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BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 8169	Former Rep. Nograles (K.A.)	Appropriating funds for the operation of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines from January 1 to December 31, 2019	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee, co-presided by Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (1st District, Camarines Sur), Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations, and Sen. Loren Legarda, Chair of the Senate Committee on Finance, will continue its discussion on HB 8169 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Aside from Rep. Andaya, the following conferees from the House of Representatives attended the meeting: Deputy Speaker Arthur Yap (3rd District, Bohol), Minority Leader Danilo Suarez (3rd District, Quezon), Reps. Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP), Edcel Lagman (1st District, Albay), Federico "Ricky" Sandoval II (Malabon City), "Kuya" Jose Antonio Sy-Alvarado (1st District, Bulacan), Corazon Nuñez-Malanyaon (1st District, Davao Oriental), Xavier Jesus Romualdo (Camiguin), Anthony Bravo, Ph.D. (Party-List, COOP NATCCO), Alfredo Garbin Jr. (Party-List, AKO BICOL), Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), Florida "Rida" Robes (San Jose del Monte City), Vicente "Ching" Veloso (3rd District, Leyte), Raul del Mar (1st District, Cebu City), and Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay).</p> <p>On the part of the Senate, aside from Senator Legarda, other conferees who were present during the bicameral conference committee meeting were Senate President Pro-Tempore Ralph Recto, Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri, Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon, and Senators Sonny Angara, Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV, Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, Cynthia Villar, Maria Lourdes "Nancy" Sombillo Binay, and Joseph Victor Ejercito.</p>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples	HBs 6982, 7234, 7543 & 8406	Reps. Bernos, Vargas, Villafuerte, and Alejano	Establishing resource centers for the protection of the rights and welfare of the indigenous cultural communities/indigenous peoples (ICCs/IPs)	The Committee, chaired by Kalinga Rep. Allen Jesse Mangaoang, approved the four bills.
	HBs 7238, 7505 & 7914	Reps. Zubiri, Cuaresma, and	Establishing indigenous training centers in the provinces of Bukidnon,	The Committee approved the three bills.

Continuation... Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples		Savellano	Nueva Vizcaya, and Ilocos Sur, and appropriating funds therefor	
	<i>Motu Proprio</i> Investigation		Inquiry into the alleged recruitment of Lumads by military troops all over the country	<p>The Committee adopted the draft House Resolution it crafted subject to amendment.</p> <p>The draft resolution will be filed with the Bills and Index of the House of Representatives.</p> <p>In its previous meeting, the Committee conducted an inquiry that was prompted by the resolution submitted by the Mindanao Indigenous Peoples Council of Elders and Leaders (MIPCEL) condemning the violations of IP rights, infiltration of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) - New People's Army (NPA) - National Democratic Front (NDF) of the ancestral domains in Mindanao, and the alleged kidnapping of 14 IP minors in the Municipality of Talaingog, Davao del Norte on November 29, 2018. In that meeting, some ICC/IPs from Mindanao said that certain Alternative Learning Schools (ALS) are being used as front and training ground by communists and so-called underground groups to indoctrinate ICCs/IPs to subsequently wage war against the government.</p> <p>To address this concern, the Committee drafted a resolution endorsing to the President the inclusion of the promotion and protection of IPs' rights and welfare in the 10-point agenda of the Duterte administration.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to the suggestion of Rep. Nancy Catamco (2nd District, North Cotabato) that a Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) from the concerned IPs, as certified by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), should be required before the Department of Education (DepEd) can issue a permit to operate any ICCs/IPs school.</p>
	<i>Motu Proprio</i> Investigation		Investigation into the overlap of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) property rights with the ancestral domain of the Aeta IPs in Porac, Pampanga	<p>The Committee terminated its inquiry into the alleged overlap of BCDA's property rights with the ancestral domain of the Aetas in Porac, Pampanga.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Jose Panganiban Jr. (Party-List, ANAC-IP), BCDA Vice President for Corporate Services Carlos Quita said that the subject property will be developed as an economic zone. Nevertheless, BCDA is open for dialogues and consultations with the IPs and the local government units (LGUs) concerned to hasten the issuance of titles to those areas with no overlapping claims.</p> <p>Rep. Mangaoang said that the IPs are requesting for the issuance of a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT).</p> <p>NCIP Region III Regional Director Ronaldo Daquioag informed the Committee that IPs need a Certificate of Non-Overlap from the Land</p>

