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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Games and Amusements	HB 5026	Minority Leader Suarez	Declaring the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office's (PCSO) "Philippine lotto" and small town lottery (STL) the solely recognized legal numbers games	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Gus Tambunting (2nd District, Parañaque City), will deliberate further on HB 5026 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Minority Leader Danilo Suarez (3rd District, Quezon), author of HB 5026, cited the unchecked and persistent proliferation of illegal numbers games depriving the government billions of pesos in revenues as the primary reason for proposing that the "lotto" and the STL be declared as the only legally recognized numbers games in the country.</p> <p>In today's meeting, the Committee's discussion focused on the status of PCSO's lease contracts with the Philippine Gaming Management Corporation (PGMC) and the Pacific Online Systems Corporation (Pacific Online).</p> <p>PCSO OIC-Assistant General Manager for Gaming, Product Development and Marketing Arnel Casas said that the contracts with Pacific Online and PGMC will expire in July and August of this year, respectively.</p> <p>PGMC supplies or leases online lottery equipment, including lottery terminals, for the lotto operation of PCSO in Luzon. On the other hand, Pacific Online is engaged in the development and management of online computer systems, terminals, and software for Visayas and Mindanao.</p> <p>Most of the Members of the Committee asked what the PCSO's subsequent plans are considering that the contracts of PGMC and Pacific Online will expire soon.</p> <p>PCSO General Manager Alexander Balutan informed the Committee that the PCSO cannot proceed with the bidding for a new service provider for its unified national online lottery program because of the writ of preliminary injunction issued by the Makati Regional Trial Court (RTC) against PCSO.</p>

Continuation... Games and Amusements				<p>The injunction order stemmed from PGMC's petition stopping the bidding process, insisting on its claim that it is the exclusive provider of the online lottery system of PCSO in the Luzon area. Several years back, the PGMC filed a case pertaining to this supposed exclusive right, which is yet to be resolved through arbitration.</p> <p>Asked if PCSO intends to buy the lottery equipment being leased out by PGMC and Pacific Online, Casas replied that PCSO will not buy the leased equipment since they are already obsolete and have already reached their useful life.</p> <p>The PCSO was requested to submit the documents required by the Members of the Committee.</p>
Government Enterprises and Privatization	HBs 7139, 7381 & 7651	Reps. Silverio, Sy-Alvarado, and Garcia (J.E.)	Creating the Regional Investment and Infrastructure Corporation of Central Luzon to facilitate the creation of the Central Luzon Investment Corridor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan (1 st District North Cotabato), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the four bills.
	HB 7380	Rep. Roman	Creating the Luzon Investment Corridor and the Regional Investment and Infrastructure Development Council	<p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Mario Vittorio "Marvey" Mariño (5th District, Batangas).</p> <p>Reps. Lorna Silverio (3rd District, Bulacan), Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2nd District, Bataan), and Geraldine Roman (1st District, Bataan) presented the merits of their respective bills.</p> <p>National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Region III Senior Economic Development Specialist Jesito Ponio Jr. suggested that the proposed Regional Investment and Infrastructure Council (RIIC), under HB 7380, should focus on oversight and coordinative functions as well as on reviewing, identifying, and recommending priority infrastructure projects in coordination with the Regional Development Council.</p> <p>Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) Legal Counsel Francis Brillantes opposes the creation of a body, like the RIIC, that will function as an investment promotion agency (IPA). Brillantes also said that aside from duplicating the functions of IPAs like the PEZA, such bodies being proposed to be created under the bills might grant incentives to other investors that would be more attractive than those being granted to locators inside special economic zones.</p> <p>Rep. Mariño said that the incentives that the proposed RIIC will provide should be the same as those already being granted by PEZA to its locators, otherwise there will be undue competition between these agencies.</p>

Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. w/ Local Government	HB 7236	Rep. Garcia (J.E.)	Creating the Metro Bataan Development Authority (MBDA), defining its powers and functions, providing funds therefor	<p>The Joint Committee, presided by Rep. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan (1st District, North Cotabato), Chair of the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization, will deliberate further on HB 7236 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Resource persons present were requested to submit their respective position papers for the Joint Committee's consideration.</p> <p>Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2nd District, Bataan), author of HB 1418, urged the passage of the bill establishing the MBDA as an agency under the Office of the President. At present, the MBDA exists by virtue of a provincial ordinance. (HB 1418 was substituted by HB 7236, which was reported out by the Joint Committee, but was subsequently recommitted to it by the Committee on Rules for further study.)</p> <p>Commenting on the observations of the Committee on Rules, Rep. Sacdalan said that the bill will not result in overlapping of functions between the MBDA and the local government units (LGUs) in the Province of Bataan or any national government agency.</p> <p>He underscored the importance of creating local development authorities, such as the MBDA, in various provinces for a more efficient and effective delivery of basic services and enforcement of laws.</p>
Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. w/ Transportation	HB 7407	Speaker Alvarez	Strengthening the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), abolishing the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) and transferring its functions to the CAAP	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan (1st District, North Cotabato), Chair of the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization, and Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, Chair of the Committee on Transportation, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to thresh out some issues related to the bill. The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Edgar Sarmiento (1st District, Samar).</p> <p>The resource persons present during the meeting expressed concern about the proposal to transfer CAB's functions to CAAP, citing the following issues: whether or not CAAP can absorb the employees of CAB; possible conflict of interest when CAB's policy-making functions will be transferred to CAAP which implements the policies of the CAB; and whether or not the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) will still participate in the negotiations of service agreements with foreign airline companies when the proposed law is passed.</p>
Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. w/ Veterans Affairs and Welfare	HB 7428	Rep. Mendoza	Amending certain sections of RA 2640 or the law creating a public corporation to be known as the Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP) (by relieving the Secretary of National Defense of the responsibility of managing the VFP)	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan (1st District, North Cotabato), Chair of the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization, and Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2nd District, Pangasinan), Chair of the Committee on</p>

Continuation... Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. w/ Veterans Affairs and Welfare				Veterans Affairs and Welfare, decided to defer consideration of HB 7428. Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) Administrator Ernesto Carolina expressed his reservation on the proposed law, explaining that more than 80% of the veteran-members of the PVAO are from the ranks of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the rest are World War II veterans. He further said that the funding support for PVAO comes from the DND, hence the former should still be under the supervision of the DND Secretary.
Ways and Means	Substitute Bill to HBs 6593, 1103, 1265, 1911, 5458, 6837, 6959 & 7168	Speaker Alvarez, Reps. Castelo Biazon, Violago, Alejano, Rodriguez (M.) Sy-Alvarado, and Romero	Restructuring the Philippine national railway system, creating for the purpose the Philippine National Railway Authority, Luzon Railway Corporation, Visayas Railway Corporation, and Mindanao Railway Corporation, appropriating funds therefor and repealing RA 4156 or the Charter of the Philippine National Railways (PNR), as amended, and EO 603 dated July 12, 1980 creating the Light Rail Transit Authority, as amended	The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, approved the tax provision of the substitute bill.
	HB 3297 in consolidation with HBs 1664, 3304, 3470, 4057 & 7133	Reps. Escudero, Cosalan, Macapagal-Arroyo, Paduano, Kho, and Speaker Alvarez	Promoting small-scale mining by exempting from the payment of income and excise taxes the sale of gold pursuant to RA 7076, otherwise known as the People's Small Scale Mining Act, amending for the purpose Sections 32 and 151 of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC), as amended	The Committee approved HB 3297 in consolidation with HBs 1664, 3304, 3470, 4057 and 7133.
	Substitute Bill to HB 6472	Rep. Cua	Converting the Barangays of Dumabel, San Leonardo, Pinaripad Norte, and Pinaripad Sur, all located in the Municipality of Aglipay, Province of Quirino into the freeport area of Quirino, creating for this purpose the Authority of the Freeport Area of Quirino (AFAQ), appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provision of the substitute bill.
	Substitute Bill to HB 595	Rep. Pichay	Establishing the Surigao del Sur Special Economic Mining Zone and Freeport in the Municipalities of Carrascal, Cantilan, Madrid, Carmen, and Lanuza, all in the Province of Surigao del Sur, providing funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provision of the substitute bill.
	Substitute Bill to HB 241	Rep. Almonte	Converting the Oroquieta Agro-Industrial School (OAIS) in the City of Oroquieta, Province of Misamis Occidental into a state college to be known as the Misamis Occidental State College (MOSC), repealing for the purpose RA 4941, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provision of the substitute bill.
