





Continuation... Appropriations		<p>PDEA Director General Aaron Aquino welcomed the suggestions of the legislators. Aquino also mentioned that PDEA's pay scale is less attractive compared to other agencies like the Philippine National Police (PNP) making it hard for the Agency to recruit highly qualified personnel.</p> <p>The PDEA was asked to submit its request for additional funding to the Committee.</p>
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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Housing and Urban Development	HRs 1464 & 2067	Rep. Benitez	<p>Inquiry into the implementation of the following presidential proclamations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proclamation No. 96 series of 2001, declaring Parola Estate under the administration of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) situated in Tondo, City of Manila, open for disposition to the actual occupants;</li> </ul>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Negros Occidental), will continue its deliberations on HRs 1464 and 2067.</p> <p>Rep. Benitez, author of HRs 1464 and 2067, said that the two resolutions call for an inquiry into the status of Proclamation Nos. 96, 518, and 825 as part of the oversight function of Congress and to ensure the continuity of the government's program on urban land reform and socialized housing.</p> <p>On Proclamation 96, Rep. Manuel Luis Lopez (1<sup>st</sup> District, Manila) urged the immediate awarding of the Parola Estate to the actual occupants considering that the National Housing Authority (NHA) has already undertaken the profiling of the residents in the area and the implementing rules and regulations have already been drafted.</p> <p>NHA OIC-Estate Management Chief Luz Evangelista disclosed that the issue of overlapping boundaries of the property owned by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) and that of the Philippine National Railways (PNR) caused the delay in the implementation of Proclamation 96.</p> <p>Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) National Capital Region OIC-Assistant Regional Director Ignacio Almira Jr. said that during the discussion of the overlapping boundaries between the PPA and the PNR, the DENR has suggested that the PNR yield to PPA for the sake of the success of the housing program of the government.</p> <p>Rep. Lopez mentioned that a portion of the property in Parola Estate covered by Proclamation 96 is owned by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS). It was supposed to be sold by the GSIS but was prevailed upon by the Project Inter-Agency Committee (PIAC) in consideration of the actual occupants of the subject area.</p>

<p>Continuation... Housing and Urban Development</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proclamation No. 518 series of 1990, excluding from the operation of Proclamation No. 423 dated July 12, 1957, which established the military reservation known as "Fort William Mckinley" (now Fort Andres Bonifacio), Barangays Cembo, South Cembo, West Rembo, East Rembo, Comembo, Pembo and Pitogo, situated in Makati and declaring the same open for disposition</li> <li>Proclamation 825 series of 1996, amending Proclamation No. 843, series of 1971, known as reserving the Tala Estate for various government uses as well as for housing and urban development to reclassify the use of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) lot at the Tala Estate to include socialized housing</li> </ul>	<p>Danilo Isiderio, city urban settlement officer at the Urban Settlement Office of the Manila City Government, said that some residents of Parola recommended the reconvening of the PIAC to resolve the issues causing the delay in the implementation of the Proclamation.</p> <p>The Committee directed the NHA to convene the PIAC and requested updates on the implementation of Proclamation 96. Rep. Lopez was designated as the Committee's representative in the PIAC.</p> <p>With regard to Proclamation 518, Makati City's Law Department Assistant Head Ariel Labra said that the property covered under the Proclamation was already awarded to bonafide residents, except for the site where the Makati Sports Center is located as this is a subject of a deed of sale between the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) and the Makati City government.</p> <p>Rep. Benitez questioned the legality of the sale considering the fact that the subject property is covered by a presidential proclamation.</p> <p>Malou Monforte, secretary of Bagong Silang Homeowners Association, asserted the right of the residents of Bagong Silang to be beneficiaries of the Proclamation as they have been residing in the said property since 1972 and even before the deed of sale was forged.</p> <p>DENR's Land Patents and Deeds Division Chief Alvin Joseph Constantino informed the Committee that the DENR has already issued 11,137 land titles or 70% of the total applications for titles. He encouraged the members of Bagong Silang Homeowners Association to submit their respective applications.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Dale "Along" Malapitan (1<sup>st</sup> District, Caloocan City) supported the immediate implementation of Proclamation 825 to address the plight of the urban poor dwellers in his district.</p> <p>Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) administrative officer Renato Galimba reported that the DSWD has informed the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) of the Department's willingness to explore the possibility of swapping the property covered by the proclamation with another property. He explained that the DSWD intends to use part of the Tala Estate for a socialized housing project for its low salaried employees.</p> <p>Rep. Benitez directed the DSWD to submit a formal response to the Committee's suggestion that the DSWD enter into a</p>
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Continuation... Housing and Urban Development				compromise agreement with HUDCC for the latter to provide housing units to DSWD employees in any of the government housing projects in exchange for the DSWD's property in the Tala Estate.
