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BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 6604 & SB 1985	Rep. Fariñas and Sen. Zubiri	Regulating the rates of political propaganda on television, radio, and print during an electoral campaign period, amending for the purpose Section 11 of RA 9006, otherwise known as the Fair Election Act	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Sherwin Tugna (Party-List, CIBAC), Chair of the House Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms, and Sen. Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III, Chair of the Senate Committee on Electoral Reforms and People’s Participation, approved the harmonized version of HB 6604 and SB 1985.</p> <p>Other conferees who were present during the bicameral conference committee meeting were the following: On the part of the House, Reps. Jose Panganiban Jr. (Party List, ANAC-IP), Cristina “Chiqui” Roa-Puno (1st District, Antipolo City), and Carlos Roman Uybarreta (Party-List, 1-CARE); on the part of the Senate, Sen. Juan Miguel “Migz” Zubiri.</p>
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 8374 & SB 1280	Rep. Romualdo and Sen. Escudero	Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Ferjanel Biron M.D. (4th District, Iloilo), Chair of the House Committee on Trade and Industry, and Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon, approved the harmonized version of HB 8374 and SB 1280.</p> <p>Also present during the bicameral conference committee meeting were: On the part of the House, Deputy Speaker Evelina Escudero (1st District, Sorsogon), Reps. Xavier Jesus Romualdo (Camiguin), Arlene Arcillas (1st District, Laguna), Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN), Gus Tambunting (2nd District, Parañaque City), and Manuel Zubiri (3rd District, Bukidnon); on the part of the Senate, Senators Sonny Angara, Joel Villanueva, and Juan Miguel “Migz” Zubiri.</p>
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 6938 & SB 1971	Rep. Velarde and Sen. Ejercito	Providing for the special protection of child passengers in motor vehicles and providing appropriations therefor	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee, co-chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, Chair of the House Committee on Transportation, and Sen. Grace Poe, Chair of the Senate Committee on Public Services, approved the harmonized version of HB 6938 and SB 1971.</p> <p>Other conferees present during the bicameral conference committee meeting were the following: On the part of the House, Reps. Rozzano Rufino Biazon (Muntinlupa City),</p>

Continuation... Bicameral Conference Committee				John Marvin "Yul Servo" Nieto (3 rd District, Manila), Florida "Rida" Robes (San Jose del Monte City), Johnny Ty Pimentel (2 nd District, Surigao del Sur), and Mariano Michael Velarde Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY); on the part of the Senate, Sen. Risa Hontiveros.
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PRE-BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Bicameral Conference Committee (House Panel)	HB 5615 & SB 1716	Rep. Gonzaga and Sen. Angara	Establishing a sports complex known as the "Philippine Sports Training Center," and providing funds therefor for the acquisition of property, the construction of facilities, and the administration, maintenance, and management of the Center	<p>The House Panel of the Bicameral Conference Committee, presided by Rep. Conrado Estrella III (Party-List, ABONO), Chair of the Committee on Youth and Sports Development, held a pre-bicameral conference committee meeting to initially discuss the conflicting provisions of HB 5615 and SB 1716.</p> <p>Aside from Rep. Estrella, also present during the meeting were the other conferees, namely: Reps. Mark Aeron Sambar (Party-List, PBA), Abigail Faye Ferriol-Pascual (Party-List, KALINGA), and Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte).</p>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food jt. w/ Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources	HBs 2837 & 6745	Reps. Baguilat and Chavez	Promoting farmer and fisherfolk entrepreneurship and development to be known as "Sagip Saka," providing funds therefor	<p>The Joint Committee, co-presided by Rep. Jose Panganiban Jr. (Party-List, ANAC-IP), Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Food, and Rep. Fernando Gonzalez (3rd District, Albay) of the Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources, agreed to consolidate the six measures. The Secretariat will prepare the consolidated bill for consideration and approval of the Joint Committee.