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COMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Health	Substitute Bill to HBs 542, 893 & 1646	Reps. Yap (V.), Tan (A.), and Deputy Speaker Villarica	Strengthening the regulation of health facilities and services, repealing for the purpose RA 4226, otherwise known as the Hospital Licensure Act and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon), approved the substitute bill subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Among the amendments to the substitute bill agreed upon by the Committee during the meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To insert a provision in Section 12 requiring all Level III hospitals to establish a geriatric ward; To specify in the first paragraph of Section 13 that the issuance of a license to operate a health facility shall be in accordance with RA 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business Act; To insert a provision in Section 13 creating a one-stop shop where applicants for the license to operate a health facility can transact business with concerned agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI), and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR); and To indicate in Section 19 that any transfer of the license to operate a health facility shall be subject to the approval of the Department of Health (DOH).

AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
East ASEAN Growth Area (Special Committee)	Briefing on the status of the sea and land connectivity projects in Palawan to the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Davao del Sur Rep. Mercedes "Didi" Cagas, listened to the presentations of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) on the status of infrastructure projects connecting the Province of Palawan to the BIMP-EAGA.</p> <p>DPWH Assistant Regional Director Wilfredo Mallari of Region IV-B (MIMAROPA) informed the Committee of the ongoing construction of a six-lane superhighway, about 600 kilometers long, that will</p>

<p>Continuation... East ASEAN Growth Area (Special Committee)</p>		<p>connect Palawan to Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia. Expected to be completed by 2020, this three-year road expansion project, with a budget of P30 billion, intends to accelerate the transport of agricultural and fishery products from rural communities in Palawan and nearby areas to neighboring ASEAN countries.</p> <p>PPA Palawan's Project Management Office Principal Engineer Nelson Caabay Jr. reported the completion of the expansion of the Buliluyan Seaport in the Municipality of Bataraza, Palawan with a project cost of P125 million. During his presentation, Caabay underscored the significance of the port as a transit point to the BIMP-EAGA for the movement of people, goods, and services in the region.</p>
	<p>Briefing by Palawan Governor Jose Chaves Alvarez on the status of the Palawan's programs and projects in support of the vision and goals of the BIMP-EAGA</p>	<p>The Committee listened to the presentation of Palawan Governor Jose Chaves Alvarez on the status of Palawan's programs and projects in support of the vision and goals of the BIMP-EAGA.</p> <p>Alvarez said that aside from the existing Puerto Princesa International Airport and San Vicente Airport, the construction of two international airports and three regional airports in Palawan is being eyed to accommodate at least five million tourists a year in Palawan. Other projects that the provincial government will undertake together with concerned national government agencies are the construction of a port in El Nido, Palawan and the establishment of five more cruise terminals in various parts of the province.</p> <p>The Palawan Governor stated that these infrastructure projects will facilitate the inflow of investments and the movement of people, goods and services between Palawan and the countries in the EAGA; enhance diplomatic relations; and create jobs and livelihood opportunities.</p> <p>He also expressed the province's commitment to its comprehensive development masterplan in accordance with RA 7611, or the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan Act, which is a landmark legislation bringing multisectoral efforts in effecting a sustained agenda to protect the unique ecological system of Palawan.</p> <p>Rep. Maximo Rodriguez Jr. (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City) commended the vision and leadership of Governor Alvarez towards the advancement of Palawan and the BIMP-EAGA. Rep. Glona Labadlabad (2nd District, Zamboanga del Norte) added that the successful projects initiated by the Governor should inspire other local government units (LGUs) to follow suit.</p> <p>Also during the meeting, Rep. Cagas gave Alvarez a copy of the enrolled version of the resolution which she filed seeking to restore the travel tax exemption granted to travelers from Palawan to any area in BIMP-EAGA to revitalize tourism in the region.</p>
<p>North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>	<p>Briefing by the Department of Transportation (DOTr) on its budget, plans and programs for North Luzon</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1st District, Ilocos Sur), listened to the presentation of the DOTr regarding its budget, plans and programs for North Luzon.</p> <p>DOTr Project Management Service head Eduardo Mangalili reported that the DOTr has spent a total of P557 million and P965 million for the implementation of maritime and aviation projects, respectively, in North Luzon from 2016 to 2018. However, he disclosed that none of the projects proposed by the DOTr for Northern Luzon for next year were included in the 2019 National Expenditure Program (NEP).</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>		<p>Rep. Savellano and Baguio City Rep. Mark Go inquired if there are plans to extend the Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEX) all the way to Baguio City and Ilocos Norte. According to Rep. Go, improving the connectivity of Baguio City to other cities and provinces in the region will help decongest Baguio City and stimulate the economy of nearby towns and provinces.</p> <p>DOTr Assistant Secretary Manuel Gonzales said that he is not aware of any planned extension of TPLEX at the moment, but promised to convey the lawmakers' request on the matter to the DOTr Secretary.</p> <p>Land Transportation Office (LTO) Assistant Secretary Edgar Galvante brought to the attention of the Committee the funding requirement for the construction and repair of several of LTO's regional offices. According to Galvante, past requests for such funding were denied by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).</p> <p>He also informed the Committee that the LTO has included in its proposed 2019 budget the purchase of vehicle emission-testing equipment to be installed in LTO offices nationwide. This will enable the agency to conduct its own emission-testing of vehicles instead of delegating the task to private companies.</p> <p>Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma as well as several other Committee Members said that the purchase of emission-testing equipment should be given priority by the LTO as this will help reduce the cost of vehicle registration and will allow LTO to raise additional revenues for the government.</p> <p>Several Committee Members discussed with Galvante some concerns specific to their respective districts, which the latter promised to look into.</p>
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