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BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 5745 & SB 1233	Rep. Panganiban and Sen. Pangilinan	Creating the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund, and providing for its management and utilization	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Jose Panganiban Jr. (Party-List, ANAC-IP) and Sen. Cynthia Villar, respective Chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Agriculture and Food, approved the reconciled version of HB 5745 and SB 1233.</p> <p>Other conferees present during the bicameral conference committee meeting were the following: On the part of the House, Deputy Speaker Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), and Reps. Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City) and Joseph Stephen Paduano (Party-List, ABANG LINGKOD); on the part of the Senate, Senator Sherwin Gatchalian.</p>
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 2158 & SB 1753	Rep. Pineda and Sen. Recto	Rationalizing and expanding the powers and duties of the Social Security Commission to ensure the long-term viability of the Social Security System, further amending for the purpose RA 1161, as amended by RA 8282, otherwise known as the Social Security Act of 1997	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee, co-chaired by House Deputy Speaker Prospero Pichay Jr. (1st District, Surigao del Sur) and Senator Richard Gordon, Chair of the Senate Committee on Government Corporations and Private Enterprises, agreed to adopt SB 1753 and thereafter approved the same with amendments.</p> <p>Other conferees present during the bicameral conference committee meeting were the following: On the part of the House, Baguio City Rep. Mark Go; on the part of the Senate, Senators Franklin Drilon, Ralph Recto, and Sherwin Gatchalian.</p>
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 6617 & SB 1390	Rep. Bag-ao and Sen. 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, Deputy Speaker Pia Cayetano (2nd District, Taguig City-Pateros) and Reps. Kaka Bag-ao</p>

Continuation... Bicameral Conference Committee				(Dinagat Islands), Cecilia Leonila Chavez (Party-List, BUTIL), Sandra Young Eriguel, M.D. (2 nd District, La Union), Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN), and Estrellita Suansing (1 st District, Nueva Ecija); on the part of the Senate, Senators Risa Hontiveros and Maria Lourdes Nancy Sombillo Binay.
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 6775 SB 1578	Rep. Belmonte (J.C.) and Sen. Legarda	Creating the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, defining its mandate, powers and functions, and appropriating funds therefor	The Bicameral Conference Committee, co- presided by Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY), Chair of the House Committee on Government Reorganization, and Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito, Chair of the Senate Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement, approved the reconciled version of HB 6775 and SB 1578. Other conferees present during the bicameral conference committee meeting were the following: On the part of the House, Reps. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3 rd District, Negros Occidental), Joseph Stephen Paduano (Party- List, ABANG LINGKOD), and Ron Salo (Party- List, KABAYAN); on the part of the Senate, Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy Sombillo Binay.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Economic Affairs	HB 8124, in consolidation with HB 8189	Deputy Speaker Yap and Rep. Gatchalian	Institutionalizing the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) as the independent economic and planning agency of the Philippine government, defining its functions and amending EO 230 series of 1987, as amended, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Gwendolyn Garcia (3 rd District, Cebu), approved HB 8124, in consolidation with HB 8189, subject to style and amendment.
Economic Affairs jt. w/ Trade and Industry	HB 4067	Deputy Speaker Yap	Amending RA 7042, as amended by RA 8179, otherwise known as the Foreign Investments Act of 1991 [by deleting the provisions relating to the "practice of professions" from among the items listed under the Foreign Investment Negative List (FINL), and by lowering the threshold of employment requirement to 15 direct employees for a US\$100,000 foreign investment in small and medium-sized domestic market]	The Joint Committee, presided by Rep. Gwendolyn Garcia (3 rd District, Cebu), Chair of the Committee on Economic Affairs, and Deputy Speaker Arthur Yap (3 rd District, Bohol) for the Committee on Trade and Industry, approved HB 4067.
Good Government and Public Accountability	HR 1742	Rep. De Vera	Inquiry into the anomalous supply and delivery agreements entered into by Duty Free Philippines Corporation (DFPC) without undergoing the required public bidding, as well as the highly suspicious and irregular extensions of the terms of these contracts, three years prior to their respective expirations, in an apparent case of midnight deals by the previous officers of DFPC	The Committee, chaired by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 1742 in its next meeting. Rep. Romualdo explained that the DFPC, being a government-owned and controlled corporation (GOCC), is covered by RA 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act, thus all its procurements should undergo the required public bidding process.