Continuation... Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples				Registration Authority (LRA) to facilitate the issuance of CADTs to them. The LRA was directed to issue the required Certificate of Non-Overlap to bonafide recipients.
Justice	Substitute Bill to HBs 6653 & 7624	Deputy Speaker Yap and Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Granting legal residency status to certain aliens in the Philippines under certain conditions and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Doy Leachon (1 st District, Oriental Mindoro), approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 6653 and 7624 subject to style. Thereafter, the corresponding Committee Report was also approved.
	HB 6916 (substituted HB 685)	Rep. Del Mar	Providing for the venue of the criminal and civil action in libel cases against a community or local journalist, publication or broadcast station	The Committee approved HB 6916 without amendment. The bill was previously submitted to the Committee on Rules through Committee Report No. 557 by the Committee on Public Information from which it originated. However, the Committee on Rules decided to also refer the bill to the Committee on Justice for review.
	HBs 1217, 2288, 2680 & 7474	Reps. Acharon, Eusebio, Floirendo, and Jalosjos	Creating additional court salas in certain parts of the country, amending for the purpose Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980, as amended, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the four bills creating additional court salas in General Santos City, Pasig City, and in the provinces of Davao del Norte and Zamboanga del Norte.
	HB 3423	Rep. Romero	Granting Philippine citizenship to Mr. Hsipin Liu	The Committee approved HB 3423.
Senior Citizens (Special Committee)	Substitute Bill to HBs 8208, 8274, 8559, 8768, 1308, 4638, 7035 & 7821	Reps. Go (M.), Calixto-Rubiano, Zamora, Villafuerte, Castelo, Chipeco, Deputy Speaker Villarica, and Rep. Datol	Including senior citizens who reach the age of 85, 90 and 95 in the grant of cash gift provided under RA 10868, otherwise known as the "Centenarians Act of 2016"	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Rep. Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay (Party-List, Senior Citizen), approved the Substitute Bill to the eight bills.</p> <p>The substitute bill shall be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for review of its funding provisions.</p> <p>Under the proposed law, all Filipinos who reach the age of 85 and 90 shall each receive a cash gift amounting to P25,000 while those who reach the age of 95 shall receive a cash gift amounting to P50,000. The cash gift will be awarded during the occasion of the annual Elderly Filipino Week (October 1 to 7), or 120 days after the effectivity of this Act, whichever comes earlier.</p>
Ways and Means	Substitute Bill to HB 4740	Rep. Gonzales (A.D.)	Providing for protection of the remittances of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs)	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1 st District, Nueva Ecija), approved the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to HB 4740.
	HB 6138	Rep. Alvarez (P.)	Granting travel tax exemption to dependents of married or solo parent OFW, amending for the purpose Sections 3 and 5 of RA 8042, otherwise known as the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995, as amended	The Committee approved with amendments the tax provisions of HB 6138.
	HB 6519	Rep. Manalo	Creating the OFW sovereign fund	The Committee approved the tax provision of HB 6519.

Continuation... Ways and Means	Substitute Bill to HB 7306, in consolidation with HBs 6327, 4114, 7047 & 7165	Reps. Alvarez (P.), Pimentel, Dalipe, Relampagos, and Aumentado	Creating the Philippine Airport Development Corporation and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved with amendments the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to the five bills.
	Substitute Bill to HB 28	Rep. Umali	Establishing a special economic zone and freeport in the Municipality of Mansalay, Province of Oriental Mindoro, creating for this purpose the Oriental Mindoro Special Economic Zone and Freeport Authority, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provisions of the Substitute Bill to HB 28.
	Substitute Bill to HB 2485	Rep. Amante	Creating the Lake Mainit Development Authority, prescribing its powers, functions, and duties, and providing funds therefor	The Committee approved with amendments the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to HB 2485.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Public Order and Safety jt. w/ National Defense and Security (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 7141 & 5507	Rep. Espino	Amending RA 9372, otherwise known as the "Human Security Act of 2007" (by deleting provisions that are redundant with existing laws and are anti-law enforcement, and adding punishable acts and providing penalties)	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>The TWG thoroughly discussed the proposed amendments to Section 4 (Conspiracy to Commit Terrorism) of RA 9372.</p> <p>Rep. Biazon requested the resource persons to submit their respective position papers for the TWG's reference in its deliberations on the bill.</p>

DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Health	Discussion with concerned government agencies and the pharmaceutical industry on issues and concerns affecting efforts in providing cheaper and quality medicines to Filipinos	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon), discussed with concerned government agencies and the pharmaceutical industry problems hampering the government's goal of providing quality and affordable medicines to Filipinos.</p> <p>Philippine Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA) President Higinio Porte Jr. presented the joint report of PMPA prepared together with the Philippine Chamber of Herbal Industries of the Philippines, Inc. (CHIPHI) and the Philippine Chamber of Pharmaceutical Industry, Inc. (PCPI). Porte highlighted the challenges being faced by the local manufacturers, suppliers and distributors of medicines in the country. These include the costly and tedious preparation of a bioavailability/bioequivalence (BA/BE) report on a pharmaceutical product, which is one of the requirements for product registration and renewal; and the delayed issuance of</p>

<p>Continuation... Health</p>		<p>the Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).</p> <p>Porte said that although the pharmaceutical companies are willing to comply with the BA/BE requirement, they cannot do it easily and quickly citing the high cost of producing the report and, in the case of a bioequivalence study, the lack of reference/comparator drug products in the country. He also decried the delays in the issuance of CPRs, adding that the FDA has not even bothered to reply to their requests and queries.</p> <p>FDA's Center for Drugs Regulation and Research officer-in-charge Katherine Austria-Lock acknowledged the industry's complaints, explaining that much of the delays are due to the agency's lack of manpower with less than 50 personnel assigned to assess thousands of CPR requests. Austria-Lock said that the FDA has already requested for additional plantilla positions from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) but to no avail.</p> <p>Austria-Lock also explained that the submission of BA/BE reports is in compliance with the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA 9502, or the Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicines Act of 2008.</p> <p>Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City) asked the FDA to re-examine and simplify its processes and procedures, which will be in keeping with RA 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018.</p> <p>DOH Knowledge Management and Information Technology Service Director Enrique Tayag promised that the DOH will facilitate talks between the FDA and the industry stakeholders to come up with solutions that will benefit all parties. Tayag stressed that although the "ease of doing business" is a legitimate concern, but ensuring the safety of the public should and will always remain paramount.</p> <p>The FDA was instructed to submit a status report of all pending CPR applications. The stakeholders were likewise requested to provide the Committee with a list of their products with CPR applications that are still pending with the FDA.</p> <p>The Committee will hold a separate meeting with the FDA to discuss in detail the current situation and concerns of the agency.</p>
<p>Metro Development Manila</p>	<p>Discussion on the quality of service and the proper installation of "outside plant facilities" of public utilities in Metro Manila</p>	<p>The Committee, presided by Rep. Bayani Fernando (1st District, Marikina City), will continue its discussion on the issues raised regarding the quality of service and the installation of outside plant facilities of public utilities in Metro Manila.</p> <p>Outside plant facilities pertain to the electrical and cable wires of electricity and telecommunications service providers and the water treatment plants and systems of water service providers.</p> <p>Rep. Fernando and the Committee Chair, Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), underscored the importance of putting in place appropriate standards in the installation of outside plants to ensure public safety and smooth flow of traffic.</p> <p>National Telecommunications Commission's (NTC) planning officer Vicente Carcellar said that the NTC sends engineers to inspect and validate complaints that it receives from concerned</p>

<p>Continuation... Metro Manila Development</p>		<p>citizens, such as dangling wires and leaning poles, and relays the findings of its engineers to public utility companies like the Manila Electric Company (Meralco) and directs them to act on the matter.</p> <p>PLDT Legal Department head Michael Ureta said that the company secures the permission of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) prior to the installation of poles for its cable wires, and complies with safety and quality standards set by concerned government agencies.</p> <p>Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) Bureau of Product Standards chief Mario Gaudiano informed the Committee that electric wires and cables are among the products covered by the Philippine National Standards.</p> <p>Meanwhile, representatives from the two water concessionaires in Metro Manila, Manila Water and Maynilad, explained that they need to excavate portions of private and public roads for the installation of the water metering system and water supply system.</p> <p>The Committee directed the two water service providers to refrain from digging roads on a prolonged period and over a long stretch and without authority of the concerned local government unit or owners of private roads. The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) was tasked to monitor the compliance of these companies with this directive.</p> <p>Representatives from the city governments of the Cities of Quezon, Caloocan, Malabon, Pasay, Makati, Mandaluyong, and Manila made their comments on the poor maintenance of the outside facilities of public utility companies which cause inconvenience to the public.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to prepare a draft compromise agreement between the local communities and concerned public utilities to resolve the issues raised, which will be presented to the stakeholders in the Committee's next meeting on the matter.</p>
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