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ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Basic Education and Culture	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo, held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18th Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee has jurisdiction over all matters directly and principally relating to pre-school, kindergarten, primary and secondary education, science high schools except the Philippine Science High School System, teachers and students' welfare, alternative learning systems, special education and community adult education, the national language, libraries and museums, and the preservation and enrichment of Filipino arts and culture.</p>
Higher and Technical Education	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18th Congress was adopted, subject to amendment. The amended Rules of Procedure will be submitted to the Committee on Rules for approval.</p> <p>Rep. Go explained that some terms used in the Committee's Rules of Procedure, particularly the section pertaining to the Committee's jurisdiction, should be updated to conform to international standards and existing laws. He cited the term "distance learning," which is now commonly referred to as "open distance learning" both here and abroad, and specifically under RA 10650 or the "Open Distance Learning Act." Another such term is "tertiary education," which already encompasses both higher education and post-secondary and technical education.</p> <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee has jurisdiction over matters relating to "post-secondary and tertiary education, technical education, distance education, students and teachers' welfare, and centers of excellence."</p>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Basic Education and Culture	HBs 751 & 3019	Reps. Limkaichong and Palma	Establishing a separate schools division office in the City of Canlaon, Province of Negros Oriental and in the Municipality of Diplahan, Province of Zamboanga Sibugay, respectively, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo, approved the bills, subject to compliance with existing policies on the creation of new schools division in public schools.
	HBs 6 & 2475	Speaker Cayetano and Rep. Suarez (D.)	Providing for additional support and compensation for educators in basic education	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the bills.</p> <p>With regard to bills of similar nature earlier referred to the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee will request the Committee on Rules for a change of referral so that these bills will be included in the TWG deliberations.</p>

<p>Continuation... Basic Education and Culture</p>				<p>Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara (3rd District, Nueva Ecija) was designated as TWG Chair.</p> <p>Rep. David "Jay-Jay" Suarez (2nd District, Quezon), author of HB 2475, presented the merits of his bill, explaining the lack of support and remuneration for teachers in basic education.</p> <p>Rep. Vergara raised the need for the Committee to also look into the compensation and other benefits of teachers in private schools to determine if they are receiving just compensation as well.</p> <p>Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Leonor Briones informed the body that a study conducted by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) revealed that the disparity between the salaries and benefits of public and private school teachers ranges from 20% to 70% in favor of public school teachers. This scenario has encouraged professionals from other fields to shift their careers to public school teaching, Briones said.</p> <p>Replying to the query of House Members regarding the special hardship allowance being given to public school teachers, Briones said that the allowance is sourced from the Department's savings. However, she agreed that the mechanics for its implementation should be reviewed by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).</p> <p>Rep. France Castro (Party-List, ACT-TEACHERS) proposed that the teachers' special hardship allowance be funded under the annual appropriations of the DepEd and not merely tied to the latter's savings. She also recommended the updating of the guidelines on the grant of this allowance to ensure a harmonized implementation across the different regions in the country.</p> <p>The DepEd was requested to submit a list of all laws pertaining to programs on basic education that are under-funded or remains unfunded as of the present.</p>
	<p>HBs 54, 285, 1312, 1400 & 3311</p>	<p>Reps. Cabochan, Suansing (E.), Gatchalian, Vargas, and Villar</p>	<p>Instituting inclusive education, establishing inclusive education learning resource centers for children and youth with special needs (CYSN) in all public schools divisions, providing for standards and guidelines, and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to consolidate the nine bills.</p> <p>Rep. Christopher de Venecia (4th District, Pangasinan) was designated as TWG Chair.</p>
	<p>HBs 758, 1915 & 2136</p>	<p>Reps. Biazon, Olivarez, and Castelo</p>	<p>Establishing special education (SPED) centers for children with special needs (CSN) in every school division and local government unit, appropriating funds therefor</p>	

