

# Committee Daily Bulletin



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## BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 5615 & SB 1716	Rep. Gonzaga and Sen. Angara	Creating the Philippine Sports Training Center (PSTC)	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Conrado Estrella III (Party-List, ABONO), Chair of the House Committee on Youth and Sports, and Senator Emmanuel "Manny" Pacquiao, Chair of the Senate Committee on Sports, approved the reconciled version of HB 5615 and SB 1716.</p> <p>Other conferees present during the bicameral conference committee meeting were the following: On the part of the House, Reps. Mark Aeron Sambar (Party-List, PBA), Ruwel Peter Gonzaga (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Compostela Valley), Abigail Faye Ferriol-Pascual (Party-List, KALINGA), and Cristina "Chiqui" Roa-Puno (1<sup>st</sup> District, Antipolo City); on the part of the Senate, Senators Sonny Angara and Joel Villanueva.</p>

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Appropriations	Substitute Bill to HB 115	Rep. Baguilat	Recognizing the indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples conserved territories and areas (ICCA), establishing for the purpose the National ICCA Registry, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Rep. Maria Carmen Zamora (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Compostela Valley), approved the substitute bill with amendments.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 142, 540, 1528, 2964, 3610, 4287, 5901 & 6596	Reps. Acosta-Alba, Yap (V.), Gonzales (A. P.), Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, Reps. Lanete, De Jesus, and Romero	Providing for a comprehensive hazardous and radioactive wastes management and providing penalties for violations thereof	The Committee approved the substitute bill.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 217, 74, 320, 741, 1454, 1667,	Deputy Speaker Villarica, Reps. Vargas, Primicias-Agabas, former	Instituting inclusive education, establishing inclusive education learning resource centers for children and youth with special needs (CYSNs) in all public schools' divisions, providing for standards and	The Committee approved the substitute bill with amendments.

Continuation... Appropriations	1709, 1969, 2218, 2236, 2704, 2954, 3391, 3646, 3824, 4034, 4488, 4625 & 5698	Rep. Aglipay-Villar, Reps. Belaro, Revilla, Biazon, Suansing (E.), Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, Reps. Castelo, Acharon, Antonino, Olivarez, Majority Leader Andaya, and Rep. Gatchalian	guidelines, and appropriating funds therefor	
	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 approved the substitute bill with amendments.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 1833, 5541 & 6670	Reps. Vargas, Romero, and Villafuerte	Increasing the benefits granted to science and technology (S&T) personnel of the government, amending for the purpose RA 8439, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Scientists, Engineers, Researchers and other S&T Personnel in the Government	The Committee approved the substitute bill with amendments.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 2818, 4337, 4354, 4422, 4805 & 5190	Reps. Suansing (E.), Salon, Romero, Abayon, former Rep. Aglipay-Villar, and Rep. Alejano	Promoting integrated urban agricultural development in all metropolitan areas nationwide to address food security concerns, establishing for the purpose the Office of Urban Agriculture and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the substitute bill with amendments.
	Substitute Bill to HB 4415	Rep. Baguilat	Recognizing and institutionalizing indigenous peoples' (IPs) education systems within the Philippine education systems, establishing technical assistance, incentives and support for IP educational systems and learning institutions serving IP learners, and appropriating the necessary government funds therefor	The Committee approved the substitute bill with amendments.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 4498 & 5540	Reps. Rodriguez (M.) and Romero	Further promoting entrepreneurship by strengthening, empowering and enhancing the financing programs for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), amending for the purpose RA 6977, as amended, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for MSMEs	The Committee approved the substitute bill with amendments.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 5618, 5701, 6227 & 6476	Reps. Yap (V.), Gatchalian, Villafuerte, and Deputy Speaker Yap	Adopting innovation as vital component of the country's development policies to drive inclusive development, promote the growth and national competitiveness of MSMEs, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the substitute bill with amendments.