Legislative Franchises	HB 8092	Rep. Enverga	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Beacon Communications Systems, Inc. under RA 8063	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Franz "Chicoy" Alvarez (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Palawan), approved the three bills.
	HB 8094	Rep. Enverga	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Radyo Pilipino Corporation under RA 8145	
	HB 8119	Rep. Belmonte (F.)	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Mareco Broadcasting Network, Inc. under RA 8108	
	HB 8093	Rep. Aggabao	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Philippine Radio Corporation under RA 8032	The Committee approved HB 8093 with amendments.
	HB 8091	Rep. Enverga	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Radio Audience Developers Integrated Organizations, Inc. under RA 8083	The Committee approved the bill subject to the submission of the company's 2018 General Information Sheet (GIS). The GIS is a document containing basic information about the company that must be submitted on a yearly basis by all companies registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).  Rep. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL) emphasized the importance of observing strict compliance with such reportorial requirements to facilitate consideration by the Committee of the franchise bills.
	HB 8132	Rep. Tambunting	Granting MORE Minerals 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, in the Province of Iloilo	The Committee will deliberate further on the bill in another meeting.  MORE Minerals Corporation President Roel Castro presented a brief background of the corporation. According to Castro, the corporation, which is a subsidiary of Apex Mining Corporation, Inc., was initially incorporated as a mining company but had never operated as such. If MORE Minerals will be approved by SEC to function as an electric power distributor, the company will be renamed to "MORE Power and Electric Company (MORE Power)."  On the query of Deputy Speaker Evelina Escudero (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Sorsogon) if MORE Power will be a new company that will operate in Iloilo City, Castro answered in the affirmative.  Rep. Carlos Roman Uybarreta (Party-List, 1-CARE) asked Castro if MORE Minerals, once converted into a power distribution company and once it gets the franchise, will replace or co-exist with Panay Electric Company, Inc.

Continuation... Legislative Franchises				<p>(PECO), the current power distributor in Iloilo City; and if it has the necessary infrastructure and facilities to supply electricity in Iloilo City.</p> <p>Castro replied that if PECO's franchise will not be renewed (franchise will expire in January 2019), MORE Power will utilize PECO's distribution system. However, if the franchise of PECO is renewed, MORE Power will coexist with PECO and will have to establish its own facilities and infrastructure.</p> <p>Rep. Gus Tambunting (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Parañaque City), author of HB 8132, asked the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to comment on the matter.</p> <p>Atty. Arjay Louie Eu Cuanan of the ERC's Office of the General Counsel considers the scenario of having two franchise holders in one area as unique. But he also said that in another scenario, the company with the valid franchise has the upper hand as it can take over or buy out the assets of the other company that has not acquired or has lost its franchise.</p> <p>The ERC was requested to submit its position paper on the bill.</p>
Natural Resources	Substitute Bill to HB 2050	Rep. Durano	Rationalizing the management of the natural resources in the Camotes Islands, Province of Cebu, amending for the purpose Proclamation No. 2152 dated December 29, 1981, entitled "Declaring the entire Province of Palawan and certain parcels of the public domain and/or parts of the country as mangrove swamp forest reserves"	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rodrigo Abellanos (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Cebu City), approved the amendment to the substitute bill on the recommendation of the Committee on Rules.</p> <p>The substitute bill was previously submitted to the Committee on Rules through Committee Report No. 297.</p>
	HB 7912	Speaker Macapagal- Arroyo	Regulating the catching, sale, purchase, possession, transportation, importation, and exportation of all sharks, rays, chimaeras, or any part thereof in the country	The Committee approved HB 7912.