	Substitute Bill to HB 6349	Speaker Alvarez	Creating the Siargao Islands Development Authority, prescribing its powers, functions, and duties, and providing funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provision of the substitute bill.

<p>Continuation... Ways and Means</p>	<p>HR 1824</p>	<p>Rep. Suansing (H.)</p>	<p>Inquiry into the possible violations of RA 10863 or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA) in connection with the alleged unauthorized withdrawal of 105 containers from the Port of Manila, with the end in view of addressing potential loss in government revenues</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 1824 in its next meeting.</p> <p>During today's continuation of the Committee's inquiry into the alleged unauthorized release of 105 containers from the Port of Manila last March, Bureau of Customs (BOC) Commissioner Isidro Lapeña and other customs officials were again present to answer queries from the Members of the Committee.</p> <p>BOC Port of Manila Collector Erastus Austria apprised the Committee of the processes involved in the issuance and lifting of electronic alert orders on shipments arriving at the country's ports of entry through the agency's electronic-to-mobile (E2M) system.</p> <p>Noting that the issuance and lifting of alert orders allow a manual process, several Committee Members agreed that the BOC should undertake full automation of its system to avoid bottlenecks and opportunities for corruption.</p> <p>Lapeña agreed and informed the Committee that the BOC is undergoing a complete overhaul of its system with the help of the World Bank (WB).</p> <p>Lapeña added that due to some flaws in the system, he believes that it is easily compromised. This was concurred by Jeffrey Dy of the BOC's Technology Management Service (TMS) and former BOC Deputy Commissioner Natalio Ecarma III.</p> <p>Likewise, Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Undersecretary Denis Villorente agrees that the security of the BOC's system is already compromised, adding that the Department is willing to provide the expertise and hardware to help the BOC in this area.</p> <p>Rep. Manuel Zubiri (3rd District, Bukidnon) suggested the purchase of new and advanced scanners and surveillance and detection equipment as part of the modernization program of the BOC.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the Committee questioned the absence of BOC Deputy Commissioner Noel Prudente in the meeting. According to Lapeña, Prudente pushed through with his trip abroad despite the disapproval of his application for leave.</p> <p>The BOC was requested to submit to the Committee a report on all customs processes as well as the circumstances of Prudente's travel request.</p> <p>On the suggestion of Rep. Lianda Bolilia (4th District, Batangas), the Committee will invite the concerned customs brokers in the next</p>
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Continuation... Ways and Means				meeting to shed light on the issues raised, including the source of the memorandum allegedly lifting the alert orders, thus allowing the release of the 105 containers.
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Basic Education and Culture (Technical Working Group)	HB 473	Rep. Tinio	Regulating class size in all public schools and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, will deliberate further on the bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Go requested the Department of Education (DepEd) to come up with a study on the ideal class size for each grade level and the infrastructure needed to accommodate all student-enrollees in public schools.</p> <p>DepEd Education Program Specialist Forcefina Frias said that the current ideal ratio of teacher to student in the country is 1:35, but it could be higher in some regions with larger student population.</p> <p>Representatives from the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT), Rosalinda Nishikawa and Nestor Reyes, lamented the grossly oversized classes in some regions over the years.</p> <p>Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA) Legal Counsel Joseph Noel Estrada suggested that the government should increase its funds for the Government Assistance for Students and Teachers in Private Education (GASTPE) Program to help decongest the student population in public schools.</p> <p>Under the GASTPE Program, the government subsidizes part of the tuition fee of students who want to pursue secondary schooling in non-DepEd schools, including private schools.</p> <p>Executive Director Herbert Glenn Reyes of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) supports the reduction of the existing class size in public schools but suggested that it be thoroughly studied in relation to the prevailing situation in the education sector.</p> <p>Atty. Avvy Cristabelle Alba of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) explained that Section 6 (Large Class Honorarium) of HB 473 is inconsistent with the provision in the General Appropriations Act of 2018 which allows honorarium only to certain government personnel, including DepEd teachers engaged in actual classroom teaching, whose teaching load is outside of the regular office or in excess of the regular load.