

# Committee Daily Bulletin

17<sup>th</sup> Congress  
Third Regular Session

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Ecology	Substitute Bill to HBs 1004, 1690, 1713, 4452, 6018, 6376, 7017 & 7675	Reps. Campos, Rodriguez (M.), Biazon, Deputy Speaker Yap (A), Reps. Revilla, Castelo, Vargas, and Alejano	Promoting the manufacture, assembly, importation, sale, distribution, use and development of electric, hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles by granting tax exemptions and providing incentives therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, approved the substitute bill subject to amendment and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to amend Section 3 (Definition of Terms) of the substitute bill to harmonize the terminologies used in the proposed law with those used in the international community since most electric, hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles are imported from other countries.</p> <p>The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc. (CAMPI) was requested to submit the internationally-accepted definition of certain terms which will be used as reference in the finalization of the substitute bill.</p>
	HB 5677	Rep. Casilao	Prohibiting the distribution, sale and use of glyphosate	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune the bill.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Ariel "Ka Ayik" Casilao (Party-List, ANAKPAWIS), author of HB 5677, manifested that the explanatory note attached to his bill be considered as his sponsorship speech.</p> <p>In the explanatory note, glyphosate is referred to as a broad-spectrum herbicide used in plantations, parks, gardens and orchards. It is believed to inhibit protein synthesis in weeds leading to death. Also, it persists in some soils for up to three years and can bio-accumulate.</p> <p>Rep. Casilao said that the bill, which is a product of a long process of consultation and research, aims to provide precautionary measures to prevent the adverse effects of glyphosate on health, environment and food security.</p> <p>Representatives from the Department of Health (DOH), Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PANAP), National Federation of Peasant Women (AMIHAN), and Philippine Network of Food Security Programmes, Inc. (PNFSP) expressed support for the bill.</p>

Continuation... Ecology				<p>On the other hand, representatives from the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority of the Department of Agriculture (FPA/DA), National Crop Protection Center in the University of the Philippines Los Baños (NCPC-UPLB), League of Provinces, CropLife Philippines, Inc., Pollution Control Association of the Philippines, Inc. (PCAPI), Philippine Maize Federation Inc. (Philmaize), and the Federation of Philippine Industries, Inc. (FPI) opposed the bill.</p> <p>NCPC-UPLB President Gil Magsino explained that glyphosate has been used locally and internationally for more than 40 years and is backed by more than 800 studies which confirmed its safety.</p> <p>Magsino maintained that glyphosate is widely used in Philippine agriculture because it is convenient to use in weed management in many crop plantations. He warned that restricting its use would lead to lower crop yields because of poor weed control.</p>
	HB 5678	Rep. Casilao	Prohibiting the distribution, sale and use of paraquat	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to fine-tune the bill.</p> <p>HB 5678 seeks to impose a nationwide ban on the use of paraquat, which is considered the most toxic herbicide today. Based on the explanatory note attached to the bill, paraquat is a fast-acting, non-selective contact herbicide that causes rapid drying of plant leaves. It is used to control weeds and grasses in crop plantations, but is hazardous to both human health and the environment.</p> <p>FPA's Pesticides Regulatory Division OIC Bella Fe Carmona informed the Committee that paraquat was withdrawn from the market in February 2018 and that its registration already expired last March 31, 2018.</p>
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Health	Substitute Bill to HBs 342, 1415, 2593, 3049, 7887, 7910 & 8429	Reps. Romualdez, Velarde, Santos-Recto, Tambunting, Vargas, Almario, and Nieto	Establishing a national cancer center to be known as the Philippine National Cancer Center and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY), Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Tricia Nicole Velasco-Catera (Party-List, MATA), Vice Chair of the Committee on Health, approved the substitute bill and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to transmit the same to the Committee on Appropriations for its comments on the appropriations provision.</p> <p>Rep. Velasco-Catera said that the establishment of a national cancer center is one of the components of the proposed National Integrated Cancer Control Program Law which is now awaiting the signature of the President.</p>

Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ Health				Among the objectives of the proposed national cancer center are the promotion of scientific researches on cancer prevention, control and treatment; development and provision of patient care programs; and provision of training for doctors and healthcare practitioners specializing in cancer treatment.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 386, 607, 1279 & 6448	Reps. Ocampo, Eriguel, Salo, and Aquino- Magsaysay	Establishing the Philippine Geriatric Center - Research and Training Institute, defining its objectives, powers and functions, appropriating funds therefor	The Joint Committee approved the substitute bill and the corresponding Committee Report.  The Secretariat was directed to transmit the same to the Committee on Appropriations for its comments on the appropriations provision.  Rep. Velasco-Catera said that the establishment of the Philippine Geriatric Center-Research and Training Institute will help ensure and promote the health and wellness of senior citizens.
Labor and Employment	HB 7066	Rep. Go (M.)	Mandating golf clubs to provide health, retirement, and other benefits to golf caddies and other service workers through a shared contribution scheme	The Committee, chaired by Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, approved the Committee Report on HB 7066.
Local Government	HB 8890	Rep. Garcia (J.E.)	Creating a barangay in the Municipality of Limay, Province of Bataan, to be known as Barangay St. Francis II	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Pedro Acharon Jr. (1 <sup>st</sup> District, South Cotabato and General Santos City), approved HB 8890.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 248, 260, 276, 298, 390, 467, 502, 503, 598, 619, 620, 653, 784, 828, 1007, 1232, 1391, 1492, 1511, 1620, 1879, 2019, 2046, 2195, 2196, 2213, 2363, 2378, 2454, 2514, 2541, 2629, 2662, 2687, 2707, 2774, 2801, 2802, 2815, 2981, 3021, 3281, 3483, 3622, 3693, 3715, 3760, 3780, 3902, 3948, 4001, 4095, 4264, 4397, 4568, 4985, 6033, 6240, 6627, 6695, 7247, 7393 7424,	Reps. Bordado, Loyola, former Rep. Nograles (K.A.), Reps. Suansing (H.), Ocampo, Deputy Speaker Abu, Rep. Yap (V.), Minority Leader Suarez, Reps. Paduano, Oaminal, Gullas, Andaya, Zarate, Umali, Vargas, Abayon, Alejano, Deputy Speaker Alvarez (M.), Reps. Almonte, Deloso- Montalla, Montoro, Uy (J.), Speaker Macapagal- Arroyo, Reps. Bernos, Silverio, Deputy Speaker Yap (A.), Reps. Sy-Alvarado, Tambunting, Atienza, former Rep. Roque (H.), Reps. Tan (S.), Cuaresma,	Increasing the benefits of barangay officials, including barangay tanods and members of the Lupon ng Tagapamayapa, and granting a lump sum retirement gratuity pay equivalent to P100,000.00, and other non-monetary benefits, amending for the purpose Section 393 of RA 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to the 71 bills with amendments.  Among the amendments to the substitute bill that were agreed upon during the meeting were the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To increase the monthly benefits (honoraria, allowances and other emoluments) of punong barangays from the original proposal of P6,000.00 to a minimum of P10,000.00;</li> <li>• To increase the benefits of sangguniang barangay members, barangay treasurer, and barangay secretary from P4,000.00 to P6,000.00;</li> <li>• To increase the benefits of barangay tanods and Members of the Lupon ng Tagapamayapa from the previous proposal of P3,000.00 to also P6,000.00; and</li> <li>• To delete the provision exempting the punong barangay, sangguniang barangay members, barangay treasurer and barangay secretary from paying tuition and matriculation fees for their legitimate dependent children attending state colleges or universities, as such benefit is already covered in the Local Government Code of 1991.</li> </ul>

