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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
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	The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Robert "Ace" Barbers (2 nd 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, approved the Committee Report on HR 2068 subject to style and amendment.
Ecology	HB 8723	Rep. Cua	Strengthening the protection and management of waterways and water systems by host communities	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair, Rep. Lawrence "Law" Fortun (1st District, Agusan del Norte), will deliberate further on HB 8723 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Based on the explanatory note attached to the bill, HB 8723 seeks to strengthen the capability of local government units (LGUs) to protect, conserve, manage, and develop water, land, and other resources that are involved in hydroelectric generation.</p> <p>Representatives from the National Electrification Administration (NEA), League of Provinces, and the Federation of Philippine Industries Inc. expressed support for the bill.</p> <p>League of Provinces' Policy Officer Angelica Sanchez suggested that the proposed financial benefit for the host community of P0.01/kWh of the electricity sales of hydroelectric generation facilities be increased (Section 3 of the bill).</p> <p>To serve as a benchmark in determining whether or not to increase the financial benefit for host communities, NEA's Diplomatic Relations and Cooperation coordinator Alexander Paul Rivera said that NEA will study the income pattern of LGUs that already utilize hydroelectric energy as their source of power.</p>
Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Foreign Affairs	HR 1608	Rep. Zarate	Investigation into the alleged anomalies behind the slow passport processing of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)	The Joint Committee, presided by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, Chair of the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Rep. Ann Hofer (2 nd District, Zamboanga Sibugay), Vice Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, will schedule another meeting to deliberate further
	Privilege Speech 339	Rep. Bravo (A.)	On the state of passport application process of the DFA	

Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Foreign Affairs				on the two measures and to give other resource persons the opportunity to comment on the issues raised.
Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Health	HRs 444, 480, 1519 & 1675, and Privilege Speech 125	Reps. Tan (A.), Suansing (E.), Atienza, Zarate, and Leachon	Inquiry into the legality of the procurement process and use of public funds relative to the school-based dengue immunization program of the Department of Health (DOH) as well as the efficacy and safety of the vaccine procured	<p>The Joint Committee, presided by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, Chair of the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan M.D. (4th District, Quezon), Chair of the Committee on Health, approved with amendments the Committee Report on the five measures.</p> <p>One of the recommendations of the Joint Committee was the filing of administrative and criminal charges against former President Benigno Aquino III, former Department of Budget and Management Secretary Butch Abad, and former DOH Secretary Janette Garin, among other personalities. The Joint Committee cites as reasons alleged irregularities in the procurement of the anti-dengue vaccine Dengvaxia and the procurement of the vaccine despite the lack of definitive findings as to its safety and efficacy. (The dengue vaccine was later found to pose a risk to vaccine recipients who have not been previously infected with the dengue virus.)</p> <p>Reps. Tan and Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija), author of HR 480, agreed that Dengvaxia manufacturer Sanofi Pasteur should also be held liable for the Dengvaxia fiasco and be required to reimburse the P2.5 billion it received as payment for the purchase of the vaccine.</p> <p>On the other hand, Dinagat Islands Rep. Kaka Bag-ao and Rep. Gabriel Bordado (3rd District, Camarines Sur) raised several objections to portions of the Committee Report. They stressed that relevant facts presented by resource persons from the Commission on Audit (COA), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and Department of Health (DOH) were not reflected in the Committee Report. Rep. Bag-ao also objected to the recommendation of filing criminal and administrative charges against several persons without first satisfactorily substantiating the accusations.</p> <p>Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA) recommended that if charges should be filed against officials of the previous administration, the same should also cover all DOH personnel who continued to implement the anti-dengue immunization program even after the advisory on the ill-effects of Dengvaxia and even when news on alleged vaccine-related deaths broke out.</p>

