

Committee Daily Bulletin



17th Congress
Third Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. III No. 22
September 5, 2018

BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 6617 & SB 1390	Rep. Bag-ao and Senator Hontiveros	Strengthening the Philippine Comprehensive Policy on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) prevention, treatment, care and support, establishing the Philippine National HIV and AIDS Plan and appropriating funds therefor, repealing for the purpose RA 8504, or the Philippine Aids Prevention and Control Act of 1998	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon), Chair of the House Committee on Health, and Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito, Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, discussed the disagreeing provisions of HB 6617 and SB 1390.</p> <p>Other conferees present during the bicameral conference committee meeting were the following: On the part of the House, Reps. Cecilia Leonila Chavez (Party-List, BUTIL), Sandra Eriguel, M.D. (2nd District, La Union), Kaka Bag-ao (Dinagat Islands), and Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN); on the part of the Senate, Senators Maria Lourdes Nancy Sombillo Binay and Risa Hontiveros.</p>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Civil Service and Professional Regulation	Substitute Bill to HBs 4259, 4319, 3565 & 7080	Reps. Rodriguez (M.), Lobregat, Baguilat, and Alejano	Regulating the practice of environmental engineering in the Philippines, amending RA 1364 also known as the Sanitary Engineering Law, providing funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Mario Vittorio "Marvey" Mariño (5 th District, Batangas), approved the substitute bill with amendments.
	Substitute Bill to HB 3808	Rep. Gasataya	Establishing a Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) office in the City of Bacolod and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee will refer the substitute bill to the Committee on Appropriations for review of its funding provisions and thereafter prepare the Committee Report. The substitute bill was approved by the Committee last March 7.
	HBs 1622 & 3025	Reps. De Vera and Abayon	Strengthening the practice of electrical engineering in the Philippines	<p>The Committee deferred the deliberation on the bills and suggested that a meeting be held among the parties concerned to reconcile differences in opinions and come up with a harmonized version of the bills to be submitted to the Committee for consideration and approval.</p> <p>Both authors manifested that the explanatory notes attached to the bills be considered as their sponsorship speeches.</p> <p>Rep. Harlin Neil Abayon III (Party-List, AANGAT TAYO) apprised the Committee that the total</p>

Continuation... Civil Service and Professional Regulation				<p>number of professional electrical engineers (PEEs) in the country is estimated to be around 2,000 only which makes it difficult for business owners in the provinces to hire their services especially in certifying the safety of electrical designs or plans of their establishments.</p> <p>To address the shortage of PEEs in these areas, Rep. Abayon recommended that a registered master electrician (RME) or a registered electrical engineer (REE) be allowed to sign and seal electrical plans in the absence of a PEE.</p> <p>Lovelika Bautista, chief of the Secretariat to the Professional Regulatory Boards, promised to inform the Board of Electrical Engineering of the Committee's request to come up with a categorization of electrical engineers to determine who among them are the most qualified to sign and seal electrical plans.</p> <p>The Committee asked the PRC to furnish the Members with a copy of the report on the discussions and actions taken by the PRC's Electrical Engineering Board on the said request.</p>
Ecology	HB 8120	Rep. Batocabe	Prohibiting the manufacture, sale, distribution, and use of rinse-off cosmetics and clothing containing microplastics	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Lawrence "Law" Fortun (1st District, Agusan del Norte), approved HB 8120 subject to amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL), author of HB 8120, pointed out the harmful effects of microplastics to the environment especially to the marine life.</p>
	HBs 773 & 6856	Former Rep. Aglipay-Villar and Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Banning the dumping of sewage sludge and industrial waste into the sea	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune and consolidate the bills.</p>
	HB 857	Deputy Speaker Villarica	Penalizing the dumping of sewage sludge and industrial waste into the seawaters	<p>Rep. Maximo Rodriguez Jr. (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), author of HB 6856, said that the bill seeks to protect the marine resources and to penalize the dumping of wastes into seawaters.</p>
	HB 4374	Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo	Providing for the protection of the environment by prohibiting the dumping of sewage sludge and industrial waste into the sea	<p>Atty. Josephine Marie Uranza, regional coordinator of the International Marine Organization's (IMO) Regional Presence for Technical Cooperation in East Asia, gave a background on the 1972 Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter or the London Convention, which is one of the first global conventions to protect the marine environment from human activities.</p> <p>In 1996, the London Protocol replaced the London Convention. Under the Protocol all kinds of dumping are prohibited, except for possibly acceptable wastes on the so-called "reverse list." The Protocol entered into force in 2006 and there are currently 50 parties to the Protocol. (Source: International Maritime Organization (IMO) official website)</p>