	HB 7945	Rep. Suansing (E.)	Protecting marine mammals and ensuring their survival for the benefit of future generations	<p>The Committee approved HB 7945.</p> <p>Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1<sup>st</sup> District, Nueva Ecija), author of HB 7945, explained that her bill seeks to protect marine mammals in order to ensure a healthy and balanced ecosystem, and to prohibit certain acts that will derail the efforts of the government to save these marine mammals from extinction.</p> <p>Representatives from the following government agencies expressed their support for the bill: Biodiversity Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (BMB-DENR), Department of Tourism (DOT), and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). The Earth Island Institute Philippines and other volunteer groups such</p>

Continuation... Natural Resources				<p>as the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), Marine Wildlife Watch of the Philippines (MWWP), Compassion and Responsibility for Animals (CARA), and Greenpeace Philippines, also expressed their support for the bill.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill.</p>
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	The Committee, chaired by Tawi-Tawi Rep. Ruby Sahali, approved HB 5669 subject to style and amendment.
	HR 1803	Rep. Sahali	Urging President Rodrigo R. Duterte to resume and continue the peace negotiations between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), and complete the comprehensive agreements on social, economic and political reforms to lay the basis for a just and lasting peace	<p>The Committee adopted HR 1803.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Sahali said that the government's peace negotiation with the NDFP has reached unparalleled success under President Duterte's leadership as compared to past administrations.</p> <p>Secretary Jesus Dureza of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) clarified that despite the common perception that the peace negotiations have already failed, the GRP panel is still open to the possibility of pursuing the negotiations under the following conditions: that the NDFP will not form a coalition government and it will stop the collection of revolutionary taxes; that the peace talks will be held in the country; and that there should be cessation of hostilities.</p> <p>Dureza also stressed that the insurgency problem cannot be solved merely by military or police action without addressing the underlying social issues.</p> <p>Philippine Peace Center (PPC) Executive Director Rey Claro Casambre emphasized that the only way to reach an enduring peace settlement is for both parties to seriously discuss and agree on basic reforms that will address the main causes of unrest and armed conflict, and for them to truly comply with their obligations under the peace agreement.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA), Dureza admitted that the peace negotiation with the NDFP is being held in abeyance, with the President exercising caution and not wanting to rush matters.</p>
People's Participation	Substitute Bill to HB 7198	Rep. Salon	Strengthening nation-building through the institutionalization of a strategic volunteerism based multi-sectoral collaboration and participation framework,	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Maria Valentina Plaza (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Agusan del Sur), approved the Substitute Bill to HB 7198.

Continuation... People's Participation			in all local government units and congressional districts in the country	
Reforestation (Special Committee)	HB 3520	Rep. Arcillas	Mandating each city or municipality to set aside a portion of its territorial jurisdiction for forest parks and providing for the maintenance thereof	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Noel Villanueva (3 <sup>rd</sup> District, Tarlac), approved HB 3520 subject to style. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.  Rep. Arlene Arcillas (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Laguna), author of HB 3520, said that her bill requires each city or municipality to set aside one percent of its lands for the establishment of forest parks.
	HB 1423	Rep. Cosalan	Providing incentives for and encouraging conservation and maintenance of forest cover and tree planting in ancestral lands	The Committee deferred action on HB 1423.  HB 1423 provides immediate economic benefits to ancestral land claimants or owners, requiring the government to pay rentals for the use of these lands as forest cover and for tree planting purposes. It further provides incentives by way of exempting from the payment of real property taxes the forested portions of the ancestral lands.  The resource persons were requested to submit their position papers on the bill for the Committee's consideration.