Poverty Alleviation	HB 340	Rep. Villarín	Providing for enhanced social protection for the working poor and the near poor and providing funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Raymond Democrito Mendoza (Party List, TUCP), approved HB 340 with amendments. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Rene Relampagos (1st District, Bohol), sponsored HB 340 in behalf of the author, Rep. Tom Villarín (Party-List, AKBAYAN).</p> <p>Resource persons from the Social Security System (SSS) and the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) expressed their support for the bill.</p>
	HB 7263	Rep. Relampagos	Declaring May 29 of every year as Annual National Community Savings Day	<p>The Committee approved HB 7263. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Relampagos, author of HB 7263, said that his bill seeks to encourage the people, especially those in the informal sector who have no access to financial institutions, to save through a community-based approach.</p> <p>Representatives from the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) expressed their support for the bill.</p>
	HRs 1681 & 2333	Reps. Revilla and Salceda	Recognizing and commending the KasamaKa initiative as a national grassroots-based advocacy program for financial inclusion in every barangay and local government unit (LGU)	<p>The Committee adopted HRs 1681 and 2333. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Anthony Bravo, Ph.D. (Party-List, COOP NATCCO), sponsored HR 2333 in behalf of the author, Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay).</p> <p>Rep. Bravo said that the KasamaKa initiative will help eradicate predatory lenders or “5-6” operators, especially in the agriculture and fishery sectors.</p> <p>House Members present during the meeting as well as representatives from LPP, expressed their support for the bill.</p> <p>FINTQnologies Corporation (FINTQ) Managing Director Lito Villanueva gave a short briefing on the KasamaKa program, which provides access to affordable financial products such as loans, savings, insurance, investments and payments. According to Villanueva, the Senate already adopted last year Senate Resolution 625, commending and recommending KasamaKa as a national movement for financial inclusion.</p> <p>FINTQ is the financial technology arm of PLDT Group’s Voyager Innovations, Inc. which provides affordable and accessible microsavings, microinvestment and microinsurance policies under the KasamaKA Program (source: FINTQ website).</p>

Public Works and Highways	Substitute Bill to HBs 8881 & 8976	Rep. Arbison and Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo	Renaming the Awang-Upi-Lebak Road stretching from Barangay Awang in the Municipality of Datu Odin Sinsuat and traversing through the Municipality of Upi, both in the Province of Maguindanao up to the Municipality of Lebak in the Province of Sultan Kudarat, as Datu Simeon A. Datumanong National Highway	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Bayani Fernando (1 st District, Marikina City), approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 8881 and 8976.
	HB 9015	Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo	Renaming the Banqueruan Bridge traversing the Lubao-Sasmuan River located in the Municipalities of Lubao and Sasmuan, both in the Province of Pampanga, as Guillermo Mendoza Bridge	The Committee approved HB 9015.
Trade and Industry jt./w Health	Substitute Bill to HBs 7289, 532, 3330, 4325, 4810, 7935, 7993, 8340 & 8671	Reps. Noel, Batocabe (dec.), Olivarez, Biazon, Villafuerte, Barbers, Alejano, and Garcia (J.E.)	Regulating the trade of vaporized nicotine products (VNP) and heated tobacco products (HTPs), particularly, the use, sale packaging, distribution, and communications thereof	The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Ferjanel Biron, M.D. (4 th District, Iloilo), Chair of the Committee on Trade and Industry, and Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4 th District, Quezon), Chair of the Committee on Health, approved the substitute bill with amendments. The Secretariat was directed to draft the corresponding Committee Report.
Transportation	Substitute Bill to HBs 279, 1577, 2799, 3623 & 7232	Deputy Speaker Escudero, Reps. Vargas, Vergara, Espino, and Tambunting	Providing for regulation of tricycles, institutionalizing mechanisms for its implementation	The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, approved the substitute bill and the corresponding Committee Report.
	Substitute Bill to HB 6638	Rep. Gonzales (A.D.)	Prohibiting the construction of malls, sports centers, convention centers, exhibition centers and similar establishments within a three-kilometer radius from the exit and entrance of an expressway to prevent traffic congestion therein and providing penalties therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 6638 and the corresponding Committee Report.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 497, 1278 & 7655	Former Rep. Nograles (K.A.), Reps. Manalo, and Alejano	Providing open pilotage services in the country, creating a Pilotage Board, enhancing the powers of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) and other port bodies in regulating pilotage services and the conduct of harbor pilots	The Committee approved the substitute bill subject to style and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HR 2407	Rep. Chipeco	Strongly urging the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to include Calamba City in the list of identified city operations from Laguna under Department Order (DO) No. 2018-025	The Committee adopted HR 2407.

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 budgeting system to a cash-based budgeting system as proposed in the fiscal year 2019 national budget	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (1 st District, Camarines Sur), will continue its inquiry relative to HR 2104 and Privilege Speech 430.

