



# Committee Daily Bulletin

18<sup>th</sup> Congress  
First Regular Session

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## ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Leo Rafael Cueva (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Negros Occidental), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Committee Secretary Celia Milagros Miciano gave a short presentation of the Committee's mandate and its accomplishments during the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress.</p> <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee has jurisdiction over "all matters directly and principally relating to aquaculture and fisheries production and development, the business of aquaculture, use of aquatic resources, fresh water and fisheries culture research and technology applications, aquaculture and fisheries education and training including extension services, conservation of streams, rivers, lakes and other fisheries resources, and fishpond and fisheries culture production and development including related technical, financial and guarantee assistance programs."</p> <p>Rep. Cueva informed the body that 48 bills have so far been referred to the Committee. He added that the Committee has already assumed jurisdiction to 32 bills.</p> <p>He also mentioned as priority measure the creation of a Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources separate from the Department of Agriculture (DA). There are several bills pertinent to this proposal, including HB 7, authored by House Speaker Allan Peter "Compañero" Cayetano (1<sup>st</sup> District, Taguig City-Pateros), but which are primarily referred to the Committee on Government Reorganization to be deliberated jointly with the Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources.</p>
Government Reorganization	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Mario Vittorio 'Marvey' Mariño (5<sup>th</sup> District, Batangas), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee has jurisdiction over "matters directly and principally relating to the reorganization of the government or any of its branches, departments, and instrumentalities, excluding government-owned or controlled corporations, and the creation, abolition or change of the principal functions or nature of any government department, agency, commission, or board."</p> <p>Rep. Mariño mentioned the priority bills that the Committee has to act on with dispatch, namely: bills on real property reform and assessment; rightsizing of the national government; creation of the Philippine Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and creation of separate departments to focus on matters concerning water resources, disaster resilience, overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), and fisheries and aquatic resources.</p>
Visayas Development (Special Committee)	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Duke Frasco (5<sup>th</sup> District, Cebu), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee, which is composed of 35 members, has jurisdiction over "all matters directly and principally relating to policies, programs and related initiatives affecting the economic, social, political and cultural development of municipalities, cities and provinces in the Visayas regions including needs, concerns and issues that impact on the welfare of constituencies therein."</p>