<p>Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability</p>				<p>DFPC Chief Operating Officer Vicente Pelagio Angala said that the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel issued a legal opinion that concession agreements entered into by the DFPC with various entities for the supply of goods and merchandise for resale at its duty-free shops are not required to undergo public bidding.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Eugene Michael de Vera (Party-List, ABS), author of HR 1742, as to why the supply and delivery agreements (SDAs) were renewed three years before their expiration, former DFPC Board member Felicitas Agoncillo-Reyes said that the Board approved the renewal and extension of the SDAs to allow the suppliers to recover their investments in the construction of the DFPC outlets in Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) 3 and Mall of Asia Complex.</p> <p>Rep. Anthony Bravo PhD. (Party-List, COOP-NATCCO) said that the premature extension of the SDAs may hold DFPC liable for violating other laws such as the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees and the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL) questioned the P700 million contract to develop two major DFPC outlets located at the NAIA Terminal 3 and the Mall of Asia complex which are new arrangements separate from the other SDAs, but were extended all together. He opined that the DFPC should have entered into new contracts with other suppliers relative to developing these outlets.</p> <p>DFPC new legal officer Carlo Castillo said that, upon review of the SDAs, he advised the DFPC to execute a separate contract and not merely a supplemental contract. Castillo also disclosed that all of the DFPC suppliers in relation to the questioned SDAs, are foreign corporations registered in Hongkong.</p> <p>Rep. Batocabe asserted that the contracts of these corporations should be cancelled.</p>
<p>Human Rights</p>	<p>HRs 948, 950, 960 & 976</p>	<p>Former Rep. Roque, Reps. Rocamora, Baguilat, and Alejano</p>	<p>Inquiry into the alleged secret detention room in Manila Police District (MPD) Station 1 discovered by the Commission on Human Rights (CHR)</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2nd District, Zambales), approved the Committee Report on the four resolutions subject to style.</p> <p>The Committee concluded its inquiry, affirming that a secret detention existed inside the police station's Drug Enforcement Unit room, in clear violation of the Constitution, the Anti-Torture Law, as well as pertinent provisions of international conventions on human rights.</p>
	<p>HRs 486 & 487</p>	<p>Reps. Elago and Zarate</p>	<p>Condemning the violent dispersal of the demonstration of national minority groups and their supporters in front of the United</p>	<p>The Committee approved the Committee Report on HRs 486 and 487 subject to amendment.</p>

Continuation... Human Rights			States Embassy in Manila, and calling for an investigation of the incident	Upon the suggestion of Rep. Emmi de Jesus (Party-List, GABRIELA), the Committee Report will include a recommendation that charges be pressed against Senior Superintendent Marcelino Pedroso of the Philippine National Police (PNP) for his role in the violent dispersal of demonstrators in front of the US Embassy. Pedroso was the ground commander during the incident.
	HB 1617	Rep. Zarate	Defining certain rights of human rights defenders and providing penalties for violations thereof relative to the implementation of the 1998 United Nations (UN) Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally-Recognized Human Rights, otherwise known as the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate HBs 1617 and 8128.</p> <p>Rep. Jose Christopher Belmonte (6th District, Quezon City) will serve as TWG chair while Rep. Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA) will serve as vice-chair.</p> <p>Rep. Edcel Lagman (1st District, Albay), author of HB 8128, and Rep. De Jesus, co-author of HB 1617, highlighted the urgency of creating a Human Rights Defenders Protection Committee (as proposed under HB 8128) in order to protect human rights defenders (HRDs) from intimidation and reprisals and to hold accountable those who are responsible for the violation of human rights.</p> <p>Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Chair Jose Luis Martin Gascon, Department of Justice (DOJ) State Counsel Ma. Lorena Calo, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Humanitarian and Human Rights Division Director Nina Cainglet, and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Judge Advocate General Serme Ayuyao were all in support of the bill.</p> <p>Likewise, representatives of various civil society organizations such as the Samahan ng mga Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at Aresto (SELDA), National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), and Karapatan – an alliance of individuals, groups and organizations working for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Philippines – were supportive of the two bills.</p> <p>Karapatan Secretary General Cristina Palabay decried the red-tagging, vilification and harassment being done against HRDs as well as the trumped-up charges constantly being slapped against them.</p> <p>On the other hand, Police Chief Superintendent Dennis Siervo, chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Human Rights Affairs Office, expressed reservation on some of the provisions of the proposed law and promised to submit the PNP's position paper once it is signed by PNP Director General Oscar Albayalde.</p>
