and people claiming to be PhilHealth representatives. Rep. Datol said that these doctors convince senior citizens to undergo eye operations which were really unnecessary, were done poorly and resulted to the worsening of their vision with some cases even causing blindness.</p>
	<p>Privilege Speech 332</p>	<p>Rep. Datol</p>	<p>On the alleged misuse of the P10.6 billion fund for health insurance premiums of senior citizens by the previous administration</p>	<p>According to Rep. Datol, these incidents have also resulted to a significant depletion of the PhilHealth insurance fund allocated for senior citizens. He added that there is a need to improve the current system of PhilHealth and to hold accountable those people who have taken part in this anomalous conspiracy.</p> <p>PhilHealth OIC President and CEO Celestina Ma. Jude dela Serna informed the Committee that the funds for the coverage of all senior citizens under PhilHealth's National Health Insurance Program was realigned to the DOH HFEP Program by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) as per a request sent by former DOH Secretary Garin and former PhilHealth President Alex Padilla. According to Dela Serna, the PhilHealth Board was not consulted on the matter and the realignment almost caused the agency to go bankrupt.</p> <p>Meanwhile, David Harold Gosiengfiao, M.D., former owner of the Pacific Eye Institute (PEI), one of the eye centers where questionable eye procedures were allegedly undertaken, denied the involvement of ophthalmologists in the alleged scam.</p> <p>Gosiengfiao proceeded to accuse several PhilHealth officials, particularly its former</p>

Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability				<p>president Alex Padilla, of extortion. He said Padilla allegedly extorted P7 million from him in exchange for an order that would allow PhilHealth to process his claims amounting to more than P70 million. He disclosed that he has filed several cases against the personalities and legal entities involved in the said extortion.</p> <p>Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City) said that Gosiengfiao might indeed had been a victim of a syndicate operating within PhilHealth but his case does not invalidate the numerous complaints coming from senior citizens.</p> <p>The Committee Secretariat was instructed to invite Garin, Padilla, and former Budget Secretary Florencio Abad to attend in the Committee's next meeting.</p> <p>PhilHealth was instructed to submit a list of the hospitals and senior citizens involved in the alleged anomalous eye operations.</p>
Higher and Technical Education	HBs 6494, 6495, 6496, 6497, 6498 & 6499	Rep. Sy-Alvarado	Providing for the establishment of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) training and accreditation centers in the City of Malolos and in the Municipalities of Pulilan, Calumpit, Paombong, Bulacan, and Hagonoy, all in the Province of Bulacan	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ann Hofer (2nd District, Zamboanga Sibugay), approved the six bills and the corresponding Committee Reports subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Jose Antonio "Kuya Jonathan" Sy-Alvarado (1st District, Bulacan) manifested that the explanatory note attached to his bills be included in the records as his sponsorship speeches.</p> <p>The Committee will refer the bills to the Committee on Appropriations for its consideration of the bills' appropriations provision.</p>
	HB 6931	Rep. Malapitan	Establishing a branch of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) in Caloocan City-North to be known as the PUP-Caloocan City-North Branch and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved HB 6931 and the corresponding Committee Report subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>The Committee will refer the bill to the Committee on Appropriations for its consideration of the bill's appropriations provision.</p> <p>Rep. Dale "Along" Malapitan (1st District, Caloocan City) manifested that the explanatory note attached to his bill be included in the records as his sponsorship speech.</p>
	HB 7081	Rep. Gasataya	Converting the Carlos Hilado Memorial State College in the City of Talisay, Negros Occidental, including all its satellite campuses located in the Cities of Talisay and Bacolod and in the Municipality of Binalbagan, all in the Province of Negros Occidental, into a state university to be known as the Carlos Hilado Memorial State University, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved the bill subject to the conduct of a joint ocular inspection of the school by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).</p> <p>Director Joselito Alisuag of CHED's Office of Institutional Quality Assurance and Governance interposed no objection to the bill and recommended that the Secretary of the</p>

