

Committee Daily Bulletin

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Second Regular Session

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| COMMITTEE MEETINGS | | | | |
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| COMMITTEE | MEASURES | | SUBJECT MATTER | ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION |
| | NO. | PRINCIPAL AUTHOR | | |
| Cooperatives Development | HR 44 | Rep. Bravo | Inquiry into the establishment of an apex organization of all cooperatives as a unifying body of the cooperative movement | <p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rico Geron (Party-List, AGAP), listened to the report of the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) on the outcome of the series of regional consultations it conducted last March and April 2018 relative to the proposed creation of an apex organization of cooperatives.</p> <p>Atty. Mona Liza Arriba-Juarez of the CDA-Central Office disclosed that over a thousand individuals representing various federations, unions, primary cooperatives and cooperative development councils participated in the consultations held in all regions throughout the country.</p> <p>Arriba-Juarez presented the summary of the outcome of the regional consultations conducted by the CDA. She said that majority of the participants support the establishment of an apex organization of cooperatives and have articulated their recommendations regarding the organization's powers and functions, sources and administration of funds, membership requirements, and other aspects of the organization.</p> <p>CDA Administrator Mercedes Castillo, however, noted that an apex organization of cooperatives can exist through self-organization among the cooperatives themselves.</p> <p>Pleased with the positive outcome of the regional consultations conducted by the CDA, Rep. Geron said it will provide the Committee a useful reference in crafting a piece of legislation that will either amend existing laws or craft a new one, all for the benefit of the cooperative sector.</p> |
| Economic Affairs | Substitute Bill to HBs 69 & 2510 | Reps. Salceda & Cua | Collective Investment Schemes Law | The Committee, chaired by Rep. Arthur Yap (3 rd District, Bohol), approved the Committee Report on the substitute bill subject to amendment. |
| | HR 898 | Rep. Yap (A.) | Inquiry into the desired economic policy direction of the Philippines with regard to | The Committee terminated its deliberation on HR 898 and thereafter approved the |

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| Continuation... Economic Affairs | | | foreign participation in the ownership and operation of corporations and firms engaged in the business of construction of buildings and other infrastructure in the country | corresponding Committee Report. It agreed to file a resolution urging the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to lift the nationality distinction in granting construction licenses and for other government agencies to institute reforms in the construction industry in order to maximize the gains from this sector, which will be beneficial to the country's economy. |
| | <i>Motu Proprio</i> Inquiry | | Inquiry, in the exercise of the Committee's oversight function, into the delayed implementation of RA 9856, otherwise known as the Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) Law of 2009 | The Committee will again present the Committee Report on the result of the <i>motu proprio</i> inquiry in its next meeting for approval by the majority of its Members as per the House Rules. |
| Economic Affairs jt. w/ Trade and Industry | 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 (FAQ), creating for this purpose the Authority of the Freeport Area of Quirino (AFAQ), appropriating funds therefor | The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1 st District, Lanao del Norte) for the Committee on Economic Affairs, and Rep. Manuel Zubiri (3 rd District, Bukidnon), Vice Chair of the Committee on Trade and Industry, approved the substitute bill, as amended. |
| Energy | HB 1484 | Rep. Abayon | Requiring all independent power producers (IPPs), generation companies or energy resource developers to remit the amount they are required to set aside as financial benefit directly to the host community | The Committee, chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, terminated its deliberation on HB 1484 and HR 104. The Secretariat was requested to prepare the corresponding Committee Report. |
| | HR 104 | Deputy Speaker Abu | Inquiry into the current status of the revenues being collected by the Department of Energy (DOE) from energy resource and generating facilities and companies and being set aside for the benefit of the barangay, municipality or city, province, and region hosting said energy resource and generating facilities and companies as mandated by Energy Regulation (ER) 1-94, as amended | DOE Undersecretary Felix William Fuentebella said that the DOE agreed to directly remit one centavo per kilowatt hour (P0.01/kWh) of the total electricity sales as financial benefits to the host local government units (LGUs) pursuant to Energy Regulation (ER) 1-94. A corresponding directive will be issued by the DOE to that effect, Fuentebella added. |
| Good Government and Public Accountability | HR 292 | Rep. Vergara | Inquiry into the alleged illegal practices in the Bureau of Immigration (BI) | The Committee, chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2 nd District, Surigao del Sur), approved the Committee Report on HR 292. |
| | HR 1505 | Rep. Vergara | Inquiry into the apparent corruption and irregularities in the imposition, collection, and distribution of taxes and fees on the quarrying operations in the Province of Nueva Ecija and other provinces in the Philippines | The Committee, chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2 nd District, Surigao del Sur), agreed to terminate its inquiry relative to HR 1505 after conducting several hearings on the matter, but without prejudice to its reopening if necessary. Earlier, Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara (3 rd District, Nueva Ecija), principal author of HR 1505, denounced the absence of the quarry operators and barangay officials in the Province of Nueva Ecija who were invited to comment on the allegation of rampant corruption and irregularities in the collection and distribution of taxes and fees on quarrying operations in the province. Rep. Vergara |

