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ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Health	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18th Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Rep. Tan said that the Committee is composed of 65 Members and has general and exclusive jurisdiction over all matters directly and principally relating to public health and hygiene, and quarantine, medical, hospital and other health facilities and services.</p> <p>Rep. Tan likewise reported to the body that 7 national laws and 35 local laws were passed by the Committee during the 17th Congress.</p>
	<p>Briefing on the mandate, accomplishments, and plans and programs of the following agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Health (DOH) • Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) 	<p>The Committee listened to the briefing of the DOH and PhilHealth on their respective mandates, accomplishments, and plans and programs for the health sector.</p> <p>DOH Undersecretary Roger Tong-An said that the Department's presentation will focus on the overview of the Philippine health care situation.</p> <p>During her presentation, DOH Internal Planning Service officer, Dr. Ma. Soledad Antonio, gave several statistics highlighting improvements in the health of the Filipinos. She said that after 20 years, the average life span of Filipinos increased from 67 to 72 years old. She also reported that infant deaths decreased from an average of 130 daily deaths in 2003 to 110 daily deaths at present; and maternal deaths decreased from an average of 6 daily deaths in 2012 to 5 daily deaths in 2018. However, she admitted, much has to be done to address malnutrition among children and incidences of tuberculosis in the country.</p> <p>The vision of the DOH is to attain the National Objectives for Health for 2022, synchronized with the Universal Health Care (UHC) Law, and fulfill President Rodrigo Duterte's legislative agenda to have a better health outcome for Filipinos, responsive health system, and a more equitable health financing program.</p> <p>Antonio also mentioned the challenges being faced by the health sector such as the apparent fragmentation of the health system due to the devolution of health services delivery to the local government units, increasing out-of-pocket expenses on the part of patients, and lack of coordination among implementing agencies.</p> <p>PhilHealth Vice President Oscar Abadu briefed the Committee on the agency's accomplishments and the challenges it faces, as well as the benefits under the country's National Health Insurance Program.</p> <p>As of December 2018, Abadu said that 104.4 million Filipinos are covered by PhilHealth representing 98% of the entire Philippine population. PhilHealth benefits include hospitalization, outpatient packages (e.g. blood transfusion, chemotherapy, and dialysis), sustainable development goals (SDG) packages (e.g. maternity care, HIV management, and animal bite treatment), "Z benefit" packages (e.g. prolonged hospitalization and very expensive</p>

<p>Continuation... Health</p>		<p>treatments such as kidney transplant, breast cancer and prostate cancer treatments, and coronary bypass), and primary health care.</p> <p>Abadu also apprised the body that as of June 2019, the processing of claim payments now takes only 18 days as compared to 46 days in 2018, and that PhilHealth got a client satisfaction rating of 93.1% nationwide.</p> <p>Abadu said that PhilHealth is pursuing the institutionalization of a unified implementation of the “no balance billing” policy, upon the instructions of President Duterte, wherein government and private health care providers will work out an effective system for charging or billing medical expenses. Abadu mentioned that PhilHealth’s compliance rate under the no balance billing policy is 85% as of the 1st semester of 2019.</p> <p>The NBB policy provides that no other fees or expenses shall be charged to or paid for by patients from the vulnerable sectors, such as the poor and the elderly, above and beyond their PhilHealth coverage during their confinement in government hospitals or medical facilities.</p> <p>On PhilHealth’s financial performance, Abadu said it was able to sustain a strong performance by posting P33.6 billion in premium income as of March 31, 2019 representing an 11% year-on-year growth; and a P2.4 billion net income or a P1.17 billion increase during the same period. Despite these gains, however, he said that PhilHealth needs adequate financial resources to implement reforms under the UHC. He suggested the following measures: approval of the expanded alcohol excise tax; approval by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) of PhilHealth’s proposed appropriation for 2020; and direct transfer of funds from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR).</p>