	HB 7090	Rep. Alejano	Institutionalizing private land forestry to enhance reforestation and environmental protection and providing incentives therefor	The Committee deferred action on HB 7090.  HB 7090 establishes a system of private land forestry, defining special agricultural lands and permanent agro-forestry zones, and vesting in private individuals the property rights to such lands.  The resource persons were requested to submit their position papers on the bill for the Committee's consideration.
Transportation	Substitute Bill to HBs 168, 174, 263, 582, 1203, 2101, 2276, 2300, 2344, 2983, 2999, 3954, 4212, 4992, 5165, 5864 & 6302	Reps. Velasco-Catera, Nograles (K.A.), Villafuerte, Deputy Speaker Cayetano, Reps. Sarmiento (C.), Calixto-Rubiano, Velasco, Castelo, Olivarez, Antonio, Vargas, Zarate, former Rep. Roque, and Rep. Lopez (M.L.)	Promoting sustainable and alternative modes of transportation and other mobility options to improve air quality, increase efficiency, reduce road congestion and contribute to a healthier Filipino society	The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, approved the substitute bill with amendments, and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HB 5244	Rep. Biazon	Making Philippine roads safer, amending for this purpose RA 10913, otherwise known as the Anti-Distracted Driving Act	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the six bills on road safety awareness.

Continuation... Transportation	HBs 7312, 7439, 7463 & 7920	Rep. Velasco-Catera, Robes, Nieto, and Fariñas	Declaring the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of November as the "National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims, Survivors and Families"	Rep. Sarmiento, author of HB 7915, manifested that the explanatory note attached to his bill be considered as his sponsorship speech. Said bill declares the month of June as the "National Road Safety Month."
	HB 7915	Rep. Sarmiento (C.)	Promoting national road safety awareness through road safety education, road safety events and activities, and multi-stakeholder consultation and collaboration	Reps. Florida "Rida" Robes (San Jose del Monte City) and John Marvin "Yul Servo" Nieto (3 <sup>rd</sup> District, Manila), authors of HBs 7312 and 7463, respectively, propose the declaration of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of November of each year as the "World Day of Remembrance for road crash victims, survivors and families."  According to the authors, the bills aim to raise awareness on road safety, remember the people that have perished in road accidents and pay tribute to the dedicated officers in the emergency, security and medical fields who are responding to the call to rescue and bring to safety victims of road crash incidents.  Representatives from the Philippine National Police (PNP) Highway Patrol Group and the Land Transportation Office (LTO) expressed support for the bills. Families of road crash victims who were present in the meeting also expressed their support for the bills.
Ways and Means	Substitute Bill to HBs 2442, 4813 & 5836	Reps. Montoro, Herrera-Dy, and Roa-Puno	Establishing child development, physical medicine and rehabilitation centers for children and youth with disabilities (CYWD) nationwide	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Nueva Ecija), approved with amendments the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to HBs 2442, 4813 and 5836.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 5483 & 6005	Reps. Herrera-Dy and Belaro	Strengthening technical-vocational education and training (TVET) by incorporating apprenticeship and dual training, recognizing the importance of continuous training of the unemployed, and expanding the provision of enterprise-based education and training	The Committee approved with amendments the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to HBs 5483 and 6005.
	Substitute Bill to HB 6606	Rep. Matugas	Converting the Siargao District Hospital in the Province of Surigao del Norte into a level 3 general hospital to be known as the Siargao Islands Medical Center, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved with amendments the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to HB 6606.
	Substitute Bill to HB 7081	Rep. Gasataya	Converting the Carlos Hilado Memorial State College in the City of Talisay, Negros Occidental, and 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	The Committee approved the tax provisions of the Substitute Bill to HB 7081.
	Substitute Bill to HB 2116	Rep. Pimentel	Declaring the Tinuy-an Falls and its watershed areas, located in the City of Bislig, Province of Surigao del Sur, a protected area under the category of protected landscape and providing for its management	The Committee agreed to refer back the substitute bill to the Committee on Natural Resources where it originated, for appropriate action.  Rep. Lianda Bolilia (4 <sup>th</sup> District, Batangas) explained that the proposed measure is

Continuation... Ways and Means				already covered by RA 11038, otherwise known as the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 2018, which amended RA 7586 or the NIPAS Act of 1992.