Continuation... Appropriations	Substitute Bill to HBs 6251, 802 & 7018	Reps. Datol, Batocabe, and Vargas	Creating the National Commission for Senior Citizens, providing for its functions, abolishing the National Coordinating Council and Monitoring Board, amending for the purpose RA 7432, as amended, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the substitute bill with amendments.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 6338 & 8221	Reps. Garcia (J.E.) and Villafuerte	Establishing and institutionalizing the Seal of Good Local Governance for local government units, and allocating for this purpose the Seal of Good Local Governance Fund	The Committee approved the substitute bill with amendments.
	HB 6090	Rep. Sandoval	Establishing and constructing a hospital for the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), its personnel and dependents to be known as the Philippine Coast Guard General Hospital (PCGH) and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 6090 with amendments.
Dangerous Drugs	Substitute Bill to HBs 3976, 3809, 1257, 588, 860, 1413, 2568, 3191, 3403, 3609, 4659, 4671, 4728, & 6984	Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, Reps. Barbers, Biazon, Bataoil, Yap (V.), Castelo, Rodriguez (M.), Unabia, Batocabe, De Venecia, Velarde, Garcia (J.E.), and Bernos	Strengthening drug prevention and control, amending for the purpose RA 9165, otherwise known as the "Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002"	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Robert "Ace" Barbers (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Surigao del Norte), approved the substitute bill.
Dangerous Drugs jt. w/ Good Government and Public Accountability	HR 2068	Rep. Quimbo	Inquiry into the continued inability of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) to prevent the large-scale smuggling of illegal drugs into the country	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Robert "Ace" Barbers (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Surigao del Norte), Chair of the Committee on Dangerous Drugs, and Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, Chair of the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability, terminated its inquiry relative to HR 2068.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Barbers said that despite existing laws penalizing the trafficking of illegal drugs, people involved in drug smuggling seem undeterred. He said a harsher penalty might be able to counter this crime, as he reiterated his call for the Senate to immediately act on the Death Penalty Bill (House Bill No. 4727), which imposes death penalty on drug-related crimes. The bill was approved by the House in March 2017 and thereafter transmitted to the Senate.</p> <p>Rep. Romualdo added that this inquiry seeks to determine if cases of malfeasance, misfeasance or nonfeasance were committed by government officials and employees with regard to the estimated P6.8 billion worth of <i>shabu</i> that allegedly slipped past the BOC. He hoped that the investigation will lead to the formulation of legislative remedies that will finally address the proliferation of illegal drugs in the country.</p>

<p>Continuation... Dangerous Drugs jt. w/ Good Government and Public Accountability</p>				<p>As stated in HR 2016, the BOC and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) seized on August 7 an abandoned shipment at the Manila International Container Port (MICP) containing two magnetic lifters, which upon inspection, yielded about 500 kilograms of <i>shabu</i>, with a street value of P4.3 billion, hidden inside. A day after, four similar magnetic lifters were found by authorities at a warehouse in Cavite which were later discovered to have traces of illegal drugs, estimated to be worth P6.8B.</p> <p>Also during the hearing, Miguela "Meg" Santos denied the statement made by former BOC Intelligence Officer Jimmy Guban during the previous hearing that she was the owner of SMYD Trading, the "consignee-for-hire" of the drug shipment. Santos stressed that it was Marina Signapan, a client of her daughter-in-law Katrina Cuasay, who owned the company.</p> <p>PDEA Director General Aaron Aquino disclosed that PDEA has already put the persons involved in the drug smuggling case under surveillance.</p> <p>Rep. Arnolfo "Arnie" Teves Jr. (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Negros Oriental) and Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon suggested granting the BOC with enough funds for its modernization to improve its capability especially in detecting the entry of contrabands.</p> <p>Rep. Teves also asked the BOC to implement a "no x-ray, no entry policy" referring to the inspection of goods coming into the country, which is being practiced in other countries.</p> <p>BOC Deputy Commissioner Teddy Raval and former BOC Commissioner Isidro Lapeña also gave their comments on the resolution during the meeting.</p>
<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>Substitute Bill to HBs 50, 907, 1104, 1171, 1213, 1893 &amp; 5194</p>	<p>Rep. Fortun, Deputy Speaker Castro, Reps. Baguilat, Deputy Speaker Cayetano, Reps. Yu, Defensor, and Villanueva</p>	<p>Providing for the sustainable management of forests and forest lands</p>	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Kalinga Rep. Allen Jesse Mangaoang, approved the substitute bill.</p>
	<p>HR 1798</p>	<p>Rep. Sarmiento (C.)</p>	<p>Inquiry into the proliferation of illegal logging activities in the Province of Catanduanes and in other provinces nationwide</p>	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 1798 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, author of HR 1798, underscored the need to amend existing laws against illegal logging to resolve once and for all the rampant unlawful cutting down of timber not just in Catanduanes but in the entire country. He further disclosed that this unlawful forest activity in Catanduanes</p>