	HB 8128	Rep. Lagman	Defining the rights and fundamental freedoms of human rights defenders, declaring the State's responsibilities and instituting effective mechanisms for the protection and promotion of these rights and freedoms	
Local Government	HBs 6338 & 8221	Reps. Garcia (J.E.) and Villafuerte	Establishing and institutionalizing the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) for local government units, and allocating for	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Pedro Acharon Jr. (1 st District, South Cotabato and General Santos City), created a technical

<p>Continuation... Local Government</p>			<p>this purpose the Seal of Good Local Governance Fund</p>	<p>working group (TWG) to consolidate HBs 6338 and 8221.</p> <p>Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2nd District, Bataan) was designated as chair of the TWG.</p> <p>Both bills seek to institutionalize the SGLG program that gives recognition to high performing local government units (LGUs) based on the standards of good governance.</p> <p>Rep. Garcia, author of HB 6338, said that his bill expands the existing criteria to qualify for the SGLG which may further be expanded provided that they are in line with the long-term development plan of the national government. Likewise, the bill proposes the creation of the SGLG Fund, to be administered by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), from which payout for incentives to LGUs that qualify for the SGLG shall be drawn.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Acharon if the LGUs find it difficult to qualify for the SGLG, League of Cities Executive Director Veronica Hitois said that some LGUs have difficulty meeting some of the criteria such as building the required infrastructure for solid waste management and the <i>Bahay Pagasa</i> or halfway house for children in conflict with the law.</p> <p>Representatives of the League of Cities, League of Provinces, and Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) expressed support for the bills.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the proposed law for consideration by the TWG.</p>
	<p>HB 6386</p>	<p>Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo</p>	<p>Adopting internal revenue allotment (IRA) portability for every conversion of a municipality into a city, amending for the purpose Section 285 of RA 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991</p>	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 6386.</p> <p>Rep. Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II (1st District, Zamboanga Sibugay) sponsored the bill on behalf of Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga).</p> <p>HB 6386 introduces the concept of "IRA portability" which aims to minimize or cut by half the adverse effect of converting a municipality into a city to the existing cities. When a municipality becomes a city, its IRA share increases tremendously, in effect decreasing the existing cities' IRA shares, while increasing all the remaining municipalities' shares with one less recipient. In IRA portability, converted municipalities will have to bring their IRA share when they are converted into cities.</p>

Continuation... Local Government				The Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), and other stakeholders present in the meeting were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill.
Public Order	Substitute Bill to HBs 4109 & 5198	Reps. Chipeco and Olivarez	Strengthening the People's Law Enforcement Board (PLEB), further amending for the purpose RA 6975, otherwise known as "The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Act of 1990," as amended by RA 8551, otherwise known as the "Philippine National Police (PNP) Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998"	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to HBs 4109 and 5198.</p> <p>Rep. Renato "Kuya Jojo" Unico Jr. (1st District, Camarines Norte) presented the salient features of the substitute bill, which was prepared by the technical working group (TWG) tasked to do the job.</p> <p>Under RA 6975, as amended by RA 8551, the PLEB, created by the sangguniang panlungsod or sangguniang bayan, is the central receiving entity for any citizen's complaint against the officers and members of the PNP. Subject to the provisions of Section 41 of RA 6975, the PLEB shall take cognizance of or refer the complaint to the proper disciplinary or adjudicatory authority within three days upon the filing of the complaint.</p> <p>Rep. Unico mentioned that aside from the per diem and life insurance coverage already provided for under existing laws, the bill seeks to grant the members and personnel of PLEB Christmas cash gifts equivalent to the amount being received by local government employees. The PLEB Chair shall also receive a monthly representation allowance in the amount of P5,000.00.</p> <p>DILG's PLEB Program Management Office head Alexandra Panaguiton said that her office has already secured life insurance coverage for PLEB personnel in Regions III and IV-A, and the National Capital Region (NCR). However, Panaguiton said that extending the insurance coverage to all PLEBs nationwide is not possible as the DILG is already assisting low-income municipalities, which cannot afford to pay the per diem and insurance coverage of their PLEBs. (The PLEBs in other cities and municipalities source their compensation from city or municipal funds.)</p> <p>Department of Budget and Management's (DBM) Organization, Position Classification and Compensation Bureau Assistant Director Ma. Lourdes Aganon said that PLEB members are entitled to a per diem of P1,000 per meeting but not to exceed P4,000 per month. Aganon added that government personnel who are concurrent members of PLEB already receive a cash gift of P5,000 in addition to the year-end bonus equivalent to one-month salary.</p>