</p> <p>Rep. Cecilia Leonila Chavez (Party-List, BUTIL), author of HB 6745, said that her bill seeks to strengthen the local governments in their role as facilitators of local agricultural development, by providing them adequate funding support and addressing institutional and structural problems that hinder the delivery of agricultural services in their localities. She added that the proposed law will help the farmers and fisherfolk boost their effectiveness and competitiveness in agricultural entrepreneurship through the proposed Sagip Saka Local Agriculture Development Program.</p> <p>The Sagip Saka will focus on supporting and strengthening the factors contributing to the competitiveness of the agriculture industry,</p>
	HBs 6559, 7860, 8388 & 8592	Reps. Vargas, Villafuerte, Alejano, and Panganiban	Instituting the Farmers and Fisherfolk Enterprise Development Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA)	

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Agriculture and Food jt. w/ Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources</p>				<p>such as seeds and other farm inputs, labor and mechanization, irrigation, credit, insurance, and other farm systems.</p> <p>Rep. Panganiban informed the Committee that a bill with similar subject matter (Senate Bill 1281) was approved on Third Reading at the Senate last year.</p> <p>The Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), and League of Provinces expressed support for the proposed law.</p> <p>The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) were requested to submit their position papers on the proposed law, particularly on the funding and tax provisions, respectively.</p>
<p>Good Government and Public Accountability</p>	<p>HR 1000</p>	<p>Rep. Marcoleta</p>	<p>Inquiry into what appears to be spurious land deals perpetrated by unscrupulous real estate developers in the Municipality of Mariveles, Bataan with the collusion of concerned agencies and public officials</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, terminated its inquiry relative to HR 1000, but required parties involved to submit documents pertinent to the inquiry.</p> <p>Rep. Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP), author of HR 1000, maintained that the acquisition of the lands in question by Mariveles Resources and Development Corporation (MRDC) from Laperal Development Corporation (LDC) was illegal. According to Rep. Marcoleta, the Transfer Certificates of Title (TCT) to these lands in Mariveles, Bataan were spurious titles considering that their issuance in 1964 came prior to Proclamation No. 210-B, s. 1967, declaring these lands as alienable and disposable public lands.</p> <p>MRDC later sold a portion of the land to PMR Group Retirement Plan, Inc. (PMR GRPI), which then leased part of the land to another corporation, GNPowder Dinginin, Ltd. Co. These shady deals, according to Rep. Marcoleta, allowed the MRDC to evade the payment of taxes worth millions of pesos.</p> <p>Representatives of PMR GRPI and GNPowder Dinginin, Ltd. Co. insist that the two companies are distinct and independent from each other.</p> <p>National Bureau of Investigation's (NBI) Questioned Documents Laboratory Division chief Carolyn Pitoy informed the Committee that the NBI has already started its investigation to determine the authenticity of the documents pertaining to the 1987 decision</p>

Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability				of a Regional Trial Court in Bataan declaring that the MRDC procurement of the questioned land was not tainted with fraud and irregularity.
Higher and Technical Education	HB 8137	Rep. Suansing (E.)	Establishing a polytechnic state college in the Municipality of Cuyapo, Province of Nueva Ecija to be known as the Cuyapo Polytechnic State College and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Antique Rep. Paolo Javier, approved HB 8137. On the query of Rep. Ann Hofer (2 nd District, Zamboanga Sibugay) if a land has already been procured for the site of the proposed state college, Cuyapo Mayor Florida Esteban replied that negotiations on the purchase price of the prospective site is currently ongoing.
	HB 8551	Rep. Zamora (R.)	Establishing a Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP)-San Juan Campus in the City of San Juan, Metro Manila to be known as PUP-San Juan Campus, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 8551.