<p>Public Works and Highways</p>	<p>Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee’s Rules of Procedure</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Romblon Rep. Eleandro Jesus Madrona, held its organizational meeting during which the Committee’s Rules of Procedure for the 18th Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Rep. Madrona said that the Committee has jurisdiction “over all matters directly and principally relating to the planning, construction, maintenance, improvement and repair of public infrastructure inclusive of buildings, highways, bridges, roads, parks, drainage, flood control and protection, water utilities and utilization of waters of the public domain.”</p> <p>The Committee created 11 subcommittees, one of which is the Subcommittee on Oversight for Infrastructure, which Rep. Madrona likewise will head. The other 10 subcommittees will be chaired by the 10 Committee vice chairpersons whose designation to the specific subcommittee will be announced at a later date.</p> <p>Rep. Madrona said there are already 236 legislative measures referred to the Committee as of August 7 which include proposals seeking the construction and conversion of roads, renaming of roads and bridges, and creation of district engineering offices in certain parts of the country.</p> <p>The Committee will invite the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in its next meeting to report on the status of implementation of the <i>Tulay ng Pangulo</i> Program.</p>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Health	HBs 163, 169, 197, 251, 391, 436, 532, 862, 1190, 1339, 1392, 1563, 2120, 2200 & 2682	Reps. Belmonte (J.C.), Tan (A.), Suansing (E), Gaito, Arroyo, Revilla, Paduano, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Espina, Go (M.), Vargas, Angara, Deputy Speaker Romero, Reps. Sy-Alvarado and Silverio	Providing renal replacement therapy (RRT) for patients with end stage renal disease in national, regional, and provincial government hospitals and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4 th District, Quezon), directed the Secretariat to consolidate the 15 bills and prepare the corresponding Committee Report for approval in the next meeting. At the outset, Rep. Tan informed the body that the national and local bills that are in the agenda for today's meeting are the same bills that were passed on Third Reading during the 17 th Congress.
	HBs 168, 440, 2728 & 3216	Reps. Tan (A.), Revilla, Rodriguez, and Deputy Speaker Villanueva	Establishing the Overseas Filipino Workers Hospital (OFW Hospital) and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee directed the Secretariat to consolidate the four bills and prepare the corresponding Committee Report for approval in the next meeting.
	HBs 172, 437, 1451 3078, 3079 & 3332	Reps. Tan (A), Revilla, Bagatsing, Saulog, and Tambunting	Expanding the coverage of the mandatory basic immunization program and providing a system in the determination of other types of vaccine preventable diseases, amending for the purpose RA 10152, otherwise known as the Mandatory Infants and Children Health Immunization Act of 2011	The Committee directed the Secretariat to consolidate the six bills and prepare the corresponding Committee Report for approval in the next meeting.
	HBs 688 and 2037	Reps. Aglipay and Sy-Alvarado	Requiring government agencies to indicate the blood type of individuals in the identification cards, certificates, and licenses	The Committee directed the Secretariat to consolidate HBs 688 and 2037 and prepare the corresponding Committee Report for approval in the next meeting.
	HBs 1365, 1492, 1502, 1902, 2004 & 3022	Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Tan (A.), Chatto, Go (M.), Vargas, and Palma	Authorizing the Department of Health (DOH) to set and approve the bed capacity and the service capability of all DOH hospitals	The Committee directed the Secretariat to consolidate the six bills and prepare the corresponding Committee Report for approval in the next meeting.
	HBs 831, 1152, 1477, 1804, 1805, 1996 & 2582	Reps. Bordado, Romualdez (Y.), Barbers, Deputy Speaker Savellano, Reps. Matugas and Abueg-Zaldivar	Increasing/upgrading the bed capacity of certain hospitals in the country, upgrading their professional health care services and facilities, authorizing the increase of their medical personnel and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee directed the Secretariat to consolidate the seven bills and prepare the corresponding Committee Report for approval in the next meeting.
	HB 1799	Rep. Gullas	Renaming the Talisay District Hospital in Talisay City, Province of Cebu into Cebu South Medical Center and appropriating funds therefor, amending for the purpose RA 7799 or the law establishing the Talisay District Hospital	The Committee approved HB 1799. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report for approval in the next meeting.

Continuation... Health	HB 2444	Deputy Speaker Villafuerte	Providing for the establishment of women's and children's hospital in the Municipality of Pamplona in the Province of Camarines Sur, to be known as the Bicol Women's and Children's Hospital, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 2444. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report for approval in the next meeting.
	HB 2504	Rep. Roque	Establishing the Teodoro N. Pepito Memorial Hospital in the City of Valencia, Province of Bukidnon and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 2504. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report for approval in the next meeting.