<p>Continuation... Appropriations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)</li> </ul>	<p>Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said that under the FY 2020 NEP, the DOT and its attached agencies are set to receive a budget of P3.85 billion.</p> <p>The DOT's proposed budget will be distributed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DOT (Office of the Secretary) – P3.52 billion;</li> <li>• National Parks Development Committee (NPDC) – P255.87 million; and</li> <li>• Intramuros Administration (IA) – P81.83 million.</li> </ul> <p>Reporting on the performance of the tourism industry for 2018, Romulo-Puyat said that inbound revenues or revenues derived from non-resident visits reached P441.4 billion, surpassing the target set under the National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP) 2016-2022 and making tourism the third biggest export item in the country.</p> <p>Romulo-Puyat attributed the substantial increase in the revenues to foreign tourist arrivals in the Philippines, which rose from 6.6 million in 2017 to 7.17 million in 2018. Topping the list of key market countries, which contributed 84% of foreign arrivals, are South Korea, China, and the United States of America.</p> <p>For the first half of 2019, Romulo-Puyat said that the country's visitor revenues increased by 17.57%, or from P209 billion during the same period last year to an estimated P245 billion this year. The number of foreign tourist arrivals into the country has now reached 4.13 million by the first half of 2019, which is already over 50% of the target of 8.2 million for the entire year.</p> <p>DOT Assistant Secretary for Financial Management Leila Magda Rivera disclosed that the Office of the Secretary originally proposed a P4.3 billion budget for FY 2020, but the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) approved only P3.5 billion. According to Rivera, with the reduction in the budget, the DOT had to exclude projected additional administrative expenses intended for the improvement of its office facilities and online accreditation system.</p> <p>Several Committee Members pushed for an increase in the budget of the DOT given the scope of its operations and the various programs and projects it implements.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair, Rep. David "Jay-Jay" Suarez (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Quezon) sat as presiding officer during the deliberations on the budget of the DOLE and its attached agencies.</p> <p>Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said that under the FY 2020 NEP, the DOLE is set to receive a budget of P14.42 billion, which is 12% lower than its current budget of P16.36 billion.</p> <p>Bello also apprised the Committee of DOLE's key accomplishments in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancing the employability of workers and the competitiveness of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs);</li> <li>• Ensuring the protection of workers' rights and maintenance of industrial peace; and</li> <li>• Strengthening social protection for vulnerable workers.</li> </ul> <p>BAYAN MUNA Party-List Reps. Ferdinand Gaité and Carlos Isagani Zarate inquired on the steps undertaken by the DOLE to end contractualization. Bello reported that more than 500,000 workers were regularized from August 2016 to July 2019, but this figure is based only on the local establishments DOLE has inspected. The Department is unable to verify the exact number of workers that continue to be employed on contractual basis, Bello said, adding that around 900,000 more business establishments need to be</p>
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Continuation... Appropriations		<p>inspected. He asked for the help of Congress in augmenting DOLE's budget to be able to hire additional officers/inspectors to check the compliance of employers with labor laws.</p> <p>Committee Members also noted the decrease in the budget of the Department for MOOE affecting some of its vital programs like the Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program, Government Internship Program, Special Program for Employment of Students, Public Employment Service, Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD), and National Skills Registry System.</p> <p>Bello explained that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) cited DOLE's low absorptive capacity as the reason behind the budget cuts. This, he said, despite DOLE's 92% budget utilization rate in the previous year.</p> <p>Some of the Committee Members supported the call of Bello for the increase in the budget of DOLE.</p>
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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Government Reorganization	HBs 305, 343, 815, 1616, 1782, 1908, 2085, 2400, 3358, 3368, 3566 & 3668	Reps. Salceda, Romualdo, Biazon, Deputy Speaker Gonzales (N.), Rep. Salo, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Cua, Suansing (E.), Hofer, Garin (S.), Sarmiento, and Plaza	Instituting reforms in real property valuation and assessment in the Philippines, reorganizing the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF), and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Mario Vittorio 'Marvey' Mariño (5<sup>th</sup> District, Batangas), approved HB 305 in consolidation with HBs 343, 815, 1616, 1782, 1908, 2085, 2400, 3358, 3368, 3566 and 3668.</p> <p>Rep. Mariño said the proposed law may already be approved by the Committee pursuant to Section 48 of the House Rules which provides that priority bills passed on third reading by the House in the immediately preceding Congress may already be disposed of as matters already reported, upon approval by the Committee.</p> <p>Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1<sup>st</sup> District, Nueva Ecija), author of HB 2400, said that the passage of these bills will mean additional revenues for the local government units (LGUs) and will boost local autonomy.</p> <p>Department of Finance's (DOF) Strategy, Economics and Results Group Director Euvimil Nina Asuncion favors the bills explaining that multiple, conflicting and outdated property values cause confusion and result in lengthy court litigations, particularly in right-of-way (ROW) acquisitions. Consequently, this increases the cost of engineering, construction, and procurement components of infrastructure projects. She added that a uniform, credible and updated property valuation system will also ensure the proper collection of land transfer taxes.</p> <p>DOF's Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) Executive Director Niño Raymond Alvina also expressed his support for the bills. He said that real property tax offers a progressive source of revenue for the LGUs. Based on a study by World Bank, 60 to 75% of a country's wealth comes from</p>

Continuation... Government Reorganization				<p>real property revenues. However, the Philippines has not fully taken advantage of this opportunity due to the outdated schedule of market values (SMVs). Only 37% of LGUs have an updated SMV, according to Alvina.</p> <p>Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Albay), author of HB 305, explained that property valuation reform is essentially ensuring that the real property valuation is as faithful to actual market conditions as possible, otherwise, a fair tax system will not be achieved.</p> <p>Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Right-of-Way Acquisition and Enforcement Division Chief Ken Edward Sta. Rita agreed that problems in ROW acquisitions mostly stem from issues related to real property valuation itself. According to Sta. Rita, there are instances wherein the zonal value is much higher than the current market value, forcing the DPWH to opt for expropriation proceedings rather than enter into negotiation with the property owner.</p> <p>Resource persons present during the meeting expressed their full support for the immediate passage of the proposed measure.</p>
Legislative Franchises	HB 407	Deputy Speaker Villafuerte	Granting the Bicol Light and Power Corporation a franchise to construct, install, establish, operate, own, manage and maintain distribution systems for the conveyance of electric power to the end-users in the towns of Baao, Balatan, Bato, Buhi, Bula, Nabua, and the City of Iriga, Province of Camarines Sur	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Franz "Chicoy" Alvarez (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Palawan), approved HB 407 and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HB 2283	Rep. Dimaporo (M.K.)	Granting the Lanao del Norte Electric Cooperative a franchise to construct, operate and maintain a distribution system for the conveyance of electric power to the end-users in the Province of Lanao del Norte	The Committee approved HB 2283 and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HB 3400	Deputy Speaker Gonzales (A.)	Extending for another 25 years the franchise granted to First United Broadcasting Corporation (FUBC), presently known as Global Satellite Technology Services Inc., amending further for the purpose RA 8079, as amended by RA 8699	The Committee approved HB 3400 and the corresponding Committee Report, subject to style and amendment.
	HBs 2585 & 3005	Rep. Jimenez	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Golden Broadcast Professional, Inc. under RA 8025	The Committee deferred its consideration of HBs 2585 and 3005.
Transportation	HB 317	Rep. Pancho	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	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1<sup>st</sup> District, Samar), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune the two bills.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Sarmiento himself.</p>