Continuation... Appropriations	Privilege Speech 430	Rep. Andaya	On the allegations of large amount of budget allocation given to allies in the House leadership	<p>Rep. Andaya enumerated the issues which the Committee had wanted Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Benjamin Diokno to explain if not for his continued failure to attend several hearings on the matter. These are: the alleged scam involving the funding allocation and awarding of flood control projects in Sorsogon; the P75 billion insertion in the 2019 budget of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) without the knowledge of the DPWH Secretary; the amendment introduced by the Senate to the 2019 proposed national budget resulting in the allocation of P190 billion for specific projects; and the disposition of the P370 billion government savings in 2017.</p> <p>DPWH's Programming Division Chief Milagros Manaysay explained that the Department originally requested a P650 billion budget for 2019 but the DBM only approved the amount of P480 billion. Thereafter, she confirmed that, without the knowledge of DPWH Secretary Mark Villar, the DBM added P75 billion to the DPWH budget.</p> <p>Other DPWH personnel, including Engr. Glenn Degal from the Planning Service, testified that on two occasions last year (April 17 and July 11, 2018), several DPWH personnel went to DBM to encode and reformat the list of infrastructure projects amounting to more than P23 billion and P51 billion, respectively, which constitute the P75 billion "insertion." This was done allegedly upon the instructions of DBM Undersecretary Amenah Pangandaman.</p> <p>Asked to give details on the P81 million deposit in the account of Aremar Construction Corp. (Aremar) in the Sorsogon branch of the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), branch manager Leonora Ariola refused to disclose any information invoking RA 1405 or the Bank Secrecy Law. Section 2 of this law states that "all deposits of whatever nature with banks or banking institutions in the Philippines including investments in bonds issued by the Government of the Philippines, its political subdivisions and its instrumentalities, are hereby considered as absolutely confidential in nature and may not be examined, inquired or looked into by any person, government official, bureau or office, except upon written permission of the depositor, or in cases of impeachment, or upon order of a competent court in cases of bribery or dereliction of duty of public officials, or in cases where the money deposited or invested is the subject matter of the litigation."</p> <p>Francis Clemente, liaison officer of CT Leoncio Construction and Trading (CT Leoncio), claimed that he has no knowledge of the contents and veracity of the bidding documents being submitted by his firm to the</p>
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Continuation... Appropriations				<p>DPWH Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) saying that the documents are sealed in envelopes each time the owner of the CT Leoncio hands them to him.</p> <p>CT Leoncio has been invited to the hearings of the Committee to answer allegations that it bagged several huge-budgeted infrastructure projects in the Bicol Region on questionable circumstances and on account of its connections with Diokno.</p> <p>The Committee will summon DBM Undersecretary Pangandaman, Consolacion Leoncio, the owner of CT Leoncio, and a representative from the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) to attend the next hearing to be held on Friday, February 8. The Committee also decided to issue a subpoena <i>ad testificandum</i> to Diokno to compel his attendance in the next hearing.</p>
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JOINT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Congressional Oversight Committee on RA 9207 Implementation (National Government Center) – House Panel	Discussion on the status of implementation of RA 9207 or the National Government Center Housing and Land Utilization Act of 2003	<p>The Congressional Oversight Committee, presided by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), will continue its discussion on the status of the implementation of RA 9207 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Castelo declared that the processing, documentation and eventual funding of the unacquired lots in the National Government Center (NGC) will be the responsibility of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). He then inquired from the DPWH the courses of action that have been undertaken so far.</p> <p>"Unacquired lots" are part of the 422 hectares earmarked for socialized housing under RA 9207 that have not yet been acquired and distributed to qualified urban poor beneficiaries who are long time residents in the area.</p> <p>Atty. Karen Javier of the DPWH Legal Service informed the Committee that her office has already drafted a letter addressed to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) requesting a P721 million-fund for the acquisition of 66 lots in the NGC.</p> <p>Rep. Castelo emphasized that as per the directive of Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga), the funds should come from the current budget and not from the 2020 budget.</p> <p>DBM Assistant Director Maria Grace delos Santos said that the use of savings is subject to the approval of the President. She advised the DPWH to state in its letter-request to the DBM the specific funding source for the acquisition of the lots. If the funds will be sourced from savings, the projects where the savings were generated must likewise be specified.</p> <p>Meanwhile, National Housing Authority (NHA) East Sector Division Manager Geronima Angeles reported that out of the 66</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Congressional Oversight Committee on RA 9207 Implementation (National Government Center) – House Panel</p>		<p>identified landowners in the NGC East and West sides, four already agreed to sell their lots. She also said that 28 other landowners were sent invitations to discuss the planned acquisition but no one has responded so far.</p> <p>NHA's NGC Housing and Development Project (NGCHDP) Assistant Department Manager Roderick Ibañez said that communicating with these landowners is difficult due to lack of reliable information on their actual names and addresses. However, he said notices of levy on the properties may be issued considering that most of the landowners are not paying the corresponding real property taxes.</p> <p>Javier suggested that expropriation proceedings may be done as a last resort to take lawful possession of the properties.</p> <p>Rep. Castelo agreed that if no tax payment on said lots have been made for the last five years, it would result to the issuance of notices of levy preparatory to expropriation in favor of the NGC.</p> <p>Quezon City government's Housing and Community Development and Resettlement Department (HCDRD) Assistant Head Edgardo Madamba recommended that the real lot owners must be determined first before carrying out any foreclosure or expropriation proceedings to avoid any legal complications.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Ecology	Briefing by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program (MBRP)	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair, Rep. Lawrence "Law" Fortun (1st District, Agusan del Norte), listened to the briefing conducted by the DENR on the implementation of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program (MBRP), in accordance with RA 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004.</p> <p>DENR Manila Bay Coordinating Office Executive Director Donna Mayor-Gordove reported that 10,000 people participated in the kickoff of the Manila Bay cleanup on January 27. Mayor-Gordove added that aside from the actual cleanup of the Bay, the DENR will also focus on evaluating and monitoring the compliance of the commercial establishments near the area with RA 9275.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Fortun, Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) Assistant General Manager Generoso Dungo said that to date, the LLDA has inspected 341 commercial establishments along the lake and nearby areas. Out of which, 30% are non-compliant with existing laws; 18.5% have sewerage treatment plants; 12.3% are interconnected with the sewerage system of Maynilad Water Services, Inc.; and 35.5% have their own septic tanks. (The Laguna Lake's only outlet is the Napindan channel which is connected to Manila Bay through Pasig River.)</p> <p>Dungo also reported that LLDA has so far issued eight cease and desist orders (CDO) and 13 notices of violation to these establishments. A CDO or a notice of violation is issued to an establishment when its wastewater discharge exceeds the standard parameters prescribed under the Clean Water Act.</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Metro Manila Development</p>		<p>specific threats in Metro Manila at this time, but still the PNP placed the area on full alert status. Eleazar explained that the full security alert status is just a precautionary measure to quell any attempt to sow terror in Metro Manila, which is considered a potential target of terrorists anytime. In a full alert status, 100% of the PNP uniformed personnel are on standby and ready to be deployed in case of need.</p> <p>Part of the security measures being implemented in Metro Manila is the prohibition against bringing bottled water to railway terminals. Though this policy may cause inconvenience to the riding public, Eleazar said that the safety of everyone is paramount. (Liquid bombs or chemicals that may be used to make liquid explosives can be placed in water bottles and make them appear as drinking water.)</p>
	<p>Update on the flagship infrastructure projects in Metro Manila, particularly the subway networks</p>	<p>The Committee will continue its discussion on the status and issues concerning the planned Metro Manila subway project, which is one of the government's flagship infrastructure projects in the country, in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Castelo explained that the Committee wants to know the rationale behind the modifications of the subway which originally will only traverse EDSA, but will now pass through East Avenue, Anonas, and Katipunan Avenue.</p> <p>The Metro Manila subway project, which aims to address traffic congestion in Metro Manila, is funded through a loan from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The subway project was initially designed to run from Mindanao Avenue – Quirino Highway in Quezon City to the Manila International Airport (MIA) traversing EDSA.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Edgar Erice (2nd District, Caloocan City), Department of Transportation (DOTr) Undersecretary Timothy John Batan said that the modifications in the routes were based on the feasibility study conducted by JICA.</p> <p>JICA representative Yoshida Wada confirmed that JICA recommended that the Katipunan route be included, but clarified that it was a mere recommendation and that the final decision on the matter will come from the Philippine government.</p> <p>Batan explained that one of the reasons behind the shift from EDSA to Katipunan route was due to the fact that EDSA is already being serviced by the Metro Railway Transit (MRT) system, while Katipunan has no such service.</p>