Continuation... Ecology				<p>Philippine Coast Guard's (PCG) Marine Environmental Protection Command (MEPCOM) Deputy Commander Rafael Jackson Bellen apprised the body that the PCG, with clearance from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), allows ships to dump their wastes at the designated sea dumpsite. He said that currently the country has eight sea dumpsites.</p> <p>The stakeholders present were invited to be part of the TWG.</p>
Government Enterprises and Privatization	HB 8079 in consolidation with HB 8062	Reps. Rocamora and Panganiban	Reconstituting the governing board of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA)	<p>The Committee, presided by Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, approved HB 8079 in consolidation with HB 8062.</p> <p>Rep. Jose Panganiban Jr. (Party-List, ANAC-IP), author of HB 8079, underscored the urgent need to reconstitute the PCA Board and reorganize the PCA to make it more capable of managing the utilization of the billions of pesos in "coco levy funds."</p> <p>Rep. Panganiban explained that the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Trust Fund Bill, that was recently approved by both Houses of Congress, appropriates P10 billion a year from the national government for the trust fund. An additional P5 billion a year from the P105 billion coco levy fund spread over 25 years shall also be allocated for the said fund.</p> <p>PCA Administrator Romulo de la Rosa agrees that the reorganization of the PCA will allow it to effectively monitor the implementation of programs and projects to be funded out of the coco levy fund and keep abreast of technological advancements in the coconut industry. De La Rosa promised to provide the Committee with a copy of the PCA's Reorganization Plan.</p> <p>In response to the query of Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte), De La Rosa said that Mindanao accounts for 60% of the country's coconut plantations, while 40% is shared by Luzon and Visayas. Rep. Dimaporo thus proposed that Mindanao should be given more representation in the PCA Board considering its huge contribution to the coconut industry. (Under the bill, the coconut farmers sector shall have two representatives each from the three island groups in the PCA Board.)</p>
Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. w/ Transportation	Substitute Bill to HB 7306 in consolidation with HBs 6327, 4114, 7047 & 7165	Reps. Alvarez (P.), Pimentel, Dalipe, Relampagos, and Aumentado	Creating the Philippine Airport Development Corporation (PADC) and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Joint Committee, co-presided by Baguio City Rep. Mark Go of the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization and Rep. Jose Panganiban Jr. (Party-List, ANAC-IP) of the Committee on Transportation, agreed to deliberate further on the substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Go stated that the creation of PADC will vastly improve the country's air transport as it will be able to focus on managing the operations of</p>

Continuation... Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. w/ Transportation				<p>the airports and the improvement of airport facilities through a comprehensive and integrated development plan.</p> <p>Moreover, Minority Leader Danilo Suarez (3rd District, Quezon) said that the proposed PADDC should look into the quality of the avionics or electronic systems used on aircraft since they play an important role in the safety of passengers. He also said that the improvement of airport interconnection and air traffic control should also be among PADDC's priorities.</p> <p>International Air Transport Association (IATA) Country Manager Samuel David proposed the inclusion of a provision in the bill prescribing airport safety procedures during emergencies. (IATA is a trade association of the world's airlines, representing 82% of the total air traffic, that supports aviation activities and helps formulate policies on critical aviation issues.)</p> <p>Representatives from the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC), Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), and Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) all support the proposed law. They were requested to submit their comments and recommendations on the bill.</p>
Legislative Franchises	HB 7766	Rep. Savellano	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Solid North Broadcasting System, Inc. under RA 8089	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Franz "Chicoy" Alvarez (1 st District, Palawan), approved HB 7766 with amendment.
	HB 8132	Rep. Tambunting	Granting MORE Mineral Corporation a franchise to establish, operate and maintain, for commercial purposes and in the public interest, a distribution system for the conveyance of electric power to end- users in the City of Iloilo	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 8132.</p> <p>Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) General Counsel Camilo Correa informed the Committee that MORE Mineral Corporation has submitted its request to SEC for the amendment of its company name and nature of operations, as well as the approval of the increase in its capitalization from P10 million to P1 billion.</p> <p>Lawyer Nerissa de Jesus of the Philippine Competition Commission's (PCC) Legal Division interposed no objection to the granting of franchise to MORE Mineral Corporation, saying that more players in the power industry will promote better competition. However, she deferred to the wisdom of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) if it will allow two distribution utilities to operate in one geographical area.</p> <p>Engineer Ranie Maatubang of the ERC's Regulatory Operations Service said that the Commission will still study the proposed law. He, however, admitted that it would be the first time that ERC will encounter such a situation – of having two distribution utilities in a particular area – should a franchise be granted to MORE Mineral Corporation.</p>