Continuation... Transportation	HB 1954	Rep. Cabochan	Regulating harbor pilotage services and the conduct of harbor pilots in all ports in the Philippines	<p>Navotas City Rep. John Reynald Tiangco and Rep. Aloy Lim (Party-List, RAM) sponsored HBs 317 and 1954, respectively, in behalf of the authors.</p> <p>As defined in the bills, "pilotage service" refers to the act of conducting, navigating or maneuvering a vessel to and from berth or anchorage, along channels, basins, rivers and estuaries.</p> <p>Describing the current setup of pilotage services in the country, Rep. Sarmiento said only harbor pilots affiliated with or members of the United Harbor Pilots Association of the Philippines (UHPAP), the umbrella organization of harbor pilots, may render pilotage services in the country.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento added that the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) approves the number of harbor pilots in a particular port or pilotage district. He also said that pilotage fees and charges should be updated to make them more reasonable and competitive. (Executive Order No. 1088, issued on February 3, 1986, provides for the rates for pilotage services in all private and public ports in the country.)</p> <p>PPA representative Karlo Madrilejo explained that while the UHPAP accredits the harbor pilots who provide pilotage services in the ports, it is the PPA that issues the harbor license or permit to a particular port or pilotage district, as part of its mandate of regulating all ports in the country. He clarified, though, that there are other government port bodies which exercise authority over their own ports.</p> <p>UHPAP representative Rexilito Bermudez identified two issues arising from the proposed law: whether there is a need to change the current pilotage system and whether the pilotage fees will be highly regulated by the PPA.</p> <p>Another UHPAP representative, Ramon Verga Jr., mentioned that pilotage fees vary, ranging from P41 to P300, depending on the type of vessel and number of "moves" in a particular port as determined by the PPA. Verga added that at least 10% of the gross income derived from pilotage services is remitted to the government.</p> <p>Rep. Romeo Momo Sr. (Party-List, CWS) requested UHPAP to provide the Committee with data on the number of "moves" of a particular vessel in a particular port.</p> <p>Philippine Inter-Island Shipping Association (PISA) Executive Director Pedro Aguilar and Philippine Coastwise Shipping Association (PCSA) representative Herschel Magracia both recommended to the Committee to revisit EO No. 1088, which also made pilotage services compulsory in all ports in the country. They requested to make pilotage optional for domestic shipping.</p>
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Continuation... Transportation				Representatives from the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), Cebu Ports Authority (CPA), Port Users Confederation (PUC), Association of Filipino Ship Owners (AFSO), PCSA, PISA, and PPA manifested their support for the bills.
	HBs 314 & 4020	Reps. Pancho and Sarmiento	Establishing the scope and procedure for Philippine ship registry, recognition and enforcement of maritime claims, and limitation of liability, as well as providing essential incentives collectively resulting in a comprehensive and orderly Philippine ship registry system and regulation of vessels carrying the flag state	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to fine-tune the two bills.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Manuel Zubiri (3rd District, Bukidnon).</p> <p>The Philippine Ship Registry, being maintained by MARINA, holds the record of all vessels registered under Philippine laws. Any vessel duly registered in the Philippines and authorized to fly the Philippine flag is called a Philippine flag vessel.</p> <p>MARINA representative Jean Ver Pia expressed the agency's support for the proposed law as it addresses the clamor from various industry stakeholders to improve the system of ship registration in the country to attract more shipowners to register under the Philippine Ship Registry and boost the Philippines' standing in the global marine transportation market.</p> <p>The PCG, PPA, Department of Transportation (DOTr), and AFSO also manifested their support for the two bills.</p>