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education				Department of Agriculture (DA) be included as one of the members of the Governing Board of the proposed university.
	HB 181	Rep. Crisologo	Instituting free college education for indigent students	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on HB 181.</p> <p>Rep. Sy-Alvarado was designated to chair the TWG.</p> <p>Rep. Vincent "Bingbong" Crisologo (1st District, Quezon City), author of HB 181, said that his bill will mandate state universities and colleges (SUCs) and private higher education institutions (HEIs) to provide free college education to deserving and qualified indigent students, the number of which shall be at least 10% of their total paying freshman enrollees.</p> <p>Rep. Crisologo said that it is about time that the SUCs and private HEIs give back to society considering that the SUCs receive subsidies from the national government while the private HEIs are enjoying tax exemptions.</p> <p>Representatives from government agencies such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the National Youth Commission (NYC), as well as student organizations from the University of the Philippines (UP) and University of Manila, and the National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP) expressed support for the bill.</p> <p>On the other hand, CHED Deputy Executive Director Napoleon Imperial objected to the bill saying that RA 10931, or the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act, already provides indigent students scholarships, study grants, student loans, and similar financial assistance.</p>
Legislative Franchises	HB 6385	Rep. Go (M.)	Renewing the franchise granted to Philippine Communications Satellite Corporation (PHILCOMSAT) to construct, install, maintain and operate in the Philippines ground satellite terminal stations for telecommunication with satellite facilities and delivery to common carriers	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Franz "Chicoy" Alvarez (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Palawan), approved HB 6385 with amendments.
	HB 6429	Rep. Bravo (A.)	Renewing the franchise granted to Andres Bonifacio College Broadcasting System, Inc. to construct, install, operate and maintain radio broadcasting stations and stations for television in the Island of Mindanao for educational, cultural and commercial purposes for another 25 years	<p>The Committee approved HB 6429 subject to the reconciliation of the records of the Andres Bonifacio Broadcasting with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).</p> <p>Rep. Anthony Bravo Ph.D. (Party-List, COOP NATCCO) underscored the role of Andres Bonifacio Broadcasting as a long-time partner of the state in disseminating vital information not only to its college students but also to the people of Mindanao.</p>

Continuation... Legislative Franchises				<p>Alvin Bernard Blanco, chief of the Broadcast Services Division, National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), expressed no objection to HB 6429.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Atty. Aljean Lacanaria of SEC's Office of the General Counsel advised Andres Bonifacio Broadcasting to coordinate regularly with SEC's Company Registration and Monitoring Department to avoid another revocation of its registration in the future.</p> <p>During the years 1997 to 2002, the SEC carried out a mass revocation of registration of companies which consistently failed to comply with the annual reportorial requirements. One of the companies affected was the Andres Bonifacio Broadcasting.</p> <p>Dean Amatong, director of eSystems Management Office, Andres Bonifacio College Broadcasting System, Inc., apprised the body that the company is ready to submit the required reports and other documents for the period 2013 to 2017. On the other hand, company records prior to 2013 are still being updated, he added.</p> <p>The company was requested to furnish the Committee copies of the said documents for the period 2013 to 2017.</p>
Local Government	HB 5185	Deputy Speaker Sema	Creating the Province of Maguindanao North	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Pedro Acharon Jr. (1st District, South Cotabato and General Santos City), approved HB 5185.
	HB 5725	Rep. Robes	Dividing Barangay Muzon in the City of San Jose Del Monte, Province of Bulacan into four distinct and independent barangays to be known as Barangay Muzon East, Barangay Muzon West, Barangay Muzon South, and Barangay Muzon Proper, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 5725.
	HB 6241	Rep. Relampagos	Renaming Panglao Island to Daus-Panglao Island	The Committee approved HB 6241.
	HBs 7031 & 7032	Rep. Amante	Creating Barangay Pangaylan-IP in the Municipality of Santiago and Barangay Crossing in the Municipality of Kitcharao, both in the Province of Agusan del Norte	The Committee approved HBs 7031 and 7032.
	HBs 2529 & 3867	Reps. Uy (J.) and Escudero	Rationalizing local taxation, amending for the purpose Sec. 150, Chapter 1, Title One, Book II of RA 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the three bills.</p> <p>Rep. Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II (1st District, Zamboanga Sibugay) will act as the TWG Chair.</p>
	HB 4672	Rep. Garcia (J.E.)	Rationalizing the collection of the tax on business under Sec. 143 of RA 7160, amending for the purpose Sec. 150 thereof	Speaking in behalf of the minority bloc, Rep. Eugene Michael de Vera (Party-List, ABS) expressed his reservation on the bills.