Continuation... Legislative Franchises				The Corporation was requested to submit its business plan. Likewise, the resource persons were asked to submit their respective position papers on the bill.
Public Works and Highways	Substitute Bill to HBs 778, 5270, 163, 348, 1346, 1944, 2727, 5506 & 5805	Reps. Salceda, Alvarez (P.), Belmonte (F.), Quimbo, Acop, Santos-Recto, Alejano, Lopez (M.L.), and Villafuerte	Strengthening public-private partnerships and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Bayani Fernando (1 st District, Marikina City), approved the substitute bill subject to style and amendment.
	HBs 2493, 2494, 2888, 6157 & 6926	Reps. Suansing (E.), Villafuerte, and Yap (V.)	Converting certain roads in the Provinces of Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Pangasinan, Camarines Sur and Albay, into a national road and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 2779	Rep. Dimaporo (A.)	Providing for the construction of a national highway from the junction of the Iligan-Aurora National Highway in Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte to Iligan-Aurora National Highway in Aurora, Zamboanga del Sur to be known as the Iligan-Aurora National Highway By-Pass Road and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 4165	Rep. Dimaporo (M.K.)	Providing for the construction of a national highway from the Lanao del Norte Interior Circumferential Road in Tagoloan, Lanao del Norte to Talakag, Bukidnon, with a crossroad at Barangay Panalawan in Tagoloan and connecting roads to the national highway in Iligan City and to the national highway in Marawi City, to be known as the Muslim-Christian Unity Crossroad and Highways and appropriating funds therefor	
Transportation	HR 2087	Rep. Pineda	Inquiry into the Xiamen Airlines crash at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA)	The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, will deliberate further on the issues raised relative to the three resolutions in another meeting. Rep. Sarmiento, who is also the author of HR 2089, stated that the landing failure of Xiamen Airlines Flight MF8667 on the evening of August 16 caused the delay or cancellation of 631 subsequent scheduled flights that use the main runway (Runway 06/24) of the NAIA and greatly inconvenienced 250,000 passengers who were stranded inside the NAIA terminals. NAIA Safety Management head Noel Botingan narrated the sequence of events that transpired during the 36-hour period of removing the Xiamen aircraft from Runway 06/24. He cited the following factors which have made the recovery and cleaning up operations difficult: occasional heavy rains and lightning alerts issued by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical
	HR 2089	Rep. Sarmiento (C.)	Inquiry into the stranding of an airplane in NAIA resulting in flight cancellations and delays, on the contingency plans of government agencies during times of emergencies, and on the support mechanisms provided to stranded passengers, including overseas Filipino workers (OFWs)	
	HR 2091	Rep. Uybarreta	Investigation into the NAIA runway mishap brought about by the failed landing of a Xiamen Airlines plane causing severe congestion in NAIA and the cancellation and diversion of several flights	

Continuation... Transportation				<p>Services Administration (PAGASA); soil instability; and fuel leaks from the aircraft. Botingan also mentioned that under international and local airport regulations, the removal of a damaged aircraft from an aerodrome (airport complex) is the prime responsibility of the concerned airline company.</p> <p>Rep. Manuel Zubiri (3rd District, Bukidnon) and Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone narrated their two-day ordeal in two different airports (Kalibo and NAIA Terminal 1, respectively) while awaiting their departures. They expressed disappointment at the extremely slow action by the airport authorities.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Deputy Speaker Prospero Pichay Jr. (1st District, Surigao del Sur) proposed the immediate construction of a parallel runway at the Clark International Airport in Pampanga to effectively serve as an alternate runway to NAIA in case of similar accidents in NAIA. He suggested the realignment of around P2 billion to the budget of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) next year for this purpose.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento said that the Deputy Speaker's proposal may be raised during the pre-plenary conference on the DOTr's FY 2019 budget next week.</p>
Women and Gender Equality	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 5213, 5781 & 5956	Reps. Rocamora, Villarin, and Antonio	Defining gender-based street, public spaces and online sexual harassment, providing protective measures and prescribing penalties therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy (Party-List, BAGONG HENERASYON), will come up with the final version of the substitute bill, incorporating in it the recommendations of the resource persons.</p> <p>Rep. Michelle Antonio (Party-List, AGBIAG), author of HB 5956, submitted to the Committee her own recommendations to improve the bill.</p> <p>Senior Program Coordinator Aurora de Dios of the Women and Gender Institute (WAGI), Miriam College, suggested that fines against perpetrators of gender-based street, public spaces and online sexual harassment be increased to make an impact on the offender and to serve as an effective deterrent to similar crimes in the future. She recommended fines ranging from P10,000.00 to P200,000.00 depending on the gravity of the violation and the number of times the offense was committed.</p> <p>Atty. Zyra Cuevas of the Policy Development Planning, Monitoring and Evaluations Division, Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), suggested the inclusion of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as one of the national agencies responsible for the oversight of the proposed law and the formulation of policies for its strict implementation.</p> <p>Rep. Tom Villarin (Party-List, AKBAYAN), author of HB 5781, agreed with all the suggestions.</p>

Continuation... Women and Gender Equality				The resource persons present in the meeting were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill.
	HB 3200	Rep. Villarín	Promoting women participation and equitable representation in and by political parties, giving incentives therefor, creating the Women in Political Parties Empowerment Fund	The Committee agreed to come up with a substitute bill incorporating therein pertinent recommendations from the resource persons. Due to lack of time, the resource persons present during the meeting were just requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill.

AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)	Briefing by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on its budget and plans and programs for North Luzon	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1st District, Ilocos Sur), listened to the briefing conducted by the PCSO on its budget and plans and programs for North Luzon.</p> <p>PCSO Manager for Northern and Central Luzon (NCL) Laila Galang said that the PCSO, under its charter (RA 1169, as amended), is mandated to generate funds for health programs, medical assistance, and charities of national character through the holding of charity sweepstakes races, lotteries, and other similar activities.</p> <p>According to Galang, the allocation of PCSO's net receipts is as follows: Prize Fund (55%); Charity Fund (30%); and Operating Fund (15%). Galang also apprised the Committee of the PCSO's charity programs and services, which include the Individual Medical Assistance Program (IMAP); calamity assistance; and ambulance, medicines and medical equipment donations.</p> <p>Galang reported that from January to June of this year, the PCSO has generated a total revenue of P2.91 billion in Regions I and II, and the Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR), and has allocated P55.71 million for the implementation of IMAP in North Luzon.</p> <p>Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma chided the PCSO for the inefficient implementation of its Small Town Lottery (STL) program in the province of Nueva Vizcaya. She stressed that instead of eradicating illegal gambling like <i>jueteng</i> in the province, the STL has instead become fronts for <i>jueteng</i> by unscrupulous STL operators.</p> <p>Rep. Cuaresma stressed that STL draws should be televised and PCSO collectors should be required to always wear their IDs and uniforms to ensure transparency and accountability in STL operations.</p> <p>Meanwhile, several lawmakers inquired about the nature of the checks that legislators periodically receive from PCSO.</p> <p>PCSO Board Member Jesus Manuel Suntay, citing the STL's implementing rules and regulations (IRR), explained that the checks represent the share of the legislative districts in the income from STL operations in their area that shall be utilized for the medical needs of their constituents.</p> <p>However, Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City) pointed out that such IRR provision on counterpart sharing might be deemed <i>ultra vires</i> or beyond PCSO's legal authority to carry out, and is therefore illegal.</p> <p>The lawmakers advised the PCSO to give the cash assistance directly to hospitals or other qualified health facilities located in their respective legislative districts.</p>

DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Metro Manila Development	Discussion on the alleged arbitrary and discriminatory policies on the registration and use of motorcycles in Metro Manila	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), continued its discussion with concerned agencies on the alleged arbitrary and discriminatory policies relative to the registration and use of motorcycles in Metro Manila.</p> <p>Rep. Castelo stated that he has been receiving petitions from people requesting that motorcycles be allowed as an alternative mode of public transportation operating as a transport network vehicle service (TNVS). A top motorcycle ride-sharing service in the country, called Angkas, was operating like a TNVS until transport authorities ordered it to stop operating.</p> <p>The operation of Angkas and other similar motorcycle ride-sharing services was considered illegal based on RA 4136 or the Land Transportation and Traffic Code, which only allows motorcycles to be used as private or government vehicles and therefore not for hire.</p> <p>Likewise, under Department of Transportation (DOTr) Order No. 2015-011 governing the operations of TNVS like Grab and Uber, only sedans, Asian/sports utility vehicles, vans, and other four-wheelers are recognized.</p> <p>Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Board Member Aileen Lourdes Lizada and DOTr Assistant Secretary Mark de Leon asserted that they will adhere to the law which prohibits the use of motorcycles as a public transport.</p> <p>Angkas Operations Head David Medrana underscored the benefit of transporting people by motorcycles in terms of how it considerably reduces travel time with motorcycles able to glide through dense traffic where four-wheel vehicles could not. Medrana said that once Angkas is recognized and regulated, it can provide better services and protection to the commuting public.</p> <p>Rep. Wes Gatchalian (1st District, Valenzuela City) expressed concern over the safety of customers availing themselves of motorcycle-sharing services given that these online service providers can just easily close down their business in case problems arise. Motorcycle Rights Organization Chair Jobert Bolaños vouched for the reliability of Angkas saying that it provides proper training for its bikers on safety standards, has a customer service that caters to customer complaints, and has an accreditation or qualification system for its bikers.</p> <p>The LTFRB was requested to look into the matter and come up with a win-win solution.</p>