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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agrarian Reform	HR 1130	Rep. Casilao	Investigation into the state of landlessness among Filipino farmers, perpetuation of former and present haciendas, and the urgent necessity for land distribution, as step towards the attainment of genuine agrarian reform in the country	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rene Relampagos (1st District, Bohol), will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 1130 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Ariel "Ka Ayik" Casilao (Party-List, ANAKPAWIS), author of HR 1130, said that despite the implementation of many agrarian reform programs in the country, landlessness among Filipino farmers remains unresolved and monopoly of agricultural lands by haciendas and plantations continues to persist. He said farmers have been clamoring for a genuine agrarian reform in the form of a free distribution of agricultural lands.</p> <p>Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Undersecretary Luis Meinrado Pañgulayan and Presidential Agrarian Reform Council Secretariat (PARCSec) Director James Arsenio Ponce support the intent of the measure, along with the representatives of the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and the Land Registration Authority (LRA).</p> <p>Pañgulayan informed the Committee of a study being conducted by DAR pertaining to the socio-economic profile of agrarian reform program beneficiaries and its evaluation of the said programs. A copy of this study will be given to the Committee for its reference.</p>
Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources	HR 1732	Rep. Villarín	Inquiry into the status of delineation of the country's municipal waters pursuant to the relevant provisions of RA 8550, as amended, otherwise known as the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Luis "Jon-Jon" Ferrer IV (6th District, Cavite), will continue its inquiry relative to HR 1732 in another meeting.</p> <p>AKBAYAN Party-List Rep. Tom Villarín, author of HR 1732, lamented that 20 years have passed since RA 8550, mandating the delineation of the country's municipal waters, was enacted but concerned government agencies, particularly the Department of Agriculture (DA), have not yet complied with the law resulting in unresolved jurisdictional issues among adjacent cities and municipalities.</p>

<p>Continuation... Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources</p>				<p>DA Undersecretary Eduardo Gongona, who also heads the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), informed the Committee that a technical working group, composed of people from the DA, BFAR, and National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), has already been conducting consultations on the delineation and delimitation of the country's municipal waters.</p> <p>According to NAMRIA's newly appointed Maritime Affairs Chief, Lt. Commander Carter Luma-ang, said some local government units (LGUs) could not reach an agreement on their water boundaries and also failed to subscribe to the "median line" set by the NAMRIA. Median line or equidistance line refers to a line every point of which is equidistant from the nearest points on the coasts of two municipalities. (Source: DA Administrative Order No. 1, series of 2004)</p> <p>The Committee said that the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), which has general supervision over LGUs, should be made part of the TWG to facilitate the resolution of jurisdictional issues between LGUs.</p> <p>Rep. Ferrer gave the TWG three months to submit a report to the Committee on the progress of its work.</p>
	<p>HR 1733</p>	<p>Rep. Villarín</p>	<p>Inquiry into the continued illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities in the country in violation of the provisions of RA 10654 or the law preventing, deterring and eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, amending RA 8550</p>	<p>The Committee will continue its inquiry relative to HR 1733 in another meeting.</p> <p>Navotas City Rep. Tobias "Toby" Tiangco brought to the attention of the Committee the unabated violation of a commercial fishing company that lands illegally caught fish in the Navotas Fish Port Complex (NFPC).</p> <p>Rep. Tiangco disclosed that the company has been using a fishing device known as Danish Seine, locally dubbed as "<i>hulbot-hulbot</i>," the use of which is illegal under RA 10654. He chided the NFPC port manager for doing nothing to stop this illegal activity which the fishing industry considers as the most destructive scheme.</p> <p>Gongona stated that the mere possession of <i>hulbot-hulbot</i> is already punishable under the law and thus anyone which has this should be sanctioned or apprehended by NFPC port authorities or maritime law enforcement agencies, such as the Philippine National Police-Maritime Group (PNP-MG) or the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).</p> <p>Danish seine or <i>hulbot-hulbot</i> is a heavy-weighted fishing net that drags along the ocean floor inflicting damage to seabed communities and coral reefs.</p>

