

# Committee Daily Bulletin



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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food	HB 5522	Rep. Gonzalez (F.)	Creating a Carabao Center in Ligao City, Albay, amending for the purpose Republic Act 7307 or the law creating the Philippine Carabao Center to propagate and promote the Philippine carabao	The Committee, presided by Rep. Agapito Guanlao (Party-List, BUTIL), approved HB 5522. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the Committee Report on the bill.
	HRs 2483 & 2488	Reps. Suansing & Guanlao	Urging the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) to waive/exempt farmers who were affected by Typhoon Lando from the payment of irrigation service fees (ISF)	<p>The Committee consolidated the two resolutions and adopted the same subject to the submission of required documents.</p> <p>Rep. Guanlao requested the NIA to submit to the Committee a copy of the agreements entered into by NIA on the utilization of water in all dams; status report on projects implemented; and a report on its review of NIA Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 52 s. 1982, exempting farmers harvesting less than 40 cavans of palay per hectare from the payment of irrigation service fees under certain circumstances like typhoon and flood.</p> <p>Likewise, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) was requested to submit to the Committee a report on the allocation of water from dams.</p> <p>Typhoon Lando entered the Philippines on October 14, 2015 causing considerable infrastructure and agricultural damages costing billions of pesos. Central Luzon, which is known as the "Rice Granary of the Philippines," was worst hit.</p>
Labor and Employment	HR 2447	Rep. Mendoza (R.D.)	Investigation into the on-going labor dispute between the management of the Philippine Airlines (PAL) and the Philippine Airlines Employees Association (PALEA)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles (1<sup>st</sup> District, Davao City), will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 2447 in its next meeting.</p> <p>The resolution, authored by Rep. Raymond Democrito Mendoza (Party-List, TUCP), calls for an inquiry into the on-going labor dispute between the management of PAL and PALEA to come up with recommendations, draw out best practices, and explore possible options to address the problem. This is to prevent the situation from escalating "into a full-scale labor dispute, affecting not only the protagonists, but the travelling public" as well, the resolution states.</p> <p>PALEA President Gerardo Rivera reported that a total of 117 PAL employees were terminated supposedly due to an organizational</p>

Continuation... Labor and Employment				<p>restructuring which had rendered several positions in the company redundant.</p> <p>Rivera and his group questioned this decision of the PAL management claiming that the employees who were terminated were immediately replaced with new workers hired by PAL's service provider.</p> <p>PAL legal counsel Ma. Clara De Castro pointed out that PAL continues to hold talks with PALEA, through its national treasurer Eugene Soriano, to address the plight of those who were terminated from the service. She said that Soriano was informed about the 57 vacant positions that need to be filled up by PAL's service provider, although only 32 were eventually hired.</p> <p>Rivera criticized PAL's stand of only negotiating with Soriano being the only PALEA official who is currently a regular employee of PAL. He stressed that PALEA is a collegial body, composed of 21 officials, which should be consulted on matters concerning collective bargaining agreement (CBA).</p> <p>Director Benjo Santos Benavides of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) opined that employers should adhere to Department Order (DO) No. 147-15 issued by DOLE in terminating their employees. (DO No. 147-15 provides for the standards and grounds for just and authorized causes of termination of employment.) He added that a law may be needed to give more teeth to the said department order.</p> <p>The service provider of PAL will be invited to attend the next Committee meeting to comment on its service contract with PAL.</p>
Transportation	HBs 5447, 5448 & 5821	Reps. Abueg & Roque	Establishing an extension office of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) in the Municipalities of Brooke's Point and Narra, both in the Province of Palawan, and in the City of Valencia, Province of Bukidnon, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, approved HBs 5447, 5448, and 5821 subject to style.</p> <p>LTO Assistant Secretary Alfonso Tan Jr. expressed support for the bills. However, he suggested that instead of establishing extension offices in the municipalities mentioned, it is better to establish LTO regular offices so that they will have their own funding and personnel.</p>
	HB 5655	Rep. Abaya (F.G.)	Converting the Land Transportation Office (LTO) Licensing Center in the Municipality of Kawit, Province of Cavite into a regular licensing center to be known as the LTO Cavite Licensing Center of Kawit, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 5655.
	HR 2236	Rep. Del Mar	Directing the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) and the Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority (MCIAA) to fast-track the construction of the MCIAA second runway,	<p>The Committee adopted HR 2236.</p> <p>MCIAA General Manager Nigel Paul Villarete said the MCIAA Board already approved the 2<sup>nd</sup> runway project. With regard to the</p>