Continuation... Public Order				<p>Aganon also explained that PLEB members are not entitled to receive representation and transportation allowance (RATA) because their membership in the PLEB is a civic duty and is not considered government service. Aganon clarified that RATA is provided to selected government officials to cover expenses incurred in the actual performance of their official duties.</p> <p>Representatives of PLEBs in Parañaque City and Quezon City said that they receive adequate financial support from their respective local governments.</p> <p>The resource persons present in the meeting were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill.</p>
Public Order and Safety jt. w/ Games and Amusements and Tourism	<i>Motu Proprio</i> Inquiry		On the circumstances of the attack at Resorts World Manila (RWM) on June 2, 2017	<p>The joint Committee, respectively chaired by Reps. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City) for the Committee on Public Order and Safety, Gus Tambunting (2nd District, Paranaque City) for the Committee on Games and Amusements, and Corazon Nuñez-Malanyaon (1st District, Davao Oriental) for the Committee on Tourism, adopted its Committee Report on the June 2, 2017 attack at Resorts World Manila, an entertainment complex in Pasay City.</p> <p>The Joint Committee also agreed to secure a copy of the investigation report on the incident prepared by the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) to be attached to the Committee Report.</p>
Suffrage and Electoral Reforms	Substitute Bill to HBs 8111 & 8258	Rep. DatoI	Reorganizing the Commission on Elections' (COMELEC) offices	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sherwin Tugna (Party-List, CIBAC), approved the substitute bill.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 522, 697, 1695 & 7088	Deputy Speaker Castro, Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, Reps. Rodriguez (M.), and Alejano	Strengthening the political party system and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved the substitute bill.</p> <p>Reps. Tugna and Gary Alejano (Party-List, MAGDALO), author of HB 7088, informed the Committee that a bill with similar subject matter was approved on Third Reading during the 16th Congress.</p>
	HB 313	Rep. Garcia (G.)	Providing for the conduct of hybrid national, local, and Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) elections through manual voting and counting at the precinct level, and automated transmission and canvassing	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 313 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu), author of HB 313, pointed out that the Precinct Count Optical System (PCOS) used during the 2010 and 2013 national and local elections and the Vote Counting Machine (VCM) used during the 2016 national, local and ARMM elections were mere counting and transmission machines, which do not fully comply with the required automated election system under RA 9369. The system should cover the entire election process from voting, counting, consolidating, canvassing, to the transmission of election results.</p>

<p>Continuation... Suffrage and Electoral Reforms</p>				<p>Rep. Garcia proposed that the government revert back to the manual counting of votes to ensure transparency in the election process, but the transmission will still be automated.</p> <p>Commission on Elections (COMELEC) Executive Director Jose Tolentino Jr. warned that the conduct of a “hybrid election” would entail additional funds to cover additional facilities and manpower, among other expenses.</p> <p>Likewise, Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) Information Technology Director William Yu said that the PPCRV prefers a fully automated system, adding that in the previous automated elections, there were lesser reports of election violence and fraud.</p> <p>On the other hand, former COMELEC Commissioner Augusto Lagman expressed his support for HB 313. He said that countries like Germany and Ireland are returning to the manual system of voting to ensure transparency in the conduct of elections.</p> <p>The COMELEC was requested to submit a report on the purchase and the warehousing of PCOS machines and VCMs.</p>
	<p>Privilege Speech 388</p>	<p>Rep. Sema</p>	<p>On the alleged takeover by the Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel of the May 14, 2018 synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections in Cotabato City</p>	<p>The Committee will continue its deliberations on the issues raised in the privilege speech of Rep. Bai Sandra Sinsuat Sema (1st District, Maguindanao) delivered in the plenary on May 23.</p> <p>Rep. Sema questioned the appointment of PNP personnel as members of the Board of Election Tellers (BET) with jurisdiction over seven barangays in Cotabato City during the May 14, 2018 synchronized barangay and SK elections. She claimed that there was no need for such takeover by the PNP as there were willing and capable public school teachers who were already in the city hall to get their respective election paraphernalia during the election.</p> <p>However, former Cotabato City COMELEC Election Officer Michael Ignes said that he requested the PNP to deploy its personnel as members of the BET only because he received a letter from the Department of Education (DepEd) certifying that a number of public school teachers have withdrawn their intent to serve in the seven barangays in Cotabato City during the May elections.</p> <p>Cotabato City Police Director Rolly Octavio explained that upon the request of COMELEC, the PNP deployed 119 personnel to serve as members of the Electoral Board in the seven barangays in the area.</p>