Government Reorganization	HBs 68, 876, 1274, 1529 & 2207	Reps. Salceda, Sarmiento (E.M.), Biazon, Gonzales (A.P.), and Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo	Instituting reforms in real property valuation and assessment in the Philippines, reorganizing the Bureau of Local Government Finance, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, agreed to consolidate the five bills and come up with a draft substitute bill.</p> <p>The Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF), National Tax Research Center (NTRC), and Department of Budget and Management (DBM) expressed support for the bill.</p> <p>Also supportive of the proposed measure were representatives from the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), Philippine Association of Local Treasurers and Assessors (PHALTRA Inc.), and the Provincial and City Treasurers' Association of the Philippines (PACTAP).</p> <p>The resource persons agreed that the passage of the proposed measure will provide an efficient and uniform valuation standard for real properties across the country and will therefore address certain issues such as the conflicting appraisal methods of the local assessors.</p> <p>In addition, reforms in real property valuation and assessment will lead to an increase in the real property tax revenues of the local government units (LGUs), according to the resource persons.</p> <p>The Committee requested the resource persons to submit their respective position papers on the proposed law.</p> <p>BLGF Executive Director Niño Raymond Alvina was also requested to submit his office's proposal on which provisions of the Local Government Code need revision or amendment.</p>
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Youth and Sports Development	Substitute Bill to HBs 65, 287 & 3633	Reps. Nograles (K.A.), Romero, and Roa-Puno	Creating a Department of Sports, defining its powers and functions and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Joint Committee, co-presided by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Conrado Estrella III (Party-List, ABONO), Chair of the Committee on Youth and Sports Development, approved the substitute bill subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>The bill will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for review of its funding provision.</p>
Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples	HB 4415	Rep. Baguilat	Recognizing and institutionalizing indigenous peoples' (IPs) educational systems within the Philippine educational systems, establishing technical assistance, incentives and support for IP educational systems and learning institutions serving IP learners, and appropriating the necessary government funds therefor	<p>The Committee, presided by Ifugao Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr., approved the Committee Report on HB 4415.</p>

Continuation... Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples	HR 1752	Rep. Baguilat	Inquiry into the death of Ifugao environmental activist Ricardo Pugong Mayumi and the worsening attacks against IPs around the country	The Committee approved the Committee Report on HR 1752.
Legislative Franchises	HB 4820	Rep. Salceda	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, Inc. (formerly the Catholic Welfare Organization) to construct, install, establish, operate and maintain radio and/or television broadcasting stations in the Philippines under RA 7530	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Franz "Chicoy" Alvarez (1 st District, Palawan), approved the bill subject to amendment. National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) Deputy Commissioner Edgardo Cabarios and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) General Counsel Camilo Correa expressed support for the bill saying that the CBCP Broadcasting has complied with all the requirements of their respective offices.
	HB 5702	Deputy Speaker Singson	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Tirad Pass Radio TV Broadcasting Network, Inc. under RA 8070	The Committee approved HB 5702 subject to the submission by SEC of its position paper on the bill. Cabarios expressed support for the bill saying that the Tirad Pass Radio TV Broadcasting Network Inc. has complied with the NTC requirements.
	HB 7129	Rep. Go (M.)	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Mountain Province Broadcasting Corporation (MPBC) under RA 8164	The Committee approved HB 7129. Cabarios expressed support for the bill explaining that the MPBC has complied with the NTC requirements.