	<i>Motu Proprio</i> Investigation		Investigation into the alleged smuggling of approximately P6 billion worth of shabu unearthed in Cavite last August by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA)	The Committee agreed to conduct a <i>motu proprio</i> investigation into the alleged smuggling of approximately P6 billion worth of shabu as revealed by PDEA following an inspection of a warehouse in General Mariano Alvarez, Cavite.  The <i>motu proprio</i> investigation is set to commence on September 18.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Government Enterprises and Privatization (Technical Working Group)	HBs 59, 136, 361, 471, 1017, 1097, 1608, 1671, 1780, 1880, 2569, 3127, 3453, 4205, 4641, 4733, 4746 & 5246	Reps. Tinio, Batocabe, Zamora (M.C.), Bataoil, Castelo, Cagas, Revilla, Catamco, Trenas, Rodriguez (M.), Primicias-Agabas, Villarin, Panotes, Salceda, Deputy Speaker Escudero, and Rep. Alejano	Amending RA 8291 or the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Act of 1997, such as: lowering the retirement age, increasing the pension and benefits of GSIS members, and strengthening the GSIS	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Antonio Tinio (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS), will deliberate further on the 18 bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Jenny Lobas, Manager of the GSIS' Social Security and Employees Compensation Insurance Staff, said that lowering the optional and compulsory retirement age of GSIS members decreases the actuarial life of the pension fund, citing the results of its actuarial study on the matter.</p> <p>Likewise, GSIS Senior Vice President Nora Saldares said that the actuarial life of the GSIS fund will be adversely affected if the pension and benefits of the GSIS members will be increased without the corresponding increase in the members' premium.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Evelina Escudero (1<sup>st</sup> District, Sorsogon), ACT TEACHERS Party-List Reps. Antonio Tinio and France Castro, and Iloilo City Rep. Jerry Treñas asked GSIS to submit data on the following: total number of pensioners and the amount of pension they are receiving; the number of GSIS members who availed themselves of the optional retirement; and computation of the GSIS premium if the optional retirement age will be lowered to 55 and the compulsory retirement age is either 60 or 65.</p>

AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Banks and Financial Intermediaries	Briefing by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Islamic banking, issues and challenges pertinent to the crafting of regulations on Islamic banking, and	The Committee on Banks, chaired by Rep. Henry Ong (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Leyte), listened to the briefing of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Islamic banking and finance.

<p>Continuation... Banks and Financial Intermediaries</p>	<p>regulatory approaches in other jurisdictions that have accommodated Islamic finance</p>	<p>ADB regulatory consultant and international Islamic finance expert Peter Casey presented the key concepts of Islamic banking and finance, Islamic banking practices and regulations in other countries, and issues that may be faced in the crafting of laws regulating this industry.</p> <p>Islamic finance, as defined by Casey, generally refers to “financial activities conducted through a variety of financial contracts that comply with <i>Shari’ah</i> (Islamic law) rules and principles as derived from primary and secondary sources.”</p> <p>Casey mentioned that under modern Islamic banking, the key concept is “profit-sharing investment account (PSIA)” in which, in principle, customers share in profits, as well as losses, of the bank’s financing activity. Banks cannot offer interest-bearing deposits and finance with interest, he added.</p> <p>Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Acting Deputy Director Noel Tianela informed the Committee that the BSP has teamed up with consultants from the ADB to determine appropriate policies that will facilitate Islamic banking in the country. Tianela acknowledged that a legal framework that shall govern Islamic banking and finance should be put in place first before the BSP promotes its establishment nationwide.</p> <p>ADB’s Senior Counsel Ashgar Ali Syed said that the ADB is crafting a proposed law that will regulate Islamic banking and finance in the country.</p> <p>On the question raised by Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN) if Al Amanah Islamic Investment Bank is still operating in the country, Tianela replied in the affirmative. Tianela said that Al Amanah Islamic Investment Bank is the only bank in the Philippines that is authorized to offer Islamic banking services. The bank is operated by the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) since 2008 and has nine branches in Mindanao with its executive office located in Makati City.</p> <p>In response to the query raised by AGRI Party-List Rep. Orestes Salon, Tianela said that many banks are interested in introducing Islamic financing in their portfolios, however, they are still waiting for the enactment of a law that will govern such transactions.</p>