	HBs 1140, 2309, 2511, 2536, 2540, 2543, 2849, 2891, 3114, 3273, 3345, 3486 & 3651	Reps. Ouano-Dizon, Gatchalian, Almario, Deputy Speaker Gonzalez (A.), Rep. Daza, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Villaraza-Suarez, Nieto, Sy-Alvarado, Romualdez (Y.), Deloso-Montalla, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, and Rep. Tan (A.)	Institutionalizing/establishing Malasakit Centers in all public hospitals all over the Philippines and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the 13 bills.</p> <p>The authors said that the "Malasakit Center" was a project initiated by Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go. It is a one-stop shop that will offer the services of the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), PhilHealth, and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), allowing patients to avail themselves of speedy medical assistance.</p> <p>Majority of the Members agreed to have at least one "Malasakit Center" per province.</p> <p>Representatives from the following government agencies and institutions expressed their support for the bills: DOH, DSWD, PhilHealth, PCSO, Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Philippine Veterans Hospital, Victoriano Luna Hospital, and West Visayas State University.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers for the TWG's reference in its deliberations on the bills.</p>
Ways and Means	HB 176	Rep. Suansing (H.)	Amending Sections 4, 5, 20, 22, 27, 28, 34, 40, 50, 73, 112, 117, 204, 222, 237, 237-A, 255, 256, 257, 258, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 275, 288, 290 and adding Sections 6-A, 282-A, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 301-A, 301-B, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, and 314 under the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997, as amended (by reducing the corporate income tax rate and rationalizing the grant of fiscal incentives to investors and locators)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), approved HB 176 with amendments.</p> <p>The Secretariat was instructed to prepare a substitute bill and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>HB 176, authored by Rep. Horacio Suansing Jr. (2nd District, Sultan Kudarat) and Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija), is similar to the bill that was approved on Third Reading by the House during the 17th Congress.</p> <p>House Speaker Alan Peter "Compañero" Cayetano (1st District, Taguig City-Pateros) thanked the Committee for immediately buckling down to work, citing the importance of passing vital revenue measures that will support the proposed national budget for Fiscal Year 2020.</p> <p>The Speaker said that debates among Members and expression of opinions from stakeholders on the tax measures under deliberation by the Committee are encouraged to produce the best</p>

Continuation... Ways and Means				<p>legislation that Congress can pass all for the benefit of the Filipino people. But he also reminded the body of the time frame for the passage of the legislative priorities, looking at October as the earliest time for the passage of the more important ones.</p> <p>The proposed law under deliberation, also called the Corporate Income Tax and Incentives Reform Act (CITIRA), seeks to gradually lower the corporate income tax (CIT) rate from 30% to 20% by 2029 and to promote a fair and accountable tax incentives system that is targeted, performance-based, time-bound, and transparent.</p> <p>Rep. Salceda said that the proposed law, a legislative priority of President Duterte, aims to institute reforms in the present tax system. He explained that the Philippines imposes the highest CIT rate in Asia at 30%, which discourages potential investors to invest or put up their business in the country in favor of other Asian countries offering better incentives and lower corporate income tax.</p> <p>Rep. France Castro (Party-List, ACT-TEACHERS) inquired on how the lowering of corporate income tax will create more employment.</p> <p>Department of Finance (DOF) Undersecretary Karl Kendrick Chua said that the proposed CITIRA will generate savings for corporations, because of lower corporate income tax, allowing them to invest in other business ventures and creating more jobs in the process.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Michael Edgar Aglipay (Party-List, DIWA), Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) Director General Charito Plaza said that other factors that can entice investors to put up their business in the country, aside from fiscal incentives, are an attractive supply chain environment, efficient international seaports and airports, lower power rates, and low labor cost.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Metro Manila Development	<p>Briefing by the following government agencies on their respective programs and projects for Metro Manila:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Tourism (DOT) 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Manuel Luis Lopez (1st District, Manila), listened to the briefing of concerned government agencies on their respective programs and projects for Metro Manila.</p> <p>DOT National Capital Region (NCR) Regional Director Woodrow Maquiling Jr. presented the Department's mandate and accomplishments.</p> <p>Explaining the DOT's role in the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project (MBRP), Maquiling said that the Department ensures that accredited tourism establishments promote sustainable tourism and comply with the terms of the permit to operate issued by local government units (LGUs) and environmental clearance from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).</p>