Continuation... Suffrage and Electoral Reforms				<p>COMELEC's Election and Barangay Affairs Department Director Teopisto Elnas Jr. stated that RA 10756 or the Election Service Reform Act provides that uniformed personnel of the PNP shall be deputized to render election service in cases where the peace and order situation in the concerned area so requires, as determined by the COMELEC, and where there are no qualified voters willing to serve.</p> <p>Octavio was requested to submit the list of the names of the PNP personnel who served as members of the Electoral Board in Cotabato City during the May 14, 2018 elections.</p>
Trade and Industry	HB 4595	Deputy Speaker Yap (A.)	Amending RA 8762, otherwise known as the Retail Trade Liberalization Act (by removing the equity and capitalization requirements in the law to create a more favorable investment climate in the country)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ferjanel Biron, M.D. (4th District, Iloilo), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to study the bill further.</p> <p>Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo was designated as the TWG Chair.</p> <p>As explained by Rep. Biron, the bill seeks to do away with the barriers to foreign investment by removing the equity and capitalization requirements in the Retail Trade Liberalization Law to further enhance a more favorable investment climate in the country.</p> <p>Federation of Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FFCCCII) Executive Director Kristine Dy recognizes the need for the country to be more open to foreign investments, but there is an equal need to protect the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). She suggested that instead of removing the capitalization threshold, the bill can just lower the amount of required capital.</p> <p>Likewise, Laban Konsumer Inc. President Victorio Mario Dimagiba said that while more foreign investments in the retail sector may mean a wider choice of goods and services for the Filipino consumers, it can however cause negative effects on MSMEs. Dimagiba agrees with the National Economic and Development Authority's (NEDA) position that there is merit in reserving retail trade enterprises with paid-up capital of \$200,000 or its equivalent in Philippine peso to Filipino citizens or corporations wholly-owned by Filipinos for a limited period after the effectivity of the law to allow MSMEs to prepare for competition.</p> <p>Rep. Manuel Zubiri (3rd District, Bukidnon) underscored the importance of additional foreign investments coming into the country but an increased liberalization in the retail trade should be done with caution in the meantime that measures are being determined to mitigate possible adverse effects on Filipino businessmen.</p>

<i>Continuation...</i> Trade and Industry				<p>On the other hand, representatives from the American, Japanese, Korean and United Kingdom Chambers of Commerce in the Philippines expressed their support for the bill.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers for the TWG's reference in its deliberation on the bill.</p>
Ways and Means	Substitute Bill to HBs 1177, 1502, 1727, 1813, 3201, 3333 & 3820	Deputy Speaker Cayetano, Reps. Alejano, Biazon, Vargas, Savellano, Noel, and Revilla	Strengthening the National Museum of the Philippines, repealing for the purpose RA 8492, otherwise known as the National Museum Act of 1998, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1 st District, Nueva Ecija), approved with amendments the tax provisions of the substitute bill.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 7139, 7380, 7381 and 7651	Reps. Silverio, Roman, Sy-Alvarado, and Garcia (J.E.)	Creating the Regional Investment and Infrastructure Coordinating Hub of Central Luzon and providing funds therefor	The Committee approved with amendments the tax provisions of the substitute bill.
	Substitute Bill to HB 8292	Rep. Javier	Declaring the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) as the National Polytechnic University, strengthening it for the purpose and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved with amendments the tax provision of the substitute bill.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 637 & 6416	Reps. Unico and Panotes	Converting the Camarines Norte State College (CNSC) in the Municipality of Daet, Province of Camarines Norte into a state university to be known as the University of Camarines Norte (UCN) and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved with amendments the tax provision of the substitute bill.
	Substitute Bill to HB 1160	Rep. Acosta-Alba	Converting the Northern Bukidnon Community College in the Municipality of Manolo Fortich, Province of Bukidnon, into a state college to be known as the Northern Bukidnon State College and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved with amendments the tax provision of the substitute bill.