<p>Health</p>	<p>Status of implementation of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP)</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4<sup>th</sup> District, Quezon), listened to the presentation of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) on the status of implementation of the NHIP.</p> <p>PhilHealth President and CEO Roy Ferrer, presenting the various programs and major accomplishments of PhilHealth for 2017, highlighted that the Corporation was a recipient of the Civil Service Commission’s (CSC) Seal of Excellence - Hall of Famer.</p> <p>According to Ferrer, membership to PhilHealth increased by 4% or more than eight million additional members, closer to covering the country’s entire population with health insurance. About 80% or 1,309 of the 1,634 local government units (LGUs) have been accredited to PhilHealth’s programs on primary care, maternity care, and Tuberculosis-Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (TB-DOTS). Also, there was a 9% increase in the number of beneficiaries of the no-balance billing (NBB) program from 2016 to 2017. The NBB program covers patients who are indigents, sponsored beneficiaries, senior citizens, and <i>kasambahay</i> or househelp who do not have the means to pay for their hospitalization.</p>

Continuation... Health		<p>Ferrer also apprised the Committee of the status of the National Health Insurance Fund.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Sol Aragones (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Laguna) with regard to the number of days within which private hospitals can be paid by PhilHealth for the cost of hospitalization of or medical services extended to its members, Ferrer said that payment can be made in an average of 30 to 44 days as long as all the requirements have been complied with. Ferrer added that PhilHealth is currently addressing its payment backlogs to some private hospitals.</p> <p>Replying to Rep. Tan's query, PhilHealth Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Ruben Basa said that erring hospitals are imposed a fine ranging from P 50,000 to P100,000 depending on the number of offenses committed by the hospital.</p> <p>Rep. Tan also asked PhilHealth to study further its policy requiring hospitals to submit Claim Form (CF) 4 as one of the documentary requirements prior to the payment of claims. Under PhilHealth Circular No. 2018-0014, CF4 is a "summary of pertinent clinical information of a patient/member during hospitalization/episode of care that shall be utilized by PhilHealth to conduct evaluation and review of claims."</p>
North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)	Briefing by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) on its budget and plans and programs for North Luzon	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1<sup>st</sup> District, Ilocos Sur), listened to the presentation of PAGCOR on its budget and plans and programs for North Luzon.</p> <p>PAGCOR Assistant Vice President Arnold Ferdinand Salvosa reported that PAGCOR's Casino Filipino in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte has generated an income of P163.39 million for 2018 and remitted P85.78 million to the government. For 2019, the casino projects to generate an income amounting to P212.77 million and to remit an estimated amount of P111.70 million to the government.</p> <p>Salvosa also apprised the Committee of PAGCOR's assistance extended to North Luzon, which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of 16 school buildings in Cordillera Autonomous Region, 69 in Region I, and 25 in Region II;</li> <li>• Distribution of 4,612 backpacks containing school supplies and hygiene kits, relief goods, and computers; and</li> <li>• Provision of financial assistance to "Typhoon Lawin" victims amounting to P11 million.</li> </ul> <p>Rep. Marlyn Primicias-Agabas (6<sup>th</sup> District, Pangasinan) asked Salvosa on what alternative courses of action PAGCOR has undertaken in response to the position of the Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd) not to accept funds sourced through gambling for the construction of school buildings.</p> <p>Salvosa replied that as mentioned by PAGCOR Chair Andrea Domingo during the budget deliberations at the Committee on Appropriations, PAGCOR will instead channel its funds for the construction of multi-purpose halls that can be used as evacuation centers, health centers, and classrooms. He added that talks with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) regarding the implementation of projects are already underway. Likewise, PAGCOR is coordinating with various local government units (LGUs) for the identification of sites for the multi-purpose halls.</p>
Public Works and Highways	Status of the planned replacement of the Manalo Bridge connecting Pasig City and Quezon City	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Bayani Fernando (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Marikina City), will again discuss in another meeting the progress of the proposed replacement of the Manalo Bridge with a new and wider bridge.