Higher and Technical Education jt. w/ Basic Education and Culture	HBs 4204, 4250, 4300 & 8044	Reps. Castelo, Belaro, Cortuna, and Alejano	Integrating disaster risk management education in the school curriculum	The Joint Committee, co-presided by Antique Rep. Paolo Javier, Chair of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, and Rep. Ramon "Red" Durano VI (5 th District, Cebu), Chair of the Committee on Basic Education and Culture, will deliberate further on the four bills in its next meeting. Rep. Julieta Cortuna (Party-List, A TEACHER), author of HB 4300, said it is high time for the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to include a subject or course on disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) in the school curriculum to acquaint the youth not only of the theoretical knowledge but also practical knowledge of disaster risk reduction and management. She also cited the fact that the Philippines is one of the countries most vulnerable to natural disasters. However, DepEd's Bureau of Curriculum Development Senior Education Program Specialist Joseph Gutierrez informed the Committee that DRRM is already integrated in basic education subjects such as Science, Araling Panlipunan, and Health. Aside from teaching theoretical concepts, the schools are also conducting trainings and drills on DRRM on a regular basis, Gutierrez added. Rep. Gabriel Bordado Jr. (3 rd district, Camarines Sur) agreed with the statement of Rep. Cortuna and at the same time lauded the DepEd for its initiative in including disaster risk management education in the basic education curriculum. The representatives of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) and the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) expressed their

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education jt. w/ Basic Education and Culture				<p>support for the bills but also stated that the DepEd should be allowed to determine if it is still necessary to add a DRRM subject given that it is already integrated in the basic education curriculum.</p> <p>The Committee requested the DepEd and CHED to submit their respective position papers on the bills and to make an audio-visual presentation showing the trainings and drills conducted in schools.</p>
Legislative Franchises	Substitute Bill to HB 5602	Rep. Mendoza	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Vimcontu Broadcasting Corporation under RA 8116	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Franz "Chicoy" Alvarez (1 st District, Palawan), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 5602.
	Substitute Bill to HB 7809	Rep. Cua	Granting the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) a franchise to construct, install, establish, operate, own, manage, and maintain distribution systems for the conveyance of electric power to the end-users anywhere in all areas covered under RA 7227, as amended, otherwise known as the BCDA Act of 1992	<p>The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 7809 subject to style and amendment and subsequently approved the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Ferdinand Hernandez (2nd District, South Cotabato) and Rep. Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte Jr. (2nd District, Camarines Sur), co-authors of the bill, said that the bill's objective is to encourage more investors to come into the country by ensuring stable power supply and lower electricity costs.</p> <p>BCDA Executive Vice President Aileen Zosa underscored the importance of BCDA having its own electric distribution system in order to ensure the development of the areas within its jurisdiction into self-sustaining and economically viable communities. Zosa added that it will also complement BCDA's plan to develop the New Clark City into a modern metropolis that will rise within the Clark special economic zone in time for the Southeast Asian Games in 2019.</p> <p>On the other hand, Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) Commissioner Catherine Maceda pointed out the need to address first several concerns related to the grant of a power distribution franchise to BCDA, such as its effect on the existing distribution utilities in the area; the cost implication of a new franchise; and whether the government is willing to provide incentives to lessen the impact of electricity costs that will be passed on to the consumers.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HB 8501	Former Rep. Nogralles (K. A.)	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Swara Sug Media Corporation under RA 8122	<p>The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 8501 subject to style and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Jericho Jonas Nogralles (Party-List, PBA), co-author of the bill, justified the renewal of the franchise granted to Swara Sug Media Corporation, a Filipino owned and managed company operating broadcasting television (TV) and radio stations nationwide. He said the company continues to serve the Filipino people</p>

Continuation... Legislative Franchises				<p>by bringing only balanced and fair news reports and continues to keep up with the demands of the increasingly digitized Filipino consumer.</p> <p>The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) expressed support for the bill.</p>
Public Order and Safety	HB 7824	Rep. Acop	Providing for the modernization of the Philippine National Police (PNP), appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), approved HB 7824 with amendments and subject to the submission of the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philippine National Police (PNP) - funding requirement for the 10-year PNP Reorganization and Modernization Program; • Department of Budget and Management (DBM) – position paper on the bill's appropriation provision; and • Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) – position paper on Section 5 (Procurement System) of the bill.