Continuation... Natural Resources				<p>continues because of the collusion between unscrupulous private companies and some local government officials.</p> <p>Likewise, Rep. Peter "Sr. Pedro" Unabia (1<sup>st</sup> District, Misamis Oriental) said that the inquiry will help the Committee to come up with recommendations to strengthen the law against illegal logging, especially in terms of enforcement, surveillance, prosecution of erring government personnel, and imposition of stricter penalties.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento asked about the procedure in apprehending illegal loggers. Forest Management Bureau's (FMB) Personnel Unit head Claire Jamero explained that the FMB turns over the persons involved in illegal logging to the proper authorities for investigation and inquest. The EMB also confiscates the illegally cut or harvested forest products and impounds the vehicle used in illegal logging.</p> <p>The Committee requested the FMB to submit a list and description of illegal logging cases nationwide.</p> <p>The Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Supreme Court (SC) will again be invited to attend the Committee's next meeting.</p>
Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (Special Committee)	Substitute Resolution to 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, chaired by Tawi-Tawi Rep. Ruby Sahali, adopted the substitute resolution and approved the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Sahali, who is also the author of HR 1803, expressed optimism that a peaceful and just resolution of the armed conflict between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) could still be achieved.</p>
Tourism	HBs 7333 & 7535	Reps. Vargas and Villafuerte	Amending Chapter V, Section 85 of RA 9593, otherwise known as the Tourism Act of 2009, by extending the effectivity of the incentive schemes granted to enterprises within the tourism enterprise zones for another seven years	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Corazon Nuñez-Malanyaon (1<sup>st</sup> District, Davao Oriental), agreed to consolidate HBs 7333 and 7535.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go sponsored HBs 7333 and 7535 in behalf of the authors, Reps. Alfredo Vargas III (5<sup>th</sup> District, Quezon City) and Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Camarines Sur), respectively.</p> <p>The Department of Finance (DOF) and the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) manifested their support for the bills.</p>
	HB 6052	Rep. Aumentado	Declaring the Municipality of Ubay in the Province of Bohol as the Farm Tourism Destination Capital of Bohol	The Committee approved HB 6052.

Continuation... Tourism	HB 6344	Rep. Bataoil	Declaring the Nayong Aguilar Ylang Ylang Plantation in the Municipality of Aguilar, Province of Pangasinan as an agritourism destination and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 6344.
	HBs 6162-6164, 6253, 6270, 6367 - 6371, 6432, 7850, 7852, 7855, 7883, 7884, 8291 & 8295	Reps. Kho, Mercado, Alejano, Bataoil, Cuaresma, Tupas, and Agarao	Declaring various parts of the country as eco-tourism zones/sites, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the 18 bills.
	HBs 6378, 6481, 7156, 7216, 7765 & 8530	Reps. Mercado, Violago, Enverga, Relampagos Savellano, and Olivarez	Declaring certain parts of the country as tourist destinations/zones providing for their development and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the six bills.
	HB 7049	Rep. Panotes	Declaring the Province of Camarines Norte as the Surfing Capital of the Bicol Region	The Committee approved HB 7049.
	HB 7867	Rep. Villafuerte	Declaring the Province of Camarines Sur as the Wakeboarding Capital of the Philippines	The Committee approved HB 7867.
	HBs 7467 & 7517	Reps. Roa-Puno and Zubiri	Declaring the Provinces of Rizal and Bukidnon as tourism development areas and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HBs 7467 and 7517.
	HB 7562	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Declaring the Dao Tree, which can be found within a pocket secondary forest in the Integrated Forest Management Agreement (IFMA) area of the E. Pelaez Ranch in Bayombong, Barangay Cugman, Cagayan de Oro City as the heritage tree of the city and further declaring it as a tourist spot	The Committee approved HB 7562.
	HB 7966	Rep. Go (M.)	Declaring Burnham Park in the City of Baguio as a national heritage park and appropriating funds for its conservation and development	The Committee approved HB 7966.
	HB 7975	Rep. Treñas	Amending Sections 1 and 2 of RA 10555 to include Arevalo Plaza in the City of Iloilo as part of the city's cultural heritage tourism zone	The Committee approved HB 7975.
	Transportation	HB 8446	Rep. Tinio	Mandating a minimum distance for overtaking of cyclists by motor vehicles, and providing penalties for violations thereof

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Cooperatives Development (Technical Working Group)	HB 8377	Rep. Cua	Establishing the Philippine Cooperative Development Academy, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Joseph Stephen Paduano (Party-List, ABANG LINGKOD), will deliberate further on HB 8377 in its next meeting.</p> <p>During the meeting, Committee Secretary Ma. Elvira Ursal was requested to take over as presiding officer in lieu of Rep. Paduano who had to attend to an urgent concern.</p> <p>Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, author of HB 8377, said that the intention of the bill is to create an institution that will develop and implement specific academic programs designed to bolster the status of cooperatives as instruments for social justice and economic development. The proposed institute is also expected to supplement the needed advanced management and executive training for new and existing cooperatives which will be harmonized with the existing training modules provided by accredited training providers (ATPs) such as the Philippine Cooperative Center (PCC) and some state universities and colleges (SUCs).</p> <p>Among the agreements reached during the TWG meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed law shall be renamed as the "Institute of Cooperatives Development (ICD) Act of 2018;" and</li> <li>• The ICD Board of Directors shall be composed of 10 members: the executive director and the six members of the Board of Administrators of the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA); and three sectoral representatives of the cooperatives industry coming from the geographical regions of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.</li> </ul>

AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
North Luzon Growth Quadrangle	Briefing by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on its budget, 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 briefing conducted by the DSWD on its budget, plans and programs for North Luzon.</p> <p>DSWD's Financial Management Service Director Wayne Belizar presented the Department's proposed budget for FY 2019. Of the DSWD's total budget of P136.42 billion for 2019, North Luzon will get P12.72 billion, to be distributed as follows: Region I, P6.18 billion; Region II, P4.12 billion; and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), P2.43 billion.</p>

<p>Continuation... North Luzon Growth Quadrangle</p>		<p>DSWD Undersecretary Rhea Peñafior pointed out the 3.52% reduction in the 2019 budget of the Department which will have an impact on the implementation of its programs next year.</p> <p>On the query of Baguio City Rep. Mark Go if DSWD has a timeline in assessing the effectivity of its poverty-reduction programs, DSWD-CAR OIC-Director Janet Armas replied that there is no definite timeline but certain indicators are being utilized by the Department to determine if the beneficiary is already self-reliant and may no longer be included in the social welfare programs of the government.</p> <p>DSWD Region II Director Leonardo Reynoso added that in 2019 the DSWD will be able to assess the economic status of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiaries through an impact assessment, and determine who are already eligible to graduate from the program.</p> <p>Meanwhile, majority of the Members inquired about the medical assistance program being implemented by the DSWD.</p> <p>Reynoso explained that indigent patients may be granted cash by the DSWD up to a maximum of P5,000 to cover the cost of medicines and hospitalization and up to P75,000 for the same purpose through a guarantee letter from any of the House Members. In addition, the Department is also implementing the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) Program which can be availed of by the indigent patients through a guarantee letter from the DSWD and only in accredited hospitals.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma on the downloading of DSWD funds to the local government units (LGUs), Peñafior said that based on a directive from the President during a recent cabinet meeting, the Department is now prohibited from downloading funds to the LGUs and it will be the only one authorized to release such funds. Nonetheless, Peñafior assured the Committee that DSWD's partnerships with LGUs will continue for other programs and projects.</p> <p>Several Members were pleased to know that there is such a directive, which means that proper use of government funds is assured especially with the upcoming election.</p>
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Discussion on port utilization and congestion issues with concerned government agencies</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, discussed with concerned government agencies the congestion in the ports of Manila mainly due to inadequate container yards and depots for empty containers, the unregulated shipping charges, and the phasing out of 15-year-old and older trucks.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento clarified that the utilization of the ports in Metro Manila remains below 100%. He explained that the congestion problem in the ports stems from the huge number of empty containers remaining within the port area for lack of storage depots outside.</p> <p>Department of Transportation (DOTr) OIC-Undersecretary Fernando Juan Perez said that to free up space at these ports, the Department intends to move the empty containers to the Manila North Harbor Port or to the Port of Subic.</p> <p>BOC Deputy Commissioner Edward James Dy Buco said that the Bureau is inviting the private sector to undertake the movement of empty containers from the ports to container yards outside of Metro Manila. He explained that under RA 10863 or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act, the BOC has the authority to supervise and regulate shipping lines and truckers, including the movement of empty containers.</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Transportation</p>		<p>Ferdinand Mañebo of the Alliance of Philippine Brokers and Truckers Association suggested that shipping lines should be required to have their own container yards to house the returning empty containers. Likewise, Royal Cargo's Group Chief Executive Officer Michael Raeuber conveyed that the problem lies in the absence of a single agency accountable for the problem.</p> <p>Both Mañebo and Raeuber also raised the issue of exorbitant and excessive shipping charges and fees being imposed by shipping companies.</p> <p>The Committee directed the DOTr, BOC, Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), Department of Finance (DOF), and other concerned agencies to come up with short-term and long-term solutions to the problems raised and to submit the same to the Committee not later than December 12.</p> <p>On the phase-out of older trucks, Rep. Sarmiento stated that the roadworthiness of the trucks and not the age should be the basis for determining whether trucks should be allowed to continue to operate.</p> <p>According to DOTr OIC-Undersecretary Secretary Mark de Leon, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) issued Memorandum Circular 2018-007 last March 15 granting a transition period allowing trucks to be used even if they are 15 years old and above as long as they pass the Motor Vehicle Inspection System (MVIS).</p>
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