<p>Continuation... Public Works and Highways</p>		<p>Rep. Fernando expressed the urgent need to build a wider bridge to replace the very narrow Manalo Bridge in order to prevent flooding in the cities of Pasig, Quezon, and Antipolo, and municipalities of Cainta and San Mateo.</p> <p>Department of Public Works and Highways' (DPWH) Flood Control Management Cluster Project Director Patrick Gatan reported that the project was temporarily put on hold because of concerns aired by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the local government units (LGUs) over the potential heavy traffic it would cause. The initial plan was to immediately demolish the old bridge and construct a new four-lane bridge in its place. Gatan said that the suggestion is to modify the project design such that it will be implemented by phase, with the first two lanes constructed first, and the other two lanes next.</p> <p>According to Gatan, the design of the project is currently being reviewed by the DPWH's Bureau of Design (BOD), but the construction is expected to commence by October this year.</p> <p>Replying to Rep. Fernando's query, Gatan said that the project could be finished in two years if the old bridge will be demolished first.</p> <p>The Committee will invite other stakeholders and representatives from the MMDA and concerned LGUs in its next meeting.</p>
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Update by concerned government agencies on the status of implementation of road safety laws, on the PNR North Project vis-à-vis NLEX-SLEX connector road, and on the procurement of the Mobile Motor Vehicle Inspection System (MVIS).</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, listened to the reports of concerned agencies on the status of implementation of road safety laws and other concerns in the transport sector.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG), to be chaired by Rep. Renato "Kuya Jojo" Unico Jr. (1<sup>st</sup> District, Camarines Norte), to discuss further the implementation of the following road safety laws:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RA 10054 (Motorcycle Helmet Act of 2009);</li> <li>• RA 10586 (Anti-Drunk and Drugged Driving Act of 2013);</li> <li>• RA 10916 (Road Speed Limiter Act of 2016); and</li> <li>• RA 10930 (Extension of Validity of Driver's License)</li> </ul> <p>On the Motorcycle Helmet Act and the Anti-Drunk and Drugged Driving Act, Philippine National Police Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG) Chief Roberto Fajardo, PNP-HPG Spokesperson Oliver Tanseco, and Land Transportation Office (LTO) Chief Edgar Galvante presented the difficulties they face in the implementation of these laws due to lack of manpower and lack of training on proper law enforcement.</p> <p>As for the Road Speed Limiter Act of 2016, Department of Transportation (DOTr) Assistant Secretary Manuel Gonzales reported that the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the said Act were already approved and subsequently published on April 12, 2018. He also said that the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), through the Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC), shall take charge of the guidelines on the accreditation of the speed limiter, installer, and system facilities that will be procured in pursuit of the law.</p> <p>The Committee requested the LTO to submit an updated report on the implementation of RA 10930 (extension of validity of driver's license).</p> <p>On the procurement of mobile motor vehicle inspection system, PITC Vice President Christabelle Ebriaga informed the Committee</p>

<p>Continuation... Transportation</p>		<p>that the PITC signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the DOTr in December 2017 for this purpose. Upon receipt of the terms of reference (TOR) from the DOTr last March 2018, the PITC held a pre-bidding on July 19. With various queries on the TOR from potential bidders, the PITC referred the TOR back to the DOTr for revision. Moreover, the PITC has still not received the other 50% of the funding for the procurement of the MVIS from the Road Board.</p> <p>Meanwhile, DOTr Undersecretary for Railways Timothy John Batan said that the bidding notice for the civil works for the NLEX-SLEX Connector Road (NSCR) project in the North (Malolos to Clark) and South (Tutuban to Calamba) will be published by October and November, respectively.</p> <p>According to Batan, there are still ongoing discussions with the PNR on the use of certain portions of the PNR right of way (ROW) in Blumentritt and Sta. Mesa for the NLEX-SLEX Connector Road.</p> <p>Rep. Benhur Lopez Jr. (Party-List, YACAP) stated that the use of the Tutuban Station for the project is not feasible as the area is already congested and thus will cause more traffic and disrupt businesses in the area.</p> <p>In reply to the query of Rep. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Negros Occidental) on the number of informal settler families (ISF) that will be affected by the connector road, Batan said about 400 ISFs will be affected by the Tutuban-Malolos segment, and about 3,000 and 14,000 by the Malolos-Clark segment and Tutuban-Calamba segment, respectively. Batan added that discussion is still ongoing regarding the proposed compensation for the affected ISFs.</p>