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| <p>Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability</p> | | | | <p>surmised that these resource persons may have been "coerced" by some quarters not to attend the Committee's hearing.</p> <p>Rep. Arnolfo "Arnie" Teves Jr. (3rd District, Negros Oriental), co-author of HR 1505, also raised similar issues involving quarry operations in his district since the start of this inquiry. He showed a picture he took on May 16, 2018 of two ongoing quarry operations in his district and asked the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) of Negros Oriental for comments. PENRO head Viernov Grefalde confirmed that the mining companies involved are violating environmental laws as well as the cease and desist order (CDO) issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in August 2016.</p> <p>Negros Oriental Governor Roel Degamo, however, stated that the CDO has already been lifted through an Office Order issued by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of Region VII on March 2, 2018. EMB Region VII Regional Director William Cuñado affirmed having lifted the CDO but that the order pertains to the compliance of quarry operators with the required rehabilitation of the quarry site and not about allowing them to continue with their operations.</p> <p>Rep. Teves likewise inquired on the validity of local environmental clearance certificates (LECCs) being issued by the Provincial Government of Nueva Ecija in lieu of the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) being issued by the DENR to allow mining operations. DENR Assistant Secretary Nonita Caguioa said that the Environmental Impact Statement System Law (PD 1586) requires an ECC for any environmentally-critical project, such as sand and gravel quarry operations. Aside from an ECC, quarry operators are still required to secure quarry permits from the concerned local government unit (LGU) pursuant to the Local Government Code (RA 7160), Caguioa said.</p> <p>Former Nueva Ecija Governor Aurelio Umali said that he and his wife, Nueva Ecija Governor Czarina Umali, have already filed a petition for declaratory relief from the court citing conflicting interpretations of Sections 43 and 46 of the revised implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA 7160. Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2nd District, Oriental Mindoro) opined that the legal remedy availed of by the incumbent and former Nueva Ecija Governors is proper saying that the courts are empowered to settle differing interpretations of the law.</p> <p>Caguioa committed to facilitate the filing of appropriate charges against erring quarry</p> |
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| Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability | | | | operators in Negros Oriental and report the same to the Committee on or before June 21, 2018. |
| | HR 1664 | Rep. Bertiz | Inquiry into the manner by which the Department of Energy (DOE) grants licenses, permits, and guidelines for the construction of solar and hydroelectric energy projects | The Committee assumed jurisdiction over HR 1664. |
| | HR 1680 | Rep. Cosalan | Inquiry into the purported improper and irregular awarding of renewable energy service contracts involving hydroelectric power projects by the DOE to renewable energy applicants | The Committee assumed jurisdiction over HR 1680. |
| | HR 1822 | Rep. Alejano | Condemning the dastardly act of misusing and retaining the allowances intended for the use of the Philippine National Police-Special Action Force (PNP-SAF) personnel which deprives them of their rightful benefits and directing the Committee to look into this anomaly and address the problem, as well as, prevent the same from recurring | The Committee assumed jurisdiction over HR 1822. |
| Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Energy | HR 1741 | Minority Leader Suarez | Urging the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to resolve the seven power supply applications (PSAs) of the Manila Electric Company (Meralco), provided all the requirements prescribed by laws, rules and regulations have been complied with and the appropriate hearings on the applications have been conducted | The Joint Committee, chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2 nd District, Surigao del Sur), approved the Committee Report on HR 1741 with amendments. The said Committee Report was first submitted to the Plenary on March 6, but was subsequently recommitted to the Joint Committee on March 21 for further deliberation. |
| | HR 566 | Rep. Zarate | Inquiry into the alleged midnight deals of the Meralco-affiliated generation companies and the ERC which may be disadvantageous to the public and may cause power rate hikes | The Committee approved the Committee Report on HR 566 with amendments. Reps. Carlos Roman Uybarreta (Party-List ,1-CARE) and Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL) expressed concern on the recommendation of the Committee to file administrative and criminal cases against the ERC officials and employees involved despite the fact that no evidence can support such move. They claimed that doing so may just delay the programs of the government intended to addressing the inadequate power supply. However, Rep. Pimentel opined that endorsing the filing of charges against alleged erring personnel of the ERC is merely recommendatory. It is the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB) or the Department of Justice (DOJ) which will decide whether or not charges should be filed against them, Rep. Pimentel added. |
| Housing and Urban Development | HR 1709 | Rep. Sarmiento (E.M.) | Inquiry into the collapse of a housing unit which is part of the housing project intended for the victims of the September 2013 Zamboanga siege | The Committee, chaired by Rep. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3 rd District, Negros Occidental), will continue its deliberations on the issues relative to the implementation of the resettlement projects for the victims of the |