Ways and Means	Substitute Bill to HBs 25, 1691, 2977, 3651, 4369, 4785 & 4878	Reps. Abaya, Rodriguez (M.), Yu, Aumentado, Salceda, Speaker Macapagal- Arroyo, and Rep. Salo	Providing for a comprehensive nuclear regulatory framework, creating for the purpose, the Philippine Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1 st District, Nueva Ecija), approved the tax provision of the substitute bill.
	HB 4575	Rep. Salceda	Restructuring the excise tax on tobacco products and amending for the purpose pertinent sections of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC), as amended	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the bill.</p> <p>Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), author of HB 4575, explained the merits of raising the excise tax on tobacco products, emphasizing that it is both a health and revenue measure. He also mentioned that the price of cigarette in the Philippines is the third cheapest in the world next to Myanmar and Cambodia.</p>
	HB 6648	Rep. Tan (A.)	Increasing the excise tax on tobacco products, amending for the purpose Section 145 of the NIRC of 1997, as amended by RA 10351 or the Sin Tax Reform Law	<p>Likewise, Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon), author of HB 6648, proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes to a level that will further reduce smoking and at the same time generate revenues for the government.</p> <p>Department of Health (DOH) Secretary Francisco Duque noted that the principal objectives of the earlier Sin Tax Law (RA 10351) were to generate revenues to fund the Universal Health Care Program (UHCP) of the government and reduce the consumption of "sin" products, like tobacco and alcohol, hence, improve the general well-being of the people.</p> <p>Health Justice Philippines project manager Ralph Degollacion said that while smoking in</p>

<p>Continuation... Ways and Means</p>				<p>adults remarkably decreased recently due to the increased prices of cigarettes, the trend goes up however for young smokers.</p> <p>On the other hand, Ilocos Sur Governor Ryan Singson emphasized that government should take into consideration the interests of the business sector, especially those that contribute substantial revenues to the government. He also lamented that a huge number of his constituents have recently lost their jobs in the tobacco industry due to the negative effects of the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law, citing the closure of the manufacturing site of Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing, Inc. (PMPMI) in Vigan City.</p> <p>Philip Morris Fortune Tobacco Corporation (PMFTC) Corporate Affairs Chief Patrick Muttart said that aside from Vigan, the company likewise decided to close down its manufacturing site in Mindoro. Thus, the company had to lay off around 2,400 employees in the last five years, he said.</p> <p>PMFTC is a joint-venture company between PMPMI and Fortune Tobacco Corporation (FTC) which controls over 90% of the country's cigarette market.</p> <p>Other stakeholders and resource persons aired their sentiments on the effects of the TRAIN Law since its implementation this year. The TRAIN Law includes lowering and simplifying personal income taxes; simplifying estate and donor's taxes; expanding the value-added tax (VAT) base; adjusting excise taxes on oil, automobile, cigarettes, and alcohol products; and introducing excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverages.</p> <p>Most Committee Members asked why the Department of Finance (DOF) has not yet submitted its findings on the impact of the TRAIN Law particularly regarding the excise taxes on "sin" products.</p> <p>Rep. Romero "Miro" Quimbo (2nd District, Marikina City), averred that any increase in tax on cigarettes should only be considered until after proper assessment has been conducted by the DOF and the Department of Health (DOH).</p> <p>The Committee requested that the Congressional Oversight Committee on the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (COCCTRP) be convened to conduct an impact assessment of the TRAIN Law and the Sin Tax Reform Law.</p> <p>Rep. Johnny Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), chair of the COCCTRP (House Panel) said that the oversight committee will convene as soon as possible.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Trade and Industry (Technical Working Group)	HB 4595	Deputy Speaker Yap	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 technical working group (TWG), co-chaired by Committee Secretary Valentino Palanca and Laban Konsyumer, Inc. President Victorio Mario Dimagiba, will deliberate further on HB 4595 in its next meeting.</p> <p>The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Board of Investments (BOI), and Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) were requested to submit their position paper on the proposed law not later than November 29 for the TWG's reference in coming up with a substitute bill.</p>

AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Disaster Management	Briefing by the member-agencies of the Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM) on the status of the government's rehabilitation and construction efforts in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Geraldine Roman (1st District, Bataan), listened to the briefing conducted by the member-agencies of the TFBM on the rehabilitation and construction efforts in Marawi City.</p> <p>House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga) underscored the need to expedite the rehabilitation process in the war-torn Marawi City. She said that the House of Representatives, in the exercise of its oversight function, will help identify the problems that prevent the government from delivering at a faster pace the much-needed services to the victims of the Marawi siege. The armed conflict between the government and armed groups tagged as terrorists affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) started in May 2017 and lasted for several months.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to create a subcommittee to monitor the implementation of the rehabilitation efforts in Marawi to be chaired by Rep. Makmod Mending Jr. (Party-List, AMIN).</p> <p>Representatives of the TFBM, an inter-agency task force created to spearhead the recovery, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of Marawi City, reported on the plans and programs of TFBM.</p> <p>Loreto Bueza Jr., executive assistant to the Undersecretary for Unified Project Management Offices of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), discussed the various foreign and private-assisted infrastructure projects that are in the pipeline for Marawi.</p> <p>National Housing Authority (NHA) OIC-West Sector District Manager Roderick Ibañez reported that the transitory shelters for the displaced residents in Marawi will be completed by December 2019, while the permanent housing projects, comprised of around 2,000 houses, will be available by December 2020.</p> <p>Aside from the government housing projects, San Miguel Foundation, Inc. Head for Corporate Affairs Kin Lichauco said San Miguel has pledged to build houses for the victims displaced</p>

<p>Continuation... Disaster Management</p>		<p>by the Marawi conflict. She disclosed that the construction of houses will start as soon as the memorandum of agreement (MOA) among concerned parties is signed. San Miguel Foundation, Inc. is the corporate social responsibility arm of San Miguel Corporation – one of the country's biggest companies.</p> <p>Rep. Mending asked if reports are true that some people have already illegally occupied some of the housing units already constructed by the government. Marawi City Mayor Majul Gandamra explained that the supposed illegal occupants are actually legitimate victims of the Marawi siege but have not gone through the process of being awarded the units. Gandamra assured the Committee that he is doing his best to convince the families to observe the proper procedures as doing otherwise disenfranchises their fellow victims.</p> <p>Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Assistant Secretary Michelle Co informed the Committee that the DENR will need at least a year to finish its Participatory Social Cartography Project, which will produce an accurate survey and measurement of lot parcels and structures affected by the conflict in Marawi City.</p> <p>Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Undersecretary Luzviminda Ilagan was asked to comment on reports that some of the food packages distributed by the agency were already spoiled and worm-infested.</p> <p>Ilagan confirmed that the reports were true but said that the DSWD has already dealt with the matter and has replaced the food packages with new ones.</p> <p>Rep. Ansaruddin Adiong (1st District, Lanao del Sur) informed the body that he filed HB 7711 which seeks to provide monetary compensation to the victims of the Marawi siege.</p> <p>The Department of Finance (DOF) was instructed to provide a list of the countries that gave monetary donations for the rehabilitation of Marawi and the corresponding amount donated.</p> <p>The Committee subsequently conducted an executive session to discuss matters pertaining to law, order and security in Marawi and its surrounding areas.</p>
<p>Metro Development</p>	<p>Manila On the traffic management plan for the Christmas season</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), listened to the presentation of the Inter-Agency Council on Traffic (I-ACT) on the traffic management plan for the Christmas season in Metro Manila.</p> <p>I-ACT Task Force chief Manuel Gonzales, also the Department of Transportation (DOTr) Assistant Secretary for Road Transport and Infrastructure, presented the following measures that will be pursued under the traffic management plan this Christmas season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict enforcement of laws and rules against illegal parking, sidewalk encroachment, and colorum public utility vehicles; • Moratorium on all utility works and road diggings; • Moratorium on road closures for special events, such as fun run and concerts; • Implementation of the Extended Unified Vehicle Volume Reduction Program (UVVRP); • Regulation of mall operations in coordination with mall operators, such as the "no mall sale" on weekdays,

