

Committee Daily Bulletin

17th Congress
Third Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. III No. 82
February 14, 2019

DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Senior Citizens (Special Committee)	Proposed creation of the National Commission of Senior Citizens (HB 8837)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Imelda Marcos (2nd District, Ilocos Norte), discussed with representatives from concerned government agencies and senior citizens groups the status of HB 8837, giving assurance that the creation of the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) is being pursued.</p> <p>HB 8837, principally authored by Rep. Francisco Datol Jr. (Party-List, Senior Citizen), was approved on Third Reading by both the House of Representatives and the Senate in January this year.</p> <p>The proposed law aims to create the NCSC, which shall be placed under the Office of the President. Upon the creation of the NCSC, the National Coordinating and Monitoring Board created by virtue of RA 9994 or the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010” will be abolished. Likewise, all functions, programs and activities being undertaken by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for the benefit of the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged senior citizens shall be transferred to the proposed NCSC.</p> <p>Rep. Datol underscored the importance of a government agency that will specifically serve the needs of the senior citizens and promote their welfare.</p> <p>House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga) emphasized that the meeting was called in the exercise of the oversight function of the Committee. She added that upon the resumption of session after the elections, the House will opt to adopt the Senate version of the bill, instead of convening a bicameral conference committee, to fast track the passage of the proposed law.</p> <p>The House Speaker likewise said that the Committee will facilitate the drafting of the corresponding implementing rules and regulations (IRR) to ensure the immediate implementation of the proposed law. To this end, the Committee expects the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Leagues of Cities and Municipalities, and other stakeholders to meet promptly in order to come up with the first draft of the IRR.</p> <p>The National President of the League of the Offices for Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) of the Philippines, Benjamin Medina, thanked the House of Representatives for its commitment to pass this proposed law in the 17th Congress.</p>