	Substitute Bill to HB 1281	Rep. Velasco	Converting the Marinduque State College in the Municipality of Boac, Province of Marinduque into a state university to be known as the Marinduque State University and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provision of the substitute bill.
	Substitute Bill to HB 5119	Rep. Belaro	Converting the Camarines Sur Polytechnic Colleges in the Municipality of Nabua, Province of Camarines Sur into a state university to be known as the Polytechnic University of Bicol and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provision of the substitute bill.
	Substitute Bill to HB 5910	Rep. Bernos	Converting the Abra State Institute of Sciences and Technology (ASIST) in the Municipalities of Lagangilang and Bangued, Province of Abra into a state university to be known as the University of Abra and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved with amendments the tax provision of the substitute bill.
	Substitute Bill to HB 7473	Rep. Zubiri	Converting the Don Carlos Polytechnic College into a state college to be known	The Committee approved with amendments the tax provision of the substitute bill.

Continuation... Ways and Means			as the Don Carlos Polytechnic State College	
	Substitute Bill to HB 7953	Rep. Nava	Converting the Guimaras State College in the Province of Guimaras into a state university to be known as the Guimaras State University and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provision of the substitute bill.
	Substitute Bill to HB 8263	Rep. Mellana	Converting the Agusan del Sur State College of Agriculture and Technology (ASSCAT) in the Municipality of Bunawan, Province of Agusan del Sur into a state university, integrating therewith the satellite campus in the Municipality of Trento, Province of Agusan del Sur to be known as the Agusan del Sur State University (ADSSU) and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provision of the substitute bill.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Energy (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 7104, 5020, & 5961	Reps. Velasco, Alvarez (P.), and Gatchalian	Streamlining the regulatory commission on energy, renaming the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) into the Philippine Power Regulatory Commission, amending for the purpose RA 9136, otherwise known as the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) of 2001, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The joint technical working group (TWG), co-chaired by Rep. Mark Aeron Sambar (Party-List, PBA) for the Committee on Government Reorganization and Rep. Carlos Roman Uybarreta (Party-List, 1-CARE) for the Committee on Energy, will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill.</p> <p>Rep. Uybarreta emphasized that the main purpose of the bill is to streamline and strengthen, and not to abolish, the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC). However, the bill also renames the ERC into the Philippine Power Regulatory Commission (PPRC).</p> <p>During the meeting, ERC Chairperson Agnes Devanadera cited some provisions in the bill that may be counterproductive instead of strengthening the ERC, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increase in the number of PPRC Commissioners from 5 to 9 (ERC proposes to limit the number to seven); • Removal of the fixed term of office of the Commissioners, contrary to the provisions of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA); and • Pegging at P400 million the budget for PPRC's initial operations which is lesser than the ERC's current budget. <p>Devanadera also said that the ERC lacks technical people or experts in the field of energy due to its uncompetitive salaries, adding that the ERC could not fill up many vacant positions due to the pendency of cases</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Government Reorganization jt. w/ Energy (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) involving unauthorized or questionable appointments rendered by the former ERC Chairperson.</p> <p>Devanadera proposed an increase in the compensation package for ERC personnel and an increase in its annual budget to fully perform its mandate.</p> <p>Rep. Sambar asked the ERC and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to discuss ERC's proposed organizational and compensation structure that is competitive with other agencies as well as with the private sector.</p> <p>Representatives from the DBM, National Electrification Administration (NEA), National Power Corporation (NPC), National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), and Manila Electric Company (Meralco) were requested to submit their position papers on the bill.</p>
<p>Transportation (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>HB 7915</p>	<p>Rep. Sarmiento (C.)</p>	<p>Promoting national road safety awareness through road safety education, road safety events and activities and multi-stakeholder consultation and collaboration</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Renato 'Kuya Jojo' Unico Jr. (1st District, Camarines Norte), will deliberate further on HB 7915, together with other bills with similar subject matter, in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Unico mentioned that there are other bills referred to the Committee which may be integrated with HB 7915, such as those seeking to declare a "National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims, Survivors and Families."</p> <p>Land Transportation Office (LTO) Chief Edgar Galvante favors the declaration of the month of June as the National Road Safety Month, proposed under HB 7915, as opposed to the current observance of the Road Safety Month in the month of May pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 115-A.</p> <p>All stakeholders present in the meeting expressed their support for the bill, with some of them presenting their respective recommendations.</p> <p>Senior Advocacy Officer Jose Mari Salvador of the Legal Engagement Advocating for Development and Reform (LEADER Inc.) and Executive Director Alex Yague of the Provincial Bus Operators Association of the Philippines (PBOAP) suggested the inclusion of a road safety course in the school curriculum.</p> <p>Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Board Member Aileen Lourdes Lizada recommended that drivers involved in crashes should be penalized with suspension, cancellation or</p>