<p>Continuation... Metro Manila Development</p>		<p>better parking system and facilities, and delivery of mall products between 12 midnight and 6 in the morning only; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of the 17 Mabuhay lanes identified by the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) as alternate routes for private vehicles to avoid heavy traffic in some major roads in Metro Manila, especially EDSA. <p>Rep. Castelo noted that the success of the Mabuhay lanes as a scheme to decongest traffic is dependent on the cooperation of the local government units (LGUs) which have direct jurisdiction over the areas involved. He also urged the MMDA to put up more signages informing the public of the existence and purpose of the Mabuhay lanes.</p> <p>MMDA spokesperson Celine Pialagao mentioned that the agency lacks traffic enforcers that could effectively monitor road traffic situations on a 24-hour basis.</p>
	<p>On the reported surge in the volume of garbage being collected in Metro Manila</p>	<p>Rep. Castelo expressed concern on the reportedly increasing volume of garbage being collected in Metro Manila that may cause serious risks to the environment.</p> <p>Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda admitted that because the incineration of solid waste is not allowed under RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, the use of landfills and adoption of 3Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle) are the only means to address the growing volume of garbage generated by people in the metropolis. Currently, Antiporda said that Metro Manila uses three sanitary landfills: one in Navotas and two in the Province of Rizal (Rodriguez and San Mateo).</p> <p>Rep. Manuel Luis Lopez (1st District, Manila) observed that solid waste collection operators do not comply with the guidelines prescribed under RA 9003. Rep. Lopez emphasized that the lack of systematic and comprehensive solid waste management program would lead to Metro Manila becoming a wasteland or a mountain of trash just like the Smokey Mountain.</p> <p>Malabon City Rep. Federico "Ricky" Sandoval II requested the DENR to investigate the alleged illegal landfill operations in Laguna de Bay, Caloocan and Navotas.</p> <p>The MMDA was requested to submit a report on the actual payments made to solid waste collection operators for their job of collecting and disposing garbage. Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon said that this is to cast aside doubts about questionable transactions concerning garbage collection service.</p> <p>The Secretariat was instructed to invite representatives from the solid waste collection/disposal operators in its next meeting.</p>
	<p>On the planned phase-out of aging trucks by the Department of Transportation (DOTr)</p>	<p>Rep. Castelo said the Committee is in receipt of complaints relative to the issuance of Department Order No. 2017-009 by the DOTr reiterating the mandatory 15-year age limit for public utility buses (PUBs) and trucks for hire (TFH). He emphasized that the planned phase-out of aging trucks should take into consideration the roadworthiness of the unit using the motor vehicle inspection system (MVIS) and not the date of manufacture of the said vehicle.</p> <p>Concurring with the statement of Rep. Castelo, Rep. Sandoval added that the DOTr should allow trucks to continue their operations as long as they are roadworthy.</p>

<p>Continuation... Metro Manila Development</p>		<p>Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Board Member Ronaldo Corpuz clarified that owners of over 15-year old public utility vehicles, but are still roadworthy, can apply for extension of validity of their Certificates of Public Convenience (CPC).</p> <p>Rep. Castelo asked the DOTr to defer the implementation of the Department Order, underscoring the need to resolve first the issues raised by the trucking industry, represented in the meeting by Inland Haulers and Truckers Association president Teddy Gervacio and Haulers and Truckers Association in the Watersouth Inc. (HATAW) legal counsel Ferdinand Manebo.</p> <p>The Committee will invite again the DOTr and LTFRB, together with the Land Transportation Office (LTO), Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), and Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), in its next meeting to continue its discussion on the issues at hand, including the congestion at the Port of Manila which continues to hamper trucking operations.</p>
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