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DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p>Metro Manila Development</p>	<p>Update on flagship infrastructure projects in Metro Manila</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Quezon City), discussed with concerned government agencies the status of the government's flagship infrastructure projects in Metro Manila.</p> <p>The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), through its Road Management Cluster I Project Director Virgilio Castillo, informed the Committee that the Department plans to build 12 bridges in different parts of Metro Manila which will be funded through loans or grants from China and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).</p> <p>Several lawmakers expressed their concern over the terms and conditions that accompany the grants from China as well as the high interest rates it imposes on the loans secured by the Philippines.</p> <p>The DPWH was instructed to submit a copy of the feasibility studies on the 12 bridges and the corresponding traffic plans when the construction of these bridges start.</p> <p>On the part of the Department of Transportation (DOTr), Undersecretary for Railways Timothy Batan reported that one of the big ticket infrastructure projects of the Duterte administration is the Metro Manila subway that will run from Quirino Highway in Quezon City to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Complex in Parañaque City. The P355.6 billion subway project is scheduled to commence before the year ends and is expected to be fully</p>

<p>Continuation... Metro Manila Development</p>		<p>operational in 2025. The project will be financed through Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA).</p> <p>Committee Members present questioned DOTr's deviation from the original plan for the subway project in terms of the location of some of the proposed stations, saying that the new areas where the stations will be located have lesser volume of commuters.</p> <p>Batan promised to study and consider the suggestions of the Members.</p> <p>The DOTr was asked to submit the minutes of the meeting conducted with other departments during which the changes in the original subway plan were agreed upon. It was also instructed to hold in abeyance the construction of the first three subway stations until the issue on the change of stations' location has been settled.</p>
	<p>Complaints on policy changes concerning the insurance of public utility vehicles</p>	<p>The Committee discussed the complaints on some policy changes regarding the insurance of public utility vehicles.</p> <p>Rep. Castelo said that the Committee received a complaint filed by various transport groups such as the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines (FEJODAP), Provincial Bus Operators Association of the Philippines (PBOAP), Pasang Masda, and Alliance of Transport Operators and Drivers Association (ALTODAP) concerning the new passenger personal accident insurance scheme that the DOTr plans to implement. He asked the DOTr to shed light on the matter.</p> <p>DOTr Undersecretary for Legal Affairs Reinier Paul Yebra explained that under the signed but still unpublished Department Order 2018-20, the regulation of the passenger accident insurance will be transferred from the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to the Insurance Commission. He clarified that the said transfer will not prevent the two accredited insurance providers – SCCI Management and Insurance Agency (SCCI) and Passenger Accident Management and Insurance Agency (PAMI) – from providing insurance to PUVs, which appears to be where the concerns of the transport groups are coming from.</p> <p>Several Committee Members asked if the DOTr conducted consultations with major stakeholders and the Insurance Commission before coming up with the new policy on the passenger accident insurance. Yebra answered that consultations with major stakeholders were not necessary as it was a simple policy shift on the part of the Department.</p> <p>Yebra's statements drew the ire of the lawmakers present who insisted that policies imbued with public interest require consultation with the affected sectors. They instructed the DOTr to delay the implementation of the said Department Order for at least one year to give ample time for the DOTr to consult its stakeholders and to extend the accreditation of the two insurance consortia for another year.</p> <p>Yebra promised to elevate the concerns expressed during the meeting to the Secretary of the DOTr.</p>