</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Basic Education and Culture (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>Section 6 of HB 473 provides that a teacher handling a large class shall be entitled to an honorarium "equivalent to one percent of her daily rate for every student in excess of the standard class size of 35."</p> <p>Rep. Antonio Tinio (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS), author of HB 473, is open to amendments that will fine-tune the bill.</p> <p>Rep. France Castro (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS), co-author of HB 473, requested DBM to submit an estimated budget needed to provide the honorarium of teachers as provided under the proposed law.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Ma. Theresa Collantes (3rd District, Batangas) asked DepEd to finally solve the long-standing problems of lack of classrooms and teachers in the elementary and secondary levels.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill.</p> <p>The DepEd's top officials led by its Secretary will be invited to attend the TWG's next meeting.</p>
<p>Dangerous Drugs (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>Substitute Bill to HBs 289, 587, 1868, 3406, 3616, 3627, 3733 & 4151</p>	<p>Reps. Romero, Bataoil, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Barbers, Acop, Pineda, Bagatsing, and Alejano</p>	<p>Amending RA 4200 or the law prohibiting and penalizing wiretapping and other related violations of the privacy of communication (authorizing wiretapping in cases involving violations of RA 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002)</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), approved the Substitute Bill to the eight bills subject to style and amendment. The Substitute Bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Among others, the TWG agreed to increase the period for retaining the data log of telecommunication traffic to one year.</p> <p>Under the National Telecommunications Commission's (NTC) Memorandum Circular 04-06-2007, public telecommunications entities (PTEs) shall retain the call data records on voice calls and similar records for non-voice traffic. At present, records indicating traffic data on the origin, destination, date, time, and duration of communications are being retained within the following periods: a) two months for non-metered services with fixed monthly charges; b) four months for other telecommunications services not covered in (a); or c) until excused by NTC for records requested in connection with pending complaints.</p>
<p>Science and Technology (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>Substitute Bill to HB 2163</p>	<p>Rep. Ramirez-Sato</p>	<p>Instituting reforms in the existing policy on access and benefit-sharing from the utilization of Philippine genetic resources</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Kalinga Rep. Allen Jesse Mangaang, approved the Substitute Bill to HB 2163. The Substitute Bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Occidental Mindoro Rep. Josephine Ramirez-Sato, author of HB 2163, conveyed that the</p>

<p>Continuation... Science and Technology (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>bill seeks to conserve and protect the biodiversity in the country. She mentioned that the Substitute Bill is a product of consultations with the stakeholders and carries provisions that were agreed upon during the inter-agency meeting held in Malacañang for the drafting of an Executive Order (EO) implementing the country's obligations under the Nagoya Protocol.</p> <p>Atty. Lamberto Santos III, technical assistant at the Office of the President (OP), added that the proposed EO will also establish an inter-agency task force that will monitor the use of genetic resources at any stage of the value-chain: research, development, innovation, pre-commercialization or commercialization.</p> <p>The Nagoya Protocol is an international instrument adopted in Nagoya, Japan last October 2010 during the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It provides a transparent legal framework for the effective implementation of one of the three objectives of the CBD: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources (Source: CBD website)</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p>Metro Development</p> <p>Manila</p>	<p>Discussion on the plan of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) to sell its property located in Parola, Tondo, and in Binondo, Manila allegedly without proper consultation with its residents</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), will continue its discussion on the plan of the GSIS to sell its property located in Parola, Tondo and Binondo, in the City of Manila.</p> <p>Pursuant to EO 108 issued by then President Gloria Macapagal- Arroyo in June 2002, a portion of the GSIS property located in the said areas in Manila covering 109,000 square meters (or 10.9 hectares) was declared as social housing site for disposition to qualified occupants and beneficiaries.</p> <p>Rep. Anthony Bravo (Party-List, COOP-NATCO) questioned GSIS' decision to dispose of the said property which includes the portion for the socialized housing site based on EO 108, and without convening the Project Inter-Agency Committee (PIAC) pursuant to the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of EO 108.</p> <p>The IRR of EO 108 provides for the creation of the PIAC which shall be responsible for the conduct and management of the development and disposition of the subject property. The PIAC is composed of the NHA, as the lead agency, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP), GSIS, City of Manila, and Parola Homeowners Association, as members.</p>