Continuation... Basic Education and Culture	HB 614	Rep. Vargas	Ensuring accessible and responsive basic education for CSN through the creation of a Bureau of Special Education, the mandatory establishment of SPED centers in regular schools, the provision of government financial assistance and support to CSN, and the grant of incentives to other institutions providing assistance to the CSN sector	
	HBs 222, 871, 1285, 2041 & 3449	Reps. Castro (F.), Umali (M.V.), Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Rep. Vargas, and Deputy Speaker Santos-Recto	Providing for teaching supplies allowance for public school teachers and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to consolidate the five bills.</p> <p>The Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Leo Rafael Cueva (2nd District, Negros Occidental), was designated as TWG Chair.</p> <p>Rep. Castro, author of HB 222, said that her bill seeks to increase the current teaching allowance from P3,500.00 to P5,000.00 per annum.</p> <p>Manila Public School Teachers Association (MPSTA) President Solita Daz lamented that the present teaching supplies allowance for public school teachers can barely meet the actual expenses incurred by teachers for such supplies.</p> <p>Briones apprised the body that a new salary adjustment for government personnel, including teachers, is already being studied by the DBM for possible implementation.</p>
	HBs 606, 1118, 1192, 1241, 1309, 2087, 2447, 2559, 2613, 2685, 3181, 3337 & 3376	Reps. Acop, Tupas, Velasco, Torres-Gomez, Gatchalian, Deputy Speakers Abu and Villafuerte, Reps. Violago, Nograles (J.J.), Chipeco, Tolentino, Deputy Speaker Romero, and Rep. Salceda	Mandating the institutionalization, development, training, organization and administration of basic reserve officers' training corps (ROTC) in Grades 11 and 12 in public and private educational institutions, amending for the purpose RA 7077, otherwise known as the Citizen Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to deliberate on these bills jointly with the Committee on Higher and Technical Education.</p> <p>As such, the Committee will request the Committee on Rules for a joint referral of all ROTC bills, with the Committee on Basic Education and Culture as the lead committee and the Committee on Higher and Technical Education as the secondary committee.</p>
Higher and Technical Education	HBs 1228, 3323 & 3736	Reps. Pineda, Tambunting, and Rodriguez	Mandating the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to include labor education in the tertiary education curriculum	<p>The Committee, chaired by Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, agreed to consolidate and approve the three bills and thereafter approved the corresponding Committee Report, subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN), author of HB 1228, underscored the need to include labor education in college to ensure that students in tertiary education, who may become part of the labor force after graduation, are informed early on of the workers' rights and privileges under current laws and policies.</p> <p>Rep. Pineda said that a bill with a similar subject matter was approved on Third Reading during the 17th Congress.</p>

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education	HB 823	Deputy Speaker Gonzales (A.)	Mandating the integration of the National Building Code of the Philippines as one of the subjects in Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Sanitary Engineering, and Architecture	<p>The Committee approved HB 823 and the corresponding Committee Report, subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>A bill with similar subject matter was approved on Third Reading during the 17th Congress.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales Jr. (3rd District, Pampanga), author of HB 823, presented the merits of his bill. The bill makes it mandatory to include the National Building Code as one of the subjects in bachelor degrees which have something to do with building design, construction, occupancy and maintenance. It aims to inculcate in the minds of the students valuable technical information contained in the Code to ensure that they are better equipped as they practice their profession, avoiding, in the process, damage or harm to life, health, property, and public welfare.</p> <p>Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) President Tirso Ronquillo and Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations of the Philippines (COCOPEA) legal counsel Joseph Estrada expressed their support for the bill.</p>
	HBs 423, 623, 681, 1232, 1711, 2228, 2288, 2306, 2377, 2406, 2454-2457 & 2495	Reps. Rodriguez, Marquez, Violago, Espina, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Matugas, Dimaporo (M.K.), Castelo, Robes, Suansing (E.), Tan (A.), and Madrona	Providing for the establishment of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) training and accreditation centers in various parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the 15 bills, subject to style and amendment.
	HBs 571 & 1590	Reps. Gasataya and Hofer	Establishing a CHED office in the provinces of Negros Occidental and Zamboanga Sibugay and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HBs 571 and 1590 subject to style and amendment.
	HBs 1770, 2197 & 3741	Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Sy-Alvarado, and Rodriguez	Mandating higher education institutions and technical-vocational institutions to ensure the safety and security of the academic community from internal and external threats, thereby creating a Crime Prevention Committee for this purpose	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to harmonize the bills and thresh out the issues raised during the meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Go said that a bill with similar subject matter was approved on Third Reading during the 16th and 17th Congresses.</p> <p>Representatives from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), National Youth Commission (NYC), PASUC and COCOPEA expressed their support to the bills.</p>