Continuation... Local Government	7514, 8030, 8315, 8316, 8391, 8398, 8498 & 8710	Gonzaga, Castelo, Suansing (E.), Espino, Ocampo, Deputy Speaker Escudero, Reps. Ermita-Buhain, Bagatsing, Velasco, Enverga, Rodriguez (M.), former Rep. Aglipay-Villar, Reps. Salo, Benitez, Panotes, Zubiri, Calixto-Rubiano, Nieto, Velasco- Catera, and Pico		
Public Order and Safety	Substitute Bill to HBs 421, 1393, 3699, 4882 & 6044	Reps. Quimbo, Amante, Antonio, Sy- Alvarado, and Villafuerte	Prohibiting the dissemination of false information on bomb threats, explosives, or any other life-threatening or destructive materials and providing penalties therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Antipolo City), approved with amendments the substitute bill and the corresponding Committee Report.
	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"	The Committee approved the substitute bill and the corresponding Committee Report.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 4171, 4900 & 4994, and HR 758	Reps. Barbers, Castelo, former Rep. Roque (H.), and Rep. Uybarreta	Requiring mandatory full autopsy and prohibiting the unauthorized disposition of human remains arising from deaths under investigation or mysterious and suspicious circumstances	The Committee approved the substitute bill and the corresponding Committee Report.
	Substitute Bill to HB 8689	Rep. Pimentel	Increasing the recruitment quota requirement of female PNP officers, amending Section 58 of RA 8551, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 8689.
Public Works and Highways	HB 2397	Rep. Bondoc	Establishing a green building standard for planning, design, construction, operation or maintenance practices, renovation, expansion, and retrofitting of government building projects in the country	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Bayani Fernando (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Marikina City), agreed to consolidate the nine measures using HB 8867 as the working draft.
	HBs 3476 & 5607	Deputy Speaker Escudero and Rep. Alfredo Vargas	Strengthening PD 1096 or the National Building Code of the Philippines, as amended, by mandating a comprehensive nationwide inspection of buildings and imposing stiff penalties against building officials who violate the pertinent provisions of the said Code	
	HB 5801	Rep. Yap (V.)	Providing for the telecommunications technology readiness of buildings and structures, amending certain sections of PD 1096	

Continuation... Public Works and Highways	HB 7075	Rep. Alejano	Expediting and streamlining the application process for securing building permits and certificates of occupancy, amending for the purpose certain provisions of RA 6541, otherwise known as the National Building Code of the Philippines	
	HBs 7804, 7815 & 8867	Reps. Gonzales (A.D.), Tan (A.), and Fernando	Regulating the planning, design, construction, occupancy, and maintenance of buildings, enacting a New Building Act, thereby repealing PD 1096	
	HR 1839	Rep. Gonzales (A.D.)	Review of the regulations and standards of the National Building Code of the Philippines and to call on the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to review and propose comprehensive revisions in order to enhance resilience	
	HB 8763	Rep. Fernando	Regulating the use of roads for safe, fast and economic transport	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 8763 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Fernando, also the author of the bill, said that the bill seeks to define the basic policies, standards and rules for the proper, disciplined, safe, and productive use of all roads. He also emphasized the strict implementation of laws and ordinances against illegally-parked vehicles in order to clear the roads and help ease traffic.</p> <p>Former Undersecretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Teodoro Encarnacion recommended that in any land development covering more than 500,000 square meters, roads shall be provided with a spacing of not more than 500 meters in both directions, that is, longitudinal and transverse. These roads shall align and interconnect with existing public-use roads in the vicinity, if feasible.</p> <p>Encarnacion also proposed that upon the issuance of the license to develop a subdivision by the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB), all road lots in the approved subdivision plan shall be deemed automatically transferred to the concerned LGU at no cost, subject to compliance with DPWH road design standards.</p> <p>Director Angelito Aguila of the Policy Development Legislation and Special Projects Group (PDLSG), Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) clarified that the HLURB only issues a license to sell houses and subdivision lots.</p> <p>The Committee requested the resource persons to submit their respective position papers on the bill.</p>