<p>Continuation... Metro Manila Development</p>		<p>GSIS Vice President for Real Estate Assets Disposition Apollo Escarez claimed that GSIS did not know that the IRR of EO 108 had been promulgated, adding that it had been following this up with the NHA since 2015.</p> <p>Showing a copy of the IRR to Escarez, Rep. Bravo claimed that the GSIS violated the provisions of the EO and its IRR when it failed to convene the PIAC prior to the publication of the property for purposes of public bidding.</p> <p>Rep. Vincent “Bingbong” Crisologo (1st District, Quezon City) mentioned that the GSIS issued Board Resolution No. 113 on October 19, 2005 designating the NHA as the lead agency to implement the socialized housing project in Parola.</p> <p>Rep. Castelo urged the GSIS to desist from proceeding with the public bidding of the subject property and asked the NHA to expedite the development and disposition of the area intended for social housing site to the intended beneficiaries in order to realize the true intent of EO 108.</p>
	<p>Update on the GSIS collection of rental payments on its leased properties in Metro Manila, including the lots occupied by Philippine Plaza Hotel Holdings, Inc. (PPHHI), owner of Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila</p>	<p>The Committee listened to the report on the GSIS’ collection of rental payments on its properties occupied by PPHHI.</p> <p>GSIS Vice President for Litigation Jennifer Jimeno-Atienza disclosed that the GSIS has filed a P147.2 million ejectment and collection complaint against PPHHI for Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila’s illegal occupation of two lots it owned.</p> <p>Jimeno-Atienza claimed that Sofitel has no lease contract with the GSIS for lots 19 and 41 which the hotel is using as its valet parking space, site of cistern tanks and cooling tower, as well as provision for a tennis court.</p> <p>PPHHI President Esteban Peña Sy claimed that the subject lots are covered by the 1991 Amended Contract of Lease, which was renewed in 2016 and remains effective until 2041. He added that the PPHHI has been complying with all its contractual obligations to GSIS, including the payment of rent for the said lots. Nonetheless, Sy said that while the controversy concerns only two small lots and not the land where the hotel stands, it should not in any way hamper hotel operations.</p> <p>Rep. Crisologo suggested that the two parties settle their issues extra-judicially.</p>

FORUM		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p>Women and Gender Equality</p>	<p>Forum entitled “Celebrating Women’s Health, Transforming Commitments into Action” in partnership with the Philippine Legislators’ Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) Foundation, Gabriela Women’s Party, Kilusan ng Manggagawang Kababaihan, and the Arches Project</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy (Party-List, BAGONG HENERASYON), conducted a forum entitled, “Celebrating Women’s Health, Transforming Commitments into Action,” as part of the observance of the International Day of Action for Women’s Health (IDAWH) this May 28 at the South Wing Annex Building, House of Representatives.</p> <p>Rep. Herrera-Dy read the message of Speaker Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez (1st District, Davao del Norte) who conveyed his full support to the passage of the bills on occupational</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Women and Gender Equality</p>		<p>safety and health and on the expanded maternity leave of all women workers, which will strengthen the protection and promotion of women's right to health.</p> <p>Other women legislators such as Deputy Speaker Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA); Party-List Reps. Emmi de Jesus (GABRIELA), Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay (Senior Citizen), and France Castro (ACT TEACHERS); and Reps. Alexandria Gonzales (Mandaluyong City), Geraldine Roman (1st District, Bataan), and Divina Grace Yu (1st District, Zamboanga del Sur), all spoke about the need to uphold the quality of health of women particularly the marginalized and the underpowered.</p> <p>Women workers representing the Kilusan ng Manggagawang Kababaihan (KMK), Nexperia Philippines Inc., Marulas Industrial Corporation, Kentex factory, and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Industry Employees' Network (BIEN) shared their experiences regarding various forms of discrimination in the workplace and other similar problems.</p> <p>Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary Silvestre Bello III also assured the participants of DOLE's genuine support for efforts to achieve gender equality among all workers.</p> <p>After all the speeches have been delivered by different resource speakers, a brief awarding ceremony took place which recognized the achievement of Patricia Tan, a graduating student of Political Science from the University of the Philippines Diliman, who won first place in a nationwide essay-writing contest. Tan's contest entry was entitled "Start Young, Stand Up for Women and Girls' Rights."</p> <p>PLCPD Executive Director Romeo Dongeto gave the closing remarks to formally end the celebration.</p>
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