OTHER MATTERS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Transportation	Report on the accomplishments of the Committee for the 16 th and 17 th Congresses	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, reported its legislative accomplishments for the 16th and 17th Congresses.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento said that during the 16th Congress (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2016), the Committee (which he also chaired), was able to facilitate the passage of six major transportation-related laws with the support of the Committee Members and the stakeholders themselves. These laws are the following:</p>

<p>Continuation... Transportation</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RA 10635 or the law establishing the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) as the single maritime administration; • RA 10638 or the law extending the corporate life of the Philippine National Railways (PNR) for another 50 years from 2013; • RA 10666 or the law providing for the safety of children aboard motorcycles; • RA 10668 or the law allowing foreign vessels to transport and co-load foreign cargoes for domestic transshipment; • RA 10913 or the law defining and penalizing distracted driving; and • RA 10916 or the law requiring the mandatory installation of speed limiter in public utility and certain types of vehicles. <p>For the 17th Congress, Rep. Sarmiento said that the Committee worked for the passage of RA 10930 or the law extending the validity period of driver's licenses to five years, as well as various laws establishing/converting satellite offices of the Land Transportation Office (LTO).</p> <p>Other measures which were scrutinized and passed by the Committee and are now awaiting the President's signature are the following: improving land transportation and roll-in/roll-out terminals; providing for the special protection of child passengers in motor vehicles; preventing the use of motorcycles in the commission of crimes; and institutionalizing the grant of student fare discount privileges on public transportation.</p>
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