Continuation... Local Government				The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills.
	HB 4692	Rep. Albano	Reapportioning the current four legislative districts of the Province of Isabela to six legislative districts	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to fine-tune HB 4692.  Rep. Jose Panganiban Jr. (Party-List, ANAC-IP) will act as the TWG Chair.
Muslim Affairs	Substitute Bill to HB 968	Rep. Turabia-Hataman	Declaring the first day of February of every year as National Hijab Day	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Mauyag "Jun" Papandayan Jr. (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Lanao del Sur), approved the Substitute Bill to HB 968.
	HB 5772	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Institutionalizing the payment of <i>zakat</i> by Muslims in the Philippines, creating the Philippine Bait-UI-Mal, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on HB 5772.  Rep. Maximo Rodriguez Jr. (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Cagayan de Oro City), author of HB 5772, said that the ultimate purpose of the bill is to eliminate poverty in Mindanao.  The proposed Philippine Bait-UI-Mal (welfare fund) shall be responsible for the implementation of the <i>zakat</i> and <i>sadaqah</i> (voluntary contribution) system among Muslims in the Philippines.  As defined in the bill, "zakat" means tithe or obligatory contribution which is assessed based on certain assets owned by a Muslim and is to be distributed to specified categories of beneficiaries.  The resource persons present during the meeting expressed support for the bill, with some of them presenting their respective recommendations.  From the Department of Education (DepEd)-Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the suggestion is to strengthen the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) and let it implement the proposed law instead of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).  The DSWD also recommended that the coverage of the bill be expanded to include other parts of the country with significant Muslim population.  Al Amanah Islamic Investment Bank's acting operations head Nasor Abdullatif recommended that his bank, being the only bank in the Philippines that offer Islamic banking, be designated in the bill as the welfare fund's depository bank.  The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill.

Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (Special Committee)	HB 5669	Rep. Belmonte (J.C.)	Establishing a transitional justice and reconciliation program for the Bangsamoro, creating for the purpose the National Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission for the Bangsamoro, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Tawi-Tawi Rep. Ruby Sahali, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on HB 5669.</p> <p>Rep. Makmod Mending Jr. (Party-List, AMIN) sponsored the bill in behalf of Rep. Jose Christopher Belmonte (6th District, Quezon City), author of HB 5669 and also named TWG chair. Rep. Mending said the bill seeks to establish the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Program (TJRP) which aims to address issues such as historical injustices, human rights violations and land dispossessions that were committed against the Bangsamoro people; and to create the National Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission for the Bangsamoro (NTJRCB), which will be tasked to implement the program.</p> <p>Maricel Aguilar, national project officer of UN Women Philippines, recommended that the program should cover not only the resolution of land disputes but also the resolution of ancestral waters in which both the Badjaos and Sama Dilauts have unresolved issues.</p> <p>With regard to the composition of NTJRCB, Aguilar and Karen Tañada, executive director of Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute (GZO), the current secretariat of Women Engaged in Action 1325 (WE Act 1325), expressed that the participation of women in the Commission should be ensured and that a gender mechanism be adopted to mainstream women's rights and promote gender equality in the Commission.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Sahali if the aforementioned proposals can be incorporated into the transitional justice provisions in the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL), Assistant Secretary Rolando Asuncion of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) answered that the agency will have to study the bill first.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their proposed amendments to the bill in the next meeting.</p>
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COMMITTEE MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Metro Manila Development	Discussion on the planned modernization of public utility jeepneys (PUJs) in Metro Manila	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), will continue its discussion on the planned modernization of PUJs in Metro Manila in its next meeting.</p> <p>Malabon City Rep. Federico "Ricky" Sandoval II expressed concern that the PUJ modernization program may be tantamount to a phase-</p>