Continuation... Transportation (Technical Working Group)				<p>revocation of driver's license. She pointed out that operators of public utility vehicles involved in serious accidents are stripped of their license to operate or franchise.</p> <p>The resource persons, particularly the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill for consideration by the TWG.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Transportation (Technical Working Group)	<p>Update by concerned government agencies on the status of implementation of road safety laws, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RA 10054 – Motorcycle Helmet Act • RA 10586 – Anti-Drunk and Drugged Driving Act • RA 10916 – Road Speed Limiter Law • RA 10930 – Extension of Validity of Driver's License 	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Renato "Kuya Jojo" Unico Jr. (1st District, Camarines Norte), listened to the reports of concerned agencies on the status of implementation of road safety laws.</p> <p>On the Motorcycle Helmet Act, Department of Trade and Industry's Standards Development Division Chief Mario Gaudiano of the Bureau of Philippine Standards (DTI-BPS) said that the DTI has intensified its efforts to curtail the widespread selling of substandard helmets by conducting regular inspections of business establishments selling helmets.</p> <p>Rep. Unico asked how the authorities are able to determine the authenticity of the Import Commodity Clearance (ICC) sticker on motorcycle helmets issued by the DTI. Police Superintendent Darwin Paz of the Philippine National Police-Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG) admitted that the PNP lacks the proper training that will make it easy for the police to spot fake ICC stickers from the authentic ones.</p> <p>Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Board Member Ronaldo Corpus said that some local government units (LGUs) prohibit the use of full-faced motorcycle helmets as part of their crime prevention campaign that would allow easy identification of riders who may be crime suspects.</p> <p>Rep. Unico suggested proper coordination between the DTI-BPS and the PNP-HPG to effectively implement the Helmet Law.</p> <p>On the Anti-Drunk and Drugged Driving Act, Rep. Unico sought clarification on the reported shortage of alcohol breath analyzers (ABAs) and drug testing kits. The PNP-HPG and the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said that they have received 250 and 50 ABAs, respectively, through a donation from the Land Transportation Office (LTO).</p> <p>LTO Chief Edgar Galvante proposed a stricter provision on the conduct of a field sobriety test and for the ABA to be administered immediately by the law enforcement officer upon definite recognition of a driver's intoxication. On the other hand, LTFRB Board Member Aileen Lourdes Lizada requested that the LTFRB be authorized to conduct random drug testing of drivers in bus terminals.</p> <p>Provincial Bus Operators Association of the Philippines (PBOAP) Executive Director Alex Yague informed the body that PBOAP has been conducting random drug testing of their drivers but lamented that the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) orders them to send drug-positive drivers to rehabilitation centers instead of firing them.</p> <p>On the Road Speed Limiter Law, Gaudiano said that the DTI has yet to implement the following procedures as required by the law: product</p>

Continuation... Transportation (Technical Working Group)		<p>certification; accreditation of testing facilities; and accreditation of speed limiter device installers.</p> <p>The TWG suggested to the DTI, LTFRB, and LTO to closely coordinate with each other in the implementation of the law.</p> <p>As for the law extending the validity of driver's license to five years from the previous three years, Galvante said that the LTO is still studying the mechanics of extending the license's validity period of up to ten years upon renewal of the five-year license. Galvante said the LTO may implement a merit system to implement this particular provision in the law.</p> <p>Based on RA 10930, signed in 2017, drivers' licenses shall be valid for five years reckoned from the birthdate of the licensee, unless sooner revoked or suspended. But holders of a professional or nonprofessional driver's license who have not committed any traffic violation during the five-year period shall be entitled to a renewal of their license for ten years, subject to the restrictions as may be imposed by the LTO.</p>