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| <p>Continuation... Housing and Urban Development</p> | <p>Motu proprio inquiry</p> | | <p>Inquiry into the implementation of all resettlement projects for the victims of the September 2013 Zamboanga siege</p> | <p>Zamboanga siege.</p> <p>Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1st District, Samar), author of HR 1709, said the numerous complaints raised against NHA's failed housing projects nationwide prompted him to file this resolution.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Benitez why the construction material for the houses intended for the victims of the Zamboanga siege was replaced with gmelina, former National Housing Authority (NHA) General Manager Chito Cruz said that during the construction of the housing units, there was a ban on harvesting yakal, which is of better quality for use as timber.</p> <p>NHA Sulu District Project Manager Al-Khawarizmi Indanan added that the use of another type of lumber was agreed upon during the Local Inter-Agency Committee (LIAC) meeting held last March 31, 2015 upon the recommendation of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) of Zamboanga City.</p> <p>The NHA was requested to provide the Committee with a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the LIAC.</p> <p>DENR Region IX Director Carlito Tuballa, however, said that while the DENR suggested the use of an alternate wood to replace yakal, the NHA was advised to change the structural design of the housing unit appropriate to the chosen wood species, such as gmelina.</p> <p>Admitting that the housing design was flawed, NHA General Manager Marcelino Escalada Jr. said he has already instructed the regional managers and the project contractors to redesign the houses for the remaining phases of the project and to rectify the defects of the units already built.</p> <p>Moreover, Escalada said that the NHA has terminated the contract of 20 out of the 50 erring contractors of major NHA housing projects and is in the process of evaluating the rest.</p> <p>Rep. Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City) presented a copy of a resolution issued by the different barangays in Zamboanga City authorizing Esmeralda Samson to collect P6,500 from the P10,000 financial assistance given by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to the housing beneficiaries purportedly for electrical connection. Rep. Lobregat also presented a copy of the acknowledgement receipt issued to the beneficiaries for their payment bearing the seal of the local government.</p> |
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| Continuation... Housing and Urban Development | | | | <p>According to Samson, a total of 2,652 IDPs paid P6,500 on a staggered basis to facilitate the installation of electricity in the housing project in Zamboanga City. She claimed that it was purely a private agreement between her and the concerned beneficiaries and that she only assisted them in their request for electricity.</p> <p>Rep. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL) stressed that this anomalous transaction should not have happened if electricity and water connections have been made part of the housing project.</p> <p>NHA's Mindanao Area Management Office (MAMO) Group Manager Ma. Alma Valenciano explained that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) slashed the budget for electricity and water installation proposed by the NHA in its housing projects.</p> <p>Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Isabelle "Beng" Climaco-Salazar reported that a fact-finding committee composed of the city government, Commission on Human Rights (CHR), and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) was created to investigate the collection of fees for electricity connection from the internally-displaced persons (IDPs) due to the Zamboanga siege. The Mayor said that necessary sanctions will be imposed on those found to have perpetrated this irregularity.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the NHA acceded to the request of the Committee to conduct a thorough investigation of the use of substandard materials for housing units in the resettlement projects for the victims of the 2013 Zamboanga siege.</p> |
| Justice | Substitute Bill to HBs 3256, 3618, 4091, 4379, 4779, 5838, 6091, 6238 & 6293 | Reps. Salceda, Belmonte (J.C.), Deputy Speaker Quimbo, Reps. Yap (A.), Del Rosario, Umali, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Salon, and Villafuerte | Removing the restrictions imposed on the registration, acquisition, encumbrance, alienation, transfer and conveyance of land covered by free patents under Sections 118, 119 and 121 of Commonwealth Act No. 141, otherwise known as the Public Land Act, as amended | The Committee, chaired by Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2 nd District, Oriental Mindoro), approved the Substitute Bill and the corresponding Committee Report. |
| | HBs 2105, 2878, 6313, 6318, 6485, 6486, 6698, 6894, 6977 & 7325 | Reps. Tejada, Uy (J.), Biazon, Relampagos, Mercado, Nograles (K. A), Speaker Alvarez, and Minority Leader Suarez | Creating additional branches of the Regional Trial Court (RTC)/Municipal Trial Court (MTC) in certain parts of the country, amending for the purpose Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980, as amended, and appropriating funds therefor | The Committee approved the 10 bills. |
| | HB 6204 | Speaker Alvarez | Instituting the Philippine Code of Crimes to further strengthen the criminal justice | The Committee will deliberate further on HB 6204 in its next meeting. |