<p>Continuation... Metro Manila Development</p>	<p>out program that replaces all existing jeepneys to the detriment of small jeepney operators and drivers. He likewise manifested that the program may pave the way for a corporate takeover with the entry of new suppliers and investors.</p> <p>LTFRB Chair Martin Delgra explained that the purpose of upgrading the PUJs, apart from improving the jeepney's design, is to decrease the country's carbon emission level thereby complying with international air quality standards and the Clean Air Act of 1999.</p> <p>Bong Cruz, head of Business Development and Corporate Communications, Centro Manufacturing Corporation (CMC), presented to the body four out of 16 prototypes for the PUJ replacement coming from various vehicle manufacturers such as Mitsubishi, Foton and Tata, among others.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Bayani Fernando (1st District, Marikina City) if local jeepney manufacturers and assemblers are capable of upgrading the present PUJs, Cruz replied in the negative since local producers are currently not equipped to undergo vehicle platform innovations that would meet international standards.</p> <p>Jeepney operator and assembler Don Salvaleon of Skipper Motors countered that while the platforms of local manufacturers are not internationally recognized, the jeepneys they manufactured were able to last for more than 50 years.</p> <p>On the other hand, National President George San Mateo of the Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Operator Nationwide (PISTON) apprised the Committee that a Filipino inventor (unnamed) was able to develop a motor engine with a carbon emission of 0.4 part per million which is lesser than the international or Euro4 emission standard currently set at 2 parts per million. Both Salvaleon and San Mateo sought the support of government for the development of the strengths of the local manufacturing industry.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Yuri Sarmiento, president of the 1-Transport Equipment Aggregator and Management (1-TEAM), presented to the Committee his transport business model which he claimed to have succeeded even before the implementation of the PUJ modernization program. According to Sarmiento, driver's salaries amounted to P23,000 per month on a 10-hour daily average shift.</p> <p>Maria del Carmen Hernandez, head of Program Development and Management Department, Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), revealed that given 1-TEAM's good standing with the bank, DBP will continue to support 1-TEAM and would likely approve another loan grant in the future. However, transport groups present during the meeting refuted 1-TEAM's success story.</p> <p>1-TEAM operations started in 2015 upon the release of a P10 million loan grant with chattel mortgage by the DBP.</p> <p>The Bureau of Product Standards, Department of Trade and Industry (BPS-DTI) was requested to submit to the Committee complete specifications of the proposed PUJ units, while DBP and the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) were requested to submit their financial and cost-benefit analyses on possible loan programs for cooperatives in line with the PUJ modernization program.</p> <p>The 1-TEAM was requested to submit all pertinent documents relative to its transport business model, including copies of the monthly payslips of 1-TEAM drivers.</p>
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**TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS**

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Energy (Technical Working Group)	HB 2172	Rep. Santos-Recto	Reducing the cost of electricity for national government offices by promoting the development and utilization of solar energy in all government buildings and offices, providing funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Jose "Pingping" Tejada (3rd District, North Cotabato), will deliberate further on the two bills in its next meeting.</p>
	HB 5402	Rep. Olivarez	Mandating government offices and/or establishments to allot at least 30% of their energy requirements to solar energy, and mandating them to install solar panels in their buildings	<p>Rep. Mark Aeron Sambar (Party-List, PBA) asked the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) why it recommended that government agencies with renewable energy system be excluded from the existing provision of RA 9513 (Renewable Energy Act of 2008), allowing only small power generating entities with 100 kilowatts (KW) capacity and below to be qualified to the net-metering program.</p> <p>Charise San Juan, energy regulation officer at the ERC, explained that the exclusion will allow government offices to produce their maximum power capacity even if it is beyond the 100-kilowatt cap.</p> <p>Rep. Sambar suggested the inclusion in the proposed law of a provision that would exempt government buildings from the 100-kilowatt cap. He also cited that aside from mandating government entities to install solar energy power, it should also encourage them to be more efficient in generating power.</p> <p>Energy Regulation Officer Noralyn Santos of the ERC said that power generated by government facilities in excess of what they need should not be sold so as not to compete with power generating companies.</p> <p>Rep. Carlos Roman Uybarreta (Party-List, 1-CARE) asked if government buildings are assessed before installation of the solar power systems to determine if the buildings are capable for such facilities.</p> <p>Engr. Josephine Isturis of the Bureau of Design, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), replied that the department does evaluate the structural integrity of the buildings identified for the installation of the solar energy systems. The said evaluation takes about six months to complete, she added.</p> <p>Hence, Rep. Uybarreta stressed that the proposal under HB 2172 to establish solar energy systems in national government buildings and offices within 60 days upon effectivity of the proposed law would not be feasible.</p> <p>Representatives from the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) and the National Power</p>