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DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Human Rights	Discussion on the omnibus petitions filed by applicants/claimants for reparation and compensation under RA 10368, otherwise known as the Human Rights Victims Reparation and Recognition Act of 2013	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2nd District, Zambales), discussed the omnibus petitions filed by applicants/claimants for reparation and compensation under RA 10368.</p> <p>Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Chair Jose Luis Martin Gascon reported that of the estimated 300,000 victims of human rights abuses during the Marcos regime, only 75,000 were able to file their claims within the period prescribed in the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA 10368, which provides for the reparation and recognition of human rights violations during the Marcos regime. However, of those who filed their claims, only 11,000 or around 15% were found by the Human Rights Victims' Claims Board (HRVCB) to be legitimate.</p> <p>Echoing the sentiments of the claimants that the time given to them was too short and the requirements to qualify for reparation were too stringent, Gascon suggested that Congress craft a new legislation that will provide for a more "victim-friendly" administrative procedure to allow the remaining victims to claim the reparation due them. He, likewise, underscored the need to identify additional source of funds for the remaining victims since P9.4 billion of the P9.7 billion budget allocated for the victims of human rights was already distributed to the 11,000 legitimate claimants.</p> <p>Rep. Sarah Jane Elago (Party-List, KABATAAN) expressed her support to Gascon's suggestion to legislate a law that provides for continuous reparation for victims of human rights abuses even after the Marcos regime.</p> <p>In view of several petitions for reparation and compensation filed by certain individuals and groups before the Committee and the CHR, Rep. Deloso-Montalla approved the motion of Rep. Arlene Brosas (Party-List, GABRIELA) to create a TWG to study the possibility of crafting a new law to address the issues under consideration.</p>

FORUM		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Poverty Alleviation jt. w/ People's Participation	Forum on the role of civil society in the design, implementation, monitoring, and impact evaluation of the <i>Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program</i> (4Ps)	The Committees on Poverty Alleviation and on People's Participation conducted a forum on "The Role of Civil Society in the Design, Implementation, Monitoring, and Impact Evaluation of the <i>Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program</i> (4Ps)" at the House of Representatives.

<p>Continuation... Poverty Alleviation jt. w/ People's Participation</p>	<p>Rep. Raymond Democrito Mendoza (Party List, TUCP), Chair of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation, welcomed the participants in the forum and provided an update on House Bill 7773, which seeks to institutionalize the 4Ps of the government in order to reduce poverty and promote human capital development.</p> <p>San Jose del Monte City Rep. Florida "Rida" Robes delivered the keynote address in behalf Rep. Maria Valentina Plaza (1st District, Agusan del Sur), Chair for the Committee on People's Participation. Rep. Robes conveyed the need for a collaborative action between and among national government agencies and civil society groups to properly monitor the implementation of the 4Ps.</p> <p>Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Region II Regional Director and former 4Ps National Program Director Leonardo Reynoso gave an overview on the role of national government agencies, people's organizations (POs), and civil society organizations (CSOs) as partners of the DSWD in ensuring that the program is properly implemented and the services reach the intended beneficiaries.</p> <p>RECITE manager Ma Elena Primicias Van Tooren presented RECITE's project dubbed as "i-Pantawid" which guards the integrity of the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Program of the government. Van Tooren said that the project aims to develop a model for civil society-government partnership for a transparent and accountable implementation of the 4Ps and to strengthen the integrity of the CCT Program at the community level. According to Van Tooren, RECITE, which stands for Responsible Citizens and Empowered Communities in Solidarity for Social Change, Inc., builds the capacities of local leaders, such as parent-leaders, to be community facilitators of the 4Ps.</p> <p><i>Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Pamilyang Pantawid</i> (SNPP) president Jeana Catacio presented the mission and objectives of the SNPP, an organization composed of parent-leaders and beneficiaries of the 4Ps that assists the government in ensuring the proper implementation of the program. Catacio also shared her insights on the importance of proper linkage between NGAs and CSOs in the implementation of the 4Ps at the grassroots level.</p> <p>Summarizing the activity, Director Novel Bangsal of the Social Policy Research Service, Congressional Planning and Budget Research Department (CPBRD) of the House of Representatives, urged the DSWD to improve its data-gathering capability in order to come up with an accurate and updated list of target beneficiaries for the 4Ps and other pro-poor programs. Citing the country's rising inflation rate, Bangsal said the amount of the cash grant under the 4Ps may have to be increased.</p> <p>An open forum followed after the presentations of the resource persons.</p> <p>In his closing remarks, Rep. John Marvin "Yul Servo" Nieto (3rd District, Manila), thanked the guests and the resource persons for their participation in the event and expressed his support for the passage of an enabling law that will institutionalize the 4Ps.</p>
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