Senior Citizens (Special Committee)	HBs 2823, 3075, 4022, 4635, 8201, 8226, 8238, 8242, 8280, 8298, 8307, 8335, 8473, 8561, 8593, 8722 & 8865	Reps. Suansing (E.), Suansing (H.), Aquino-Magsaysay, Villafuerte, Nieto, Sy-Alvarado, Erice, Alejano, Marcos, Cagas, and Bagatsing	Amending RA 7432, as amended, otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizen's Act of 2010 (by providing a comprehensive system of benefits, government assistance and subsidies, and other privileges for senior citizens)	The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Rep. Francisco Datol Jr. (Party-List, Senior Citizen), agreed to consolidate the 17 bills, using HB 8561 as the working draft.  Rep. Datol asked the resource persons to submit their respective position papers on the bills.
Social Services	Substitute Bill to HBs 4322 & 5409	Rep. Olivarez	Providing for financial relief to victims of calamities	The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair, Rep. Sabiniano Canama (Party-List, COOP NATCCO), approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 4322 and 5409 subject to style.  The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.
	Substitute Bill to HB 6335	Rep. Robes	Providing for free freight services in the transportation of relief goods to calamity-stricken areas	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 6335 subject to style. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.
Youth and Sports Development	HB 544	Rep. Sambar	Creating the Philippine Sports Academy as an attached agency of the Philippine Sports Commission, providing its structure, powers and functions thereof	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Conrado Estrella III (Party-List, ABONO), approved HB 544.
	HB 3226	Rep. Pacquiao	Institutionalizing the conduct of summer youth camps in the barangay level, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 3226.
	HB 7470	Rep. Roa-Puno	Protecting the right of athletes to serve the Philippines as part of the national team	The Committee approved HB 7470.
	HBs 8403 & 8778	Reps. Alejano and Villafuerte	Strengthening the Philippine Sports Commission, amending for the purpose RA 6847, otherwise known as the Philippine Sports Commission Act	The Committee directed the Secretariat to come up with a substitute bill taking into consideration the amendments proposed by the resource persons.
	HB 7737	Rep. Ramirez-Sato	Establishing the Occidental Mindoro Sports Academy and Training Center in the Municipality of San Jose, Province of Occidental Mindoro	The Committee approved HB 7737 subject to style and amendment.

PUBLIC HEARING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Appropriations	HR 2104	Rep. Andaya	Inquiry into the legal basis and possible effects of the shift from an obligation-based to a cash-based budgeting system as proposed in the Fiscal Year 2019 national budget	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Camarines Sur), will continue its inquiry on the issues relative to HR 2104 and Privilege Speech 430.
	Privilege Speech 430	Rep. Andaya	On allegations of large amount of budget allocation given to allies of the House leadership	At the outset, Rep. Andaya denounced the continued absence of Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Benjamin Diokno in the House inquiry on the alleged anomalies in the 2019 proposed national budget, stressing that it is a clear sign of

Continuation...  
Appropriations

disrespect not only to the Committee but to the entire institution.

It was this reason that the Committee decided to issue a show cause order against Diokno to explain why he should not be cited in contempt for his repeated failure to attend the congressional hearings.

Rep. Andaya reiterated his accusations against the Budget Secretary for the latter's involvement in the alleged flood control project scam, wherein P75 billion allocated for infrastructure projects was allegedly "inserted" in the Department of Public Works and Highways' (DPWH) budget for 2019.

Rep. Andaya, along with several Committee Members, expressed dismay at the DBM-Procurement Service's (PS) "takeover" of the bidding process for big-ticket infrastructure projects, which to them is not allowed under existing laws. They said the PS is only allowed by law to procure common-use supplies and equipment (CSE) for all agencies of government.

With DPWH Secretary Mark Villar claiming to have no knowledge of the P75 billion insertion in the DPWH's budget prior to the printing of the 2019 National Expenditure Program (NEP), lawmakers present asked how the projects were encoded in the agency's budget and under whose authority.

DBM Undersecretary Tina Rose Marie Canda disclosed that the questionable items were encoded in the budget by DPWH personnel, as requested by the DBM, allegedly under the order of someone in authority which she was unable to identify. Canda also claimed that this has been a standard practice since the time of former Budget Secretary Florencio Abad.

Meanwhile, Commission on Audit (COA) Audit Team Leader Joey Bernardino reported that the employees of DBM-PS do not hold a permanent position, which raises concerns on accountability. He further disclosed that DBM-PS has failed to submit its procurement monitoring reports for several years now.

When asked what COA has done in light of these audit findings, Bernardino said that the COA has recommended for the filing of administrative cases against the erring personnel.

Sought to comment on DBM's proposed cash-based budgeting system, COA Director for Oversight and Public Debt Management Agencies Cora Lea dela Cruz said that COA is supportive of the proposal, but recognizes that it may have difficulty in auditing government funds under the proposed system.