<p>Continuation... Metro Manila Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Housing Authority (NHA) Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) 	<p>Maquiling also highlighted the DOT's Express Accreditation project, a one-stop shop that facilitates the processing of tourism enterprises' applications for accreditation. The Express Accreditation is a joint effort between the DOT and the LGUs.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Minority Leader Bienvenido Abante Jr. (6th District, Manila), Maquiling said that under Memorandum Circular 2019-17 issued by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), it is now mandatory for primary tourism enterprises to secure accreditation from the DOT before they will be issued a license or permit to operate.</p> <p>The DOT also reported on the status of submission of the local tourism development plans of the LGUs in Metro Manila. Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo, having learned from the DOT that the City has not submitted its local tourism development plan yet, expressed the hope that under the leadership of the new mayor, Pasig City will be able to submit it soon.</p> <p>NHA Regional Director for North Sector Maria Teresa Oblipias presented the status of NHA's housing program for informal settler families (ISFs) living along waterways and danger areas and affected by government infrastructure projects. Oblipias reported that 86,832 out of the targeted 101,210 housing units for ISFs were already completed, of which 68,380 units have already been occupied.</p> <p>Oblipias sought the help of Metro Manila LGUs in identifying lands for in-city resettlement, saying that the lack of available lands has hampered in-city resettlement projects.</p> <p>Rep. Wes Gatchalian (1st District, Valenzuela) shared the success story of the in-city resettlement project of the local government of Valenzuela City situated within a 14-hectare property, which provided housing to 3,000 ISFs.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Navotas City Rep. John Reynald Tiangco noted that the NHA has been selling some of its properties to private entities instead of offering these first to the government for its housing and resettlement projects. He asked the NHA to submit a list of its properties sold to private entities.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to conduct a <i>motu proprio</i> inquiry on the alleged sale of NHA properties in Metro Manila to private entities. It also agreed to inquire into the relocation of ISFs affected by the construction of the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) - South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) Connector Road Project.</p> <p>PhilHealth Public Affairs Unit head Raymond Acoba presented the salient features of the Universal Health Care (UHC) Law.</p> <p>Acoba said every Filipino shall be automatically included in the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) and everyone shall be granted medical and hospital services. PhilHealth also implements the "no balance billing" policy wherein PhilHealth members, especially the indigents, will not have to pay their hospital bills in excess of their PhilHealth coverage.</p> <p>In view of recent allegations of fraud in PhilHealth claims, Acoba said the Corporation remains steadfast in its commitment to promote good governance and pursue stronger anti-fraud measures.</p> <p>PAGCOR submitted its report on the status of programs and projects for years 2017-2019. PAGCOR legal officer Arnold Ferdinand Salvosa reported that because of policy changes, PAGCOR is winding up the construction of school buildings which was its flagship project last year under its corporate social responsibility (CSR) program. Salvosa</p>
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<p>Continuation... Metro Manila Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) • Other Departments/Offices 	<p>added that 50% of the government's share from PAGCOR's income will be earmarked for the implementation of the UHC Law.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon said that Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations (POGOs), which hire mostly Chinese nationals, may be a risk to national security. He claimed that in his district where POGO is being operated, crime incidents involving Chinese nationals have been reported. He asked PAGCOR and other concerned agencies to ensure the safety and security of Filipinos in communities where POGOs are being operated and that this kind of business should not be used as front for illegal activities.</p> <p>BFP NCR Regional Director Wilberto Rico Kwan Tiu presented the plans and programs of the Bureau. He mentioned the need to establish a special rescue unit in every fire station.</p> <p>Several House Members noted that in several firefighting operations of the BFP, its personnel had been attacked by residents in the affected area who wanted their homes be attended to first. They said that the BFP should seek the support of the Philippine National Police (PNP) during firefighting operations to ensure the safety of the firefighters and to allow them to focus on their duty.</p> <p>The NCR Regional Directors of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the DENR also presented their respective plans and programs in Metro Manila and their accomplishments for the past years.</p> <p>On the other hand, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) did not make any presentation but responded to the queries of several House Members on the status of their requests for ambulances for their respective districts.</p>
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