JOINT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Congressional Oversight Committee on Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (COCCAAP) – House Panel	Update on the status of various air transport-related projects by the following government agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) - on the implementation of the Communications, Navigation, Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) system 	<p>The House panel of the Congressional Oversight Committee on the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (COCCAAP), presided by the Chair of the House Committee on Transportation, Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, discussed with concerned government agencies the status of the various air transport-related projects nationwide.</p> <p>CAAP Project Director Cecilio Ortiz reported that the CNS/ATM System was already turned over by the contractor to the Department of Transportation (DOTr)-CAAP last October 16, 2017. Ortiz said that the technical transition, which involved the testing of the system's equipment, was already over and done with. At present, the system is undergoing operational transition, which includes the training of air traffic controllers (ATCs) and airways communicators. The next phase would be the full implementation of the system.</p> <p>CAAP Deputy Director General Donaldo Mendoza said that with the increase in the number of radars from three to 13, the CNS/ATM System will allow for a better airspace management resulting in a safer and reliable air transportation.</p> <p>With regard to other airport projects, DOTr officer-in-charge of the Air Transportation Division Felicisimo Pangilinan said that for fiscal</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Congressional Oversight Committee on Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (COCCAAP) – House Panel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOTr, CAAP and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) - on the status of the proposed Bulacan Airport Project • Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) - on the rehabilitation, operation, and maintenance of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) • Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC) - on issues concerning Clark International Airport 	<p>year 2019, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) only approved five airport projects to be located in Davao, Catbalogan in Samar, Tacloban in Leyte, M'lang in North Cotabato, and Siargao in Surigao del Norte.</p> <p>Pangilinan said that in April, the NEDA Board has approved San Miguel Corporation's P735.6 billion "unsolicited proposal" to build an airport in Bulacan Province. San Miguel's proposal will be subject to a "Swiss Challenge" under government procurement rules wherein other groups will be invited to make competing offers, with the original bidder to be given the right to match their bid proposals. Pangilinan said that the DOTr is currently drafting the terms of reference (TOR) for this procurement process.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Gavini "Apol" Pancho (2nd District, Bulacan), Pangilinan gave assurance that the site where the airport will be constructed will not be prone to flooding. Low-lying areas in the Province of Bulacan are prone to flooding during heavy rains or due to the reported release of huge volume of water from the Angat Dam.</p> <p>Southern Leyte Rep. Roger Mercado asked General Manager Eddie Monreal of the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) if he agrees to the establishment of another international airport in Bulacan. Monreal answered that improving the services to the public involves a collective effort which includes the participation of the private sector and calls for competition to thrive.</p> <p>The MIAA General Manager informed the Committee that the MIAA Board granted the original proponent status (OPS) for the airport rehabilitation project to the NAIA Consortium. The consortium is composed of the following: Aboitiz InfraCapital Inc., AC Infrastructure Holdings Corp., Alliance Global Group Inc., Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp., Filinvest Development Corp., JG Summit Holdings Inc., and Metro Pacific Investments Corp.</p> <p>The OPS gives the consortium the right to match offers from other parties under the Swiss Challenge method.</p> <p>The unsolicited proposal of the NAIA Consortium was endorsed to the NEDA Investment Coordination Committee for approval.</p> <p>CIAC Vice President Jaime Alberto Melo underscored the need to rehabilitate Clark International Airport to cater to passengers coming from the northern part of the country and to accommodate flights diverted or transferred from the NAIA. Melo added that upon completion of the airport's new terminals by 2020, about eight million passengers can be accommodated every year.</p> <p>Rep. Mercado suggested the establishment of a railway system that will connect Manila and Clark, Pampanga to encourage passengers to use the Clark airport.</p> <p>Melo said that the DOTr's railway project, which consists of two phases – Phase 1, from Tutuban in Manila to Malolos in Bulacan; and Phase 2, from Malolos to Clark, – is already underway with Phase 1 expected to be completed by 2020.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 5618, 5701, 6227 & 6476	Reps. Yap (V.), Gatchalian, Villafuerte, and Yap (A.)	Adopting innovation as vital component of the country's development policies to drive inclusive development, promote the growth and national competitiveness of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Peter "Sr. Pedro" Unabia (1st District, Misamis Oriental), approved the substitute bill.</p> <p>The bill will be reported out to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas was requested to submit its position paper on Sections 21 (Innovation Development Credit and Financing System) and 22 (Credit Quota) for reference by the mother Committee.</p>