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| Continuation... Justice | | | system, repealing for the purpose Act 3815, as amended, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code of the Philippines and other special penal laws | <p>Rep. Umali said that the proposed Code of Crimes aims to update and revise the existing penal law to make it relevant and in accordance with current international best practices and to address present societal problems.</p> <p>He encouraged the participation of concerned government agencies, the academe, and law practitioners to participate in the Committee's deliberations on the bill. He added that in due time, the Committee will create a technical working group to fine-tune the bill as well as conduct public hearings to get the views of the people on the proposed Code of Crimes.</p> |
| | HB 1235 | Rep. Umali | Amending Section 24 of RA 6770, otherwise known as the Ombudsman Act of 1989, to ensure that the fundamental principles of due process and equity are strictly observed by the Ombudsman in relation to the imposition of preventive suspension | The Committee agreed to suspend consideration of HB 1235 pending the submission of the position paper of the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB). |
| Local Government jt. w/ Public Order and Safety | HB 6 | Majority Leader Fariñas | Enhancing public safety at the local level by establishing and maintaining a Department of Public Safety (DPS) in every province, city and municipality | The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Pedro Acharon Jr. (1 st District, South Cotabato and General Santos City), Chair of the Committee on Local Government, and Rep. Romeo Acop (2 nd District, Antipolo City), Chair of the Committee on Public Order and Safety, approved HB 6 subject to style and amendment. |
| Public Order and Safety jt. w/ National Defense and Security | HB 5507 | Rep. Espino | Declaring as unlawful the membership in any Philippine court-proscribed or United Nations Security Council-designated terrorist organization and providing penalties for violation thereof | <p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), Chair of the Committee on Public Order and Safety, and Rep. Amado Espino Jr. (5th District, Pangasinan), Chair of the Committee on National Defense and Security, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on HBs 5507 and 7141.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon will chair the TWG.</p> <p>Rep. Acop said the proposed amendments to RA 9372, which will include additional punishable acts and predicate crimes, aim to strengthen the country's anti-terrorism laws and make them more responsive against threats to national security.</p> <p>Rep. Amado Espino Jr. (5th District, Pangasinan), author of HBs 5507 and 7141, said that both bills seek to prevent the spread of terrorism in the Philippines which is a major security issue.</p> <p>Representatives from the government, namely: Departments of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Justice (DOJ), National Defense (DND), Information and Communications Technology (DICT), and the Interior and Local Government (DILG); Armed Forces of the</p> |
| | HB 7141 | Rep. Espino | Amending RA 9372, otherwise known as the Human Security Act of 2007 (by deleting provisions that are redundant with existing laws and are anti-law enforcement, among other amendments) | |