Continuation... Transportation			utilizing as fund source the P14.4 billion premium remitted by the GMR-Megawide consortium in relation to the award of the public-private partnership (PPP) project for the construction of the new MCIAA passenger terminal bldg (PTB-2) and the operations and maintenance of the ramp of the existing and new PTBs	<p>utilization of the premium paid by the concessionaire to finance the project, the DOTC and the Department of Finance (DOF) are still discussing the legality of the matter.</p> <p>The Department of Budget and Management (DBM), through its representative Division Chief Aracelia Dela Cruz, interposes no objection to HR 2236.</p>
Youth and Sports	Substitute Bill to HBs 4906, 5083 & 4174 and HR 1626	Reps. Del Rosario (A.G.), Quisumbing, Rodriguez (R.) & Guiao	Establishing a state-of-the-art and highly scientific sports complex known as the National Amateur Sports Training Center, and funding for the acquisition of property and construction of facilities, including the administration, maintenance, and management of the same	<p>The Committee, chaired by ALAY BUHAY Party-List Rep. Wes Gatchalian, deferred the approval of the substitute bill pending the results of the meeting between the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) and Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC) pertaining to the lease of a 50-hectare land in Clark identified to be a suitable site for the planned state-of-the-art sports complex.</p> <p>PSC Chair Ricardo Garcia disclosed that initial talks on the lease of the land for the sports complex were stalled when CIAC reneged on its earlier commitment to lease the property for a token amount of P150,000 a year, and instead raised the rental fee to P150,000 per hectare or P7.5 million a year.</p> <p>Garcia lamented that the Philippines lags behind in sports development and training compared to its neighbors, as can be seen in the performance of Filipino athletes during international competitions. He cited as reasons the poor state of the country's training facilities such as the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex and the miniscule budget of the PSC.</p> <p>Lauro Ortile, CIAC Vice President for Administration and Finance, reported that the 50-hectare land in Clark is also being eyed by CIAC for the construction of a secondary runway in anticipation of higher volume of tourist arrivals in the future.</p> <p>Ortile, however, said the CIAC is willing to sit down with the PSC to come up with an agreement mutually acceptable to both sides.</p> <p>Rep. Joseller "Yeng" Guiao (1<sup>st</sup> District, Pampanga) assured the PSC that the Committee will exert all efforts to get additional funding for the sports complex.</p> <p>The Committee requested the PSC and CIAC to submit a report on the outcome of their meeting which is scheduled on December 14.</p>
	HB 5709	Rep. Gatchalian (S.)	Establishing a Human Trafficking Preventive Education Program for the youth and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to deliberate further on HB 5709 in its next meeting.</p> <p>The stakeholders present were requested to submit to the Committee their respective position papers on the bill.</p> <p>Samir Manzanilla, Social Welfare Officer III of</p>

Continuation... Youth and Sports				<p>the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) expressed support for the bill.</p> <p>National Youth Commission (NYC) Commissioner Jo Jan Paul Peñol likewise interposed no objection to the proposed measure.</p>
	HB 5896	Rep. Gatchalian (S.)	Providing for the Magna Carta of the Out-of-School-Youth	<p>The Committee agreed to deliberate further on HB 5896 in its next meeting.</p> <p>The stakeholders present were requested to submit to the Committee their respective position papers on the bill.</p> <p>Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) Planning Officer Normina Mojica underscored the importance of the proposed measure in addressing the problems being faced by out-of-school youths (OSYs), citing the latest report on the increase in HIV-AIDS disease particularly among the OSYs.</p>
	HB 6116	Rep. Gatchalian (W.)	Creating the provincial, city, municipal and barangay youth and sports development councils	<p>The Committee agreed to deliberate further on HB 6116 in its next meeting.</p> <p>The stakeholders present were requested to submit to the Committee their position papers on the bill.</p>

AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Foreign Affairs	Discussion on the legal, political, strategic, and environmental aspects of the issue pertaining to the West Philippine Sea	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Al Francis Bichara (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Albay), discussed with the representatives from the academe, media and non-government organizations (NGOs) the issues and implications concerning the Philippines' maritime claims in the West Philippine Sea (WPS).</p> <p>Rep. Bichara noted that the following bills, which were already passed by the House on third reading, may have relevance to the WPS issue: HB 4889 (Philippine Maritime Zones Act) and HB 5487 (Philippine Archipelagic Sea Lanes Act).</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rodolfo Biazon narrated the presentation of the arbitration case filed by the Philippines against China before the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague, Netherlands. Rep. Biazon was part of the Philippine delegation to the Hague for the arbitral proceedings.</p> <p>Veteran Journalist and China Analyst Jose Santiago Sta. Romana said that China has left the Philippines with no choice but to pursue arbitration. He also stated that if the Philippines wins its case in the arbitral body, it will have legal leverage in a negotiation with China.</p> <p>Richard Javad Heydarian, Assistant Professor in International Affairs and Political Science at the De La Salle University, pointed out that the Philippines has set a precedent to other claimant states such as Vietnam and Malaysia to pursue their claims against China based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).</p> <p>Executive Director Dr. Clarita Carlos of the Center for Political and</p>



<p>Continuation... Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Truck ban and passing through stickers implemented by local government units (LGUs)</li>   <li>• Implementation of the terminal appointment booking system (TABS) in ports</li> </ul>	<p>(DOTC), but is still up for review and approval by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento stated that the current motor vehicle inspection system involves emission testing and visual inspection only.</p> <p>Tan explained that there is a need to have an automated system for vehicle inspection to ensure the road worthiness of vehicles, particularly the PUVs, before their registration is renewed with the LTO.</p> <p>Domingo Valencia, director of the Confederation of Truckers Association of the Philippines (CTAP), said his group has submitted its position paper to the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) and the DOTC opposing the implementation of the MVIS.</p> <p>(The MVIS project will involve the establishment of an automatic inspection system and the creation of testing centers across the country.)</p> <p>In response to the complaints of several truckers, lawyer Earl James Saludo of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) disclosed that the Department has issued a memorandum circular suspending the imposition and collection of the pass-through fees by the LGUs.</p> <p>CTAP chair Rodolfo De Ocampo confirmed that the DILG has already acted on the truckers' complaint about the passing-through fees collected by LGUs. One other major problem affecting the trucking business, he said, is the imposition of a truck ban by some LGUs. He suggested that instead of a truck ban, a special lane be designated for use by trucks.</p> <p>The Committee advised the leaders of the trucking industry to discuss the problem with the DILG which has jurisdiction over the LGUs.</p> <p>The representatives of the Asian Terminal Incorporated (ATI) and the International Container Terminal Services Incorporated (ICTSI) gave an update on the implementation of the TABS in Manila ports.</p> <p>ATI vice president Sean James Perez explained how the TABS works. He said under the system, a broker or a trucker books ahead of time his transaction at the terminal along with the time of arrival of the trucks so that there will be no long hours of waiting at the terminal. He said when the TABS was implemented starting in October, there had been fewer problems.</p> <p>Voltaire Wycoco, ICTSI manager for government relations, said the TABS, which was patterned after the system being used in Australia, was implemented to address the congestion at the ports. He mentioned that about 1,000 trucks are arriving every hour in the port area which have become unmanageable. He said, currently, 50% of the truckers are using the system, and they are aiming for 100% by January next year.</p>
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