AGENCY BRIEFINGS

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Agrarian Reform	Briefing by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) on its plans and programs and latest accomplishments	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rene Relampagos (1st District, Bohol), listened to the presentation conducted by DAR Secretary John Castriciones on DAR's plans and programs and latest accomplishments under his term.</p> <p>Castriciones, whose appointment as DAR secretary was just confirmed by the Commission on Appointments last May, said that the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension with Reforms (CARPER) expired last 2014. But the President gave a directive to the Department to continue implementing the agrarian reform program, particularly the land acquisition and distribution (LAD) aspect and the provision of support services to agrarian reform beneficiaries.</p> <p>He mentioned that DAR is drafting a bill that will propose the continuation of the comprehensive agrarian reform program (CARP). The Committee requested DAR to submit the draft bill as soon as it is finished.</p> <p>Castriciones also mentioned the challenges being faced by DAR in the implementation of the CARP: the difference in methods being employed by the Department and the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) in the classification of "CARP-able" and "non-CARPable" lands; lack of lawyers in the DAR roster; and illegal conversion of agricultural lands.</p> <p>Rep. Noel Villanueva (3rd District, Tarlac) suggested the imposition of stiffer penalties against illegal land conversion.</p>
Mindanao Affairs	Briefing by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) on the status of infrastructure projects, and plans and programs for Mindanao	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Maximo Rodriguez Jr. (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), listened to the briefing conducted by the DPWH on the status of its projects, and plans and programs for Mindanao.</p> <p>At the outset, DPWH Undersecretary Maria Catalina Cabral reported that the share of Mindanao in the P457.1 billion capital outlay (CO) budget of the DPWH for FY 2019 amounts to P151.6 billion or 33.16%, considered the highest regional allocation compared to Northern Luzon, P99 billion (21.65%); Southern Luzon, P101.5 billion (22.2%); Visayas, P70.2 billion (15.35%); and NCR, P34.9 billion (7.63%).</p> <p>DPWH Director for Planning Service Constante Llanes Jr. presented the Department's accomplishments, as well as the infrastructure programs and projects for Mindanao.</p>

Continuation... North Luzon Growth Quadrangle		<p>Datahan also reported that 14 municipal fish ports were already turned over to various local government units (LGUs) in North Luzon: five to Region I; eight to Region II; and one to CAR.</p> <p>Rep. Savellano requested PFDA to submit documents relative to the construction of the Cabugao Fish Port in Barangay Salomague, Cabugao, Ilocos Sur. The said port was turned over to the LGU last December 2017 but Rep. Savellano claimed that the port is not yet functional.</p>
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DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Metro Manila Development	Discussion on the alleged inefficient performance of various public utilities in Metro Manila	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to formulate an action plan addressing the alleged inefficient performance of various public utilities in Metro Manila.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Edgar Erice (2nd District, Caloocan City) manifested that the improper installation of electrical and cable wires could be attributed to the lack of a standard or uniform policy on the matter. He said every local government unit (LGU) has its own policy on the installation of wires in electrical posts.</p> <p>Rep. Bayani Fernando (1st District, Marikina City) asked if the Manila Electric Company (Meralco) could install the wires of public utilities underground. Meralco Central Distribution Services head Andres Sumayao replied it could be done but that it would cost six to ten times more compared to installing the wires overhead.</p> <p>National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) Deputy Commissioner Edgardo Cabarios said the NTC has not imposed fines against telecommunications companies (telcos) and cable companies for the dangling cable wires, adding that it has no specific regulation on the matter.</p> <p>Meralco North Distribution Services head Jose Reyes said that his company collects fees from other utility companies for the use of electrical poles to cover maintenance costs.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Castelo called for the suspension of the collection of environmental and sewerage fees by the two water concessionaires in Metro Manila (Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. Inc.) pending the implementation of their sewerage system project in Metro Manila. This was after Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) Deputy Administrator Romeo Roderos said that the two concessionaires already have set a plan but have not implemented the project yet.</p> <p>The public utility providers and concerned government agencies were reminded to submit the documents required by the Committee Members.</p>