Continuation... Appropriations				Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso (3 <sup>rd</sup> District, Leyte) stressed that the cash-based budgeting system has no legal basis and should not be implemented.
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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Ways and Means	<p>Briefing by concerned government agencies on the following revenue and tax-related matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenue collection performance for 2018</li>   <li>• Implementation of fuel marking</li>   <li>• Issuance of electronic receipts (e-receipts)</li> </ul>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Estrellita "Ging" Suansing (1<sup>st</sup> District, Nueva Ecija), listened to the briefing conducted by several government agencies on revenue collections for 2018 and the status of implementation of some provisions of the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law.</p> <p>Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Assistant Commissioner Alfredo Misajon reported that the BIR's revenue collection for 2018 amounts to P1.96 trillion which is 4.01% lower than its target of P2.04 trillion, but higher by 10.15% compared to its 2017 collection.</p> <p>By major tax type, Misajon said that income tax, value-added tax (VAT) and excise tax collections recorded a shortfall of 4.14%, 17.8% and 12.67%, respectively, as against the agency's 2018 targets. He explained that among the factors that caused the shortfall were the increasing inflation rate, the implementation of the TRAIN Law, as well as changes in product preferences.</p> <p>On the other hand, BIR collections from percentage taxes and other taxes like estate and donors taxes surpassed their respective targets for 2018.</p> <p>Bureau of Customs (BOC) Deputy Commissioner Teddy Sandy Raval reported that the required fuel marking has not yet been implemented, blaming it on the unresolved issue of whether or not it is considered as a "fuel additive." It is the Department of Energy (DOE) which is supposed to act on the matter, Raval added. A fuel additive, according to Raval, is a substance that changes the composition of the fuel.</p> <p>Under the TRAIN Law, the Finance Secretary, in consultation with concerned agencies, shall require the use of an official fuel marking or similar technology on petroleum products that are refined, manufactured, or imported into the Philippines, and that are subject to the payment of taxes and duties.</p> <p>Fuel marking involves the use of low concentrations of markers or dyes to be blended with the fuel, to mark the stages undergone by a particular batch of product, determining whether shipments have gone through legal import channels. Marked fuel will indicate that batches have paid the required tariffs and went through all the necessary steps before it is sold in the market. <i>(Source: DOE website)</i></p> <p>Department of Finance (DOF) Assistant Secretary Tony Lambino informed the Committee of a pilot project for the electronic receipt, invoice and sales reporting system covering 100 large taxpayers, which is being implemented by the DOF and BIR in cooperation with technical consultants from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The pilot project will be completed by 2020. This serves as a preliminary step to the full implementation of the e-receipts project in the Philippines through the Official Development Assistance (ODA) grant from the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) of South Korea amounting to US\$41 million-worth.</p>



<p>Continuation... Ways and Means</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disposition of incremental revenues generated under the TRAIN Law</li> </ul>	<p>The TRAIN Law requires taxpayers engaged in the export of goods and services and taxpayers under the jurisdiction of the Large Taxpayers Service to electronically report their sales data to the BIR through the use of electronic point of sales systems.</p> <p>Lambino said that 70% of the incremental revenues derived under the TRAIN Law shall be used to finance infrastructure projects while 30% shall fund several social welfare and benefits programs which include the unconditional cash transfer (UCT) and fuel subsidy programs.</p> <p>Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Regional Director for the National Capital Region Zona Russet Tamayo reported that the distribution of the P5,000 fuel subsidy cash cards to jeepney drivers is currently at 48% accomplishment rate. Tamayo explained that the delay in the distribution of the fuel subsidy cards is due to the difficulty of verifying the qualified recipients because of questions on the ownership of public utility vehicles (PUVs). There were a lot of cases wherein the new owners of PUVs have not registered the sale or transfer of ownership such that the PUVs' certificates of registration still bear the name of the previous owners.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Assistant Secretary Noel Macalalad reported that the Department has already distributed cash cards under the UCT program to 8.9 million beneficiaries as of December 2018. Macalalad said that the Department's target is to distribute the cash cards to the remaining beneficiaries within the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2019.</p>
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