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| <p><i>Continuation...</i> Public Order and Safety jt. w/ National Defense and Security</p> | | | | <p>Philippines (AFP); Philippine National Police (PNP); National Bureau of Investigation (NBI); Anti-Terrorism Council-Program Management Center (ATC-PMC); and Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) expressed support for the bill.</p> <p>The same support was expressed by representatives of the civil society organizations, such as the Security Reform Initiative (SRI), and Philippine Society of Criminologists and Criminal Justice Professionals (PSCCJP).</p> <p>All the resource persons were requested to submit their position papers on the two bills.</p> |
| <p>Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development jt. w/ Poverty Alleviation</p> | <p>HBs 450, 1105, 1839, 2307, 4729, 6709, 7374 & 7457</p> | <p>Reps. Belmonte (J.C.), Baguilat, Alejano, Fortun, Tambunting, Yap (A.), Belaro, and Unabia</p> | <p>Ordaining the promotion of social enterprises (SEs) to alleviate poverty, establishing for the purpose the Poverty Reduction Through Social Entrepreneurship (PRESENT) Program and providing incentives and benefits therefor</p> | <p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Peter "Sr. Pedro" Unabia (1st District, Misamis Oriental), Chair of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development, and Rep. John Marvin "Yul Servo" Nieto (3rd District, Manila), Vice Chair of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the eight bills with HB 7457 as the lead bill.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Reps. Unabia and Raymond Democrito Mendoza (Party-List, TUCP).</p> <p>Among the recommendations proposed by the different stakeholders on the bills during the meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate the functions of the existing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Council with the proposed Social Enterprise-MSMED Council; • Accord preferential treatment to SEs in the procurement process and in the implementation of procurement contracts by the government; • Provide a Guarantee Fund instead of a special credit window to provide financing to SEs; • Promote financial literacy in entrepreneurship by including it in the curriculum of the Department of Education (DepEd); • Provide funds for SEs under the annual budget of the different government agencies; and • Provide tax exemptions to accredited SEs. <p>Melanie Unida, senior education program specialist of DepEd, informed the Committee that the financial literacy program on entrepreneurship is already included in the framework of the K-12 program of the DepEd.</p> <p>Rep. Lianda Bolilia (4th District, Batangas) suggested soliciting the views and</p> |

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| Continuation... Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development jt. w/ Poverty Alleviation | | | | <p>recommendations of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of Finance (DOF) on the bills, particularly on the needed budget for SE programs and the loan assistance to SEs.</p> <p>Rep. Unabia requested the stakeholders to submit their respective position papers on the bill.</p> |
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| SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING | | |
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| COMMITTEE | SUBJECT MATTER | DISCUSSIONS |
| Subcommittee on Preliminary Inquiries (Ethics) | Subcommittee Report No. PI-01-2017 on the consolidated six sworn complaints filed by Rep. Herminio Harry L. Roque Jr. against Rep. Ron P. Salo, docketed as Case Nos. SC-01-2017 to SC-06-2017 | The Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Florencio Flores Jr., M.D. (2 nd District, Bukidnon), approved Subcommittee Report No. PI-01-2017. The Report will be submitted to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval. |
| | Committee Case No. SC-08-2017, entitled: "Rep. Herminio Harry L. Roque Jr., complainant, vs. Rep. Ron P. Salo, respondent", for alleged violation of the House of Representatives Code of Conduct | The Subcommittee will submit Committee Case No. SC-08-2017 to the mother Committee for its consideration. |

| TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS | | | | |
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| COMMITTEE | MEASURES | | SUBJECT MATTER | ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION |
| | NO. | PRINCIPAL AUTHOR | | |
| Foreign Affairs (Technical Working Group) | HB 3015 | Rep. Velarde | Amending certain provisions of RA 8239, otherwise known as the Philippine Passport Act of 1996 (by recognizing any valid government-issued identification document with authentication feature as a supporting document to an application for passport) | <p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2nd District, Zambales), will deliberate further on the five bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Deloso-Montalla said that the objective of amending the current law, RA 8239, is to modernize the Passport Act as well as streamline the requirements for passport applications.</p> <p>The TWG agreed to use HB 3284, authored by Deputy Speaker Linabelle Ruth Villarica (4th District, Bulacan), and HB 329, authored by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, as the reference bills. It thoroughly discussed Sections 1 to 6 of the bills, taking into consideration the suggestions of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).</p> <p>Committee Secretary Imelda Apostol informed the TWG that a bill with a similar subject matter to HB 3284 was approved on third reading during the 16th Congress.</p> |
| | HB 4645 | Rep. Go (A.) | Creating a passport processing and issuance center in every province, amending for the purpose RA 8239 | |
| | HB 5574 | Rep. Antonino | Authorizing the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to issue official passport to barangay officials when on official trip abroad, amending for the purpose Section 7, paragraphs (b) and (c) of RA 8239 | |
| | HB 329 | Rep. Romualdo | Providing for the issuance of passports and travel documents, as well as for the revocation thereof, defining and penalizing offenses relating to passports and travel documents, repealing RA 8239 | |
| | HB 3284 | Deputy Speaker Villarica | Providing for a new passport law, repealing for the purpose RA 8239 | |

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| <p>Government Reorganization jt. w/ Transportation (Technical Working Group)</p> | <p>Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 6978, 190, 1725, 2731, 3116, 5042 & 5480</p> | <p>Majority Leader Fariñas, Reps. Bravo, Biazon, Alejano, Villafuerte, Deputy Speaker Garcia, and Rep. Vargas</p> | <p>Establishing the Philippine Transportation Safety Board (PTSB) and appropriating funds therefor</p> | <p>The joint technical working group (TWG), co-chaired by Rep. Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN), for the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1st District, Samar), for the Committee on Transportation, will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Anthony Bravo, Ph.D. (Party-List, COOP NATCCO), author of HB 190, said that the proposed law establishes the PTSB as an independent agency that will be tasked to promote transportation safety and conduct investigations on all transportation accidents to determine their causes, thereby preventing similar incidents from happening again.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu) suggested that the PTSB should also serve as a regulatory board placed under the Office of the President and not under the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to assure the public of a credible investigation on transportation accidents.</p> <p>Representatives from the DOTr, Department of Justice (DOJ), Philippine National Police (PNP), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), and Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) expressed support for the proposed law.</p> <p>DOJ State Counsel Luz Macasinag suggested the amendment of Section 20 (Non-admissibility as Evidence) of the draft substitute bill to allow transportation accident investigation reports to be used as evidence in a criminal prosecution case.</p> <p>SEA-AIR Airlines Chief Operating Officer (COO) Benjamin Solis proposed that the PTSB should employ the services of forensic science investigators in the conduct of investigations on transportation accidents, and subsequently recommend appropriate travel safety measures.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their proposed amendments to the draft substitute bill.</p> |
| <p>Population and Family Relations (Technical Working Group)</p> | <p>HBs 46, 586, 3112, 3474, 4216 & 6657</p> | <p>Reps. Fortun, Bataoil, Uy (J.), Escudero, Baguilat, and Aragon</p> | <p>Providing for a comprehensive civil registration system</p> | <p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Lawrence "Law" Fortun (1st District, Agusan del Norte), agreed to consolidate the six bills and come up with a substitute bill.</p> <p>The TWG focused its discussion on the provision in the bill pertaining to the supervision and appointment of local civil registrars (LCRs) and the registration of foundlings.</p> <p>Legal Service Director Lourdines dela Cruz of</p> |