Continuation... Energy (Technical Working Group)				<p>Corporation (NPC) concurred with the statement of Rep. Uybarreta.</p> <p>The TWG agreed to invite representatives from the distribution utilities (DUs) to comment on the bills.</p> <p>The DPWH was asked to submit the inventory of government buildings nationwide and the status of the buildings in terms of their capacity to install solar energy systems.</p>
Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. w/ National Defense and Security (Technical Working Group)	HBs 1137 & 5673	Reps. Alejano and Matugas	Amending pertinent laws on the retirement benefits and pension of uniformed personnel of the uniformed services and providing funds therefor	<p>The joint technical working group (TWG), chaired by Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, will deliberate further on the three bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Go expressed his reservation on the proposed mandatory contribution of “new entrants” to the uniformed service as their personal share in the proposed Uniformed Personnel Retirement Fund.</p> <p>HBs 1137 and 5673 define “new entrants” as those “uniformed personnel who enter the uniformed services upon the effectivity of this Act.”</p> <p>However, Department of National Defense (DND) Undersecretary Reynaldo Mapagu, along with other resource persons present in the meeting, expressed support for the uniformed personnel’s mandatory contribution saying that it is important to sustain the retirement fund.</p> <p>The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) was requested to present a study on the viability of assigning the GSIS as the administering agency for the retirement and pension benefits of all uniformed personnel.</p> <p>Likewise, the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) was requested to report on the status of the trust fund following the dissolution of the AFP’s Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS) upon the issuance of Executive Order 590 s. 2006 by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.</p> <p>The TWG will study further if the indexation of pension benefits will be considered in the proposed law, as well as look into the experiences of other countries which have adopted their own system of pension indexation.</p>
	HB 4709	Rep. Antonino	Establishing a single retirement and separation benefit system for government employees, including members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP), amending for the purpose PD 1146, as amended by RA 8291, otherwise known as the Government Service Insurance Act of 1997	

PUBLIC HEARING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
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.), 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, co-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 for the Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, respectively, again held a series of public hearings in Mindanao to hear the sentiments of the people on the ground regarding the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL).</p> <p>The 3<sup>rd</sup> leg of the public hearings was held on March 1 and 2 in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi and at the Zamboanga City State Polytechnic College, Zamboanga City, respectively.</p> <p>Aside from the Chairpersons of the three Committees, the following House Members attended the public hearings (either in one or in both hearings): Deputy Speaker Bai Sandra Sinsuat Sema (1st District, Maguindanao), Reps. Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City), Manuel Jose "Mannix" Dalipe (2nd District, Zamboanga City), Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II (1st District, Zamboanga City), Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Pampanga), Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr. (Ifugao), Leopoldo Bataoil (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Pangasinan), and Jorge Almonte (1<sup>st</sup> District, Misamis Occidental).</p> <p>Other attendees to the public hearings were officials of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC), namely, Chairman Ghadzali Jaafar and Commissioners Jose Lorena, Hussin Amin, Mohagher Iqbal, Datu Mussolini Sinsuat Lidasan, and Susana Salvador-Anayatin; Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) Undersecretary Nabil Tan; local government executives; members of civil society groups; and other stakeholders.</p>

AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Muslim Affairs	Briefing by the Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM) on the rehabilitation, recovery, and reconstruction efforts in Marawi City	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Mauyag "Jun" Papandayan, Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Lanao del Sur), will continue its discussion on the rehabilitation, recovery, and reconstruction of Marawi City in another meeting.</p> <p>Director Mylene Rivera of the Community Development Group, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), presented to the Committee the rehabilitation plan for Marawi City. She mentioned that some 17,500 households have returned to their homes in Marawi and that the TFBM's target completion of the rehabilitation of the most affected areas is by the end of 2021.</p>

Continuation... Muslim Affairs		<p>Meanwhile, Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1<sup>st</sup> District, Lanao del Norte) expressed his disappointment over the non-inclusion of Lanao del Norte and Iligan City in the rehabilitation plan despite having played hosts to so many internally-displaced persons from Marawi City.</p> <p>HUDCC Assistant Secretary Leira Buan cited lack of funding as the reason for their focused area of rehabilitation, adding that the task force is awaiting the President's issuance of an Executive Order that will authorize the provision of additional budget.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Amihilda Sangcopan (Party-List, AMIN) on the framework of the TFBM, Rivera answered that the task force's efforts are based on the Bangon Marawi Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Recovery Program (BM-CRRP), initiated by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).</p>
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<b>FAMILIARIZATION AND INSPECTION TRIP</b>		
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>SUBJECT MATTER</b>	<b>DISCUSSIONS</b>
Transportation	Discussion on the itinerary of the House of Representatives' Northern and Central Luzon Familiarization and Inspection Trip	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, continued its discussion on the itinerary of the House of Representatives' Northern and Central Luzon familiarization and inspection trip scheduled on March 15-18 of this year.</p> <p>Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1st District, Ilocos Norte), who presided over the meeting, suggested that a pool of media be organized to cover the event.</p> <p>He particularly noted that one of the primary purposes of the trip is to highlight and promote the tourist spots in the country, which will assist the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the host provinces in their campaign to boost tourism.</p> <p>During the trip, House Members will have the occasion to assess the current condition of roads, highways, and critical government infrastructures in the Provinces of Aurora, Quirino and Pampanga to determine which infrastructure and transport system projects should be given priority in the allocation of the national budget.</p>