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| <p>Continuation... Population and Family Relations (Technical Working Group)</p> | | | | <p>the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) suggested that the civil registry offices be under the direct control and supervision of the PSA to be able to establish a uniform implementation of guidelines, rules and regulations, including the processing and issuance of civil registry documents. For this purpose, Dela Cruz further proposed that the appointment of LCRs be removed from the local chief executives and transferred to the PSA.</p> <p>On the other hand, Lucena Flores, national president of the Philippine Association of Civil Registrars (PACR), maintained that pursuant to the Local Government Code and Executive Order (EO) 292 or the Administrative Code of 1987, the LCRs must remain appointed by and under the supervision of the local chief executives.</p> <p>Relative to the registration of foundlings, Flores recommended that whether a foundling is certified eligible for adoption or not, a Certificate of Foundling should be issued in order to establish the identity of the child.</p> <p>Further, Flores proposed that after the issuance of said certificate, the LCR shall issue an amended Certificate of Live Birth based on the Child Profile and Certificate of Foundling. Thereafter, the latter shall be sealed, to be opened only upon order of the court.</p> |
| <p>Science and Technology (Technical Working Group)</p> | <p>Draft Substitute Bill to HB 4690</p> | <p>Rep. Mariño</p> | <p>Improving genomics facilities and establishing a genomics database system in the country</p> | <p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Guimaras Rep. Ma. Lucille Nava, M.D., will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>The TWG agreed to include the National Institutes of Health (NIH)-University of the Philippines (UP) Manila, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) as among the agencies that will prepare the Genomics Capacity Enhancement Plan.</p> <p>It also agreed to separate the provisions in the draft substitute bill pertaining to forensics and craft an entirely new bill on DNA forensics.</p> <p>As defined in the bill, Genomics means the study of the full genetic complement of an organism (the genome).</p> <p>Rep. Mario Vittorio "Marvey" Mariño (5th District, Batangas), author of HB 4690, requested the Department of Justice (DOJ), Philippine National Police (PNP), and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to submit their recommendations to the proposed law.</p> |

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| Ways and Means (Technical Working Group) | HBs 3655 & 4011 | Reps. Romero and Limkaichong | Enhancing revenue administration and increasing revenue collection by granting amnesty on all unpaid internal revenue taxes imposed by the national government for taxable year 2015 and prior years | The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, will deliberate further on the six bills in its next meeting. Present during the TWG meeting were representatives from the Department of Finance (DOF), National Tax Research Center (NTRC), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Tax Management Association of the Philippines (TMAP), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), and Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FFCCCI). The resource persons presented their respective views on the bills. |
| | HBs 3832 & 4133 | Minority Leader Suarez and Deputy Speaker Singson | Granting tax amnesty on all unpaid internal revenue tax liabilities for taxable period January 1, 2006 to June 30, 2016 | |
| | HB 4412 | Rep. Gatchalian | Enhancing revenue administration and collection by granting an amnesty on all accrued penalties and charges of businesses which ceased to operate without clearance from the national government | |
| | HB 7105 | Speaker Alvarez | Enhancing revenue administration and collection by granting an amnesty on all unpaid internal revenue taxes imposed by the national government for taxable year 2017 and prior years | |

| JOINT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING | | |
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| COMMITTEE | SUBJECT MATTER | DISCUSSIONS |
| Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the National Health Insurance Program | Discussion on some issues and concerns in the implementation of the National Health Insurance Program | <p>The Joint Congressional Oversight Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon), Chair of the House Committee on Health, and Senator Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito, Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, discussed with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) issues and concerns relative to the implementation of the National Health Insurance Program.</p> <p>At the outset, PhilHealth interim President and Chief Executive Officer Celestina Ma. Jude dela Serna, M.D. emphasized that the present management of PhilHealth will not tolerate corruption in the corporation, adding that it is working closely with government investigative bodies to fully resolve such issues. She also disclosed that PhilHealth has recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with accredited hospitals nationwide to ensure continuous health service to all Filipinos.</p> <p>PhilHealth Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Ruben John Basa discussed PhilHealth's financial sustainability, particularly in relation to the "unrealized premiums" for senior citizens.</p> <p>Basa recounted that Republic Act 10645 was passed in 2014, mandating PhilHealth coverage for all senior citizens. The funds that would cover the PhilHealth premiums of senior citizens were supposed to have been sourced from unprogrammed funds under the General Appropriations Act of 2015. However, according to Basa, this did not materialize because the unprogrammed funds went to another program of the Department of Health (DOH).</p> |

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| <p><i>Continuation...</i> Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the National Health Insurance Program</p> | | <p>PhilHealth was then constrained to use its reserve funds to provide for the health insurance premiums of the senior citizens for 2015. PhilHealth OIC-Senior Vice President and Concurrent Vice President for Data Protection Nerrisa Santiago said it will take 10 months for the reserve funds to be exhausted.</p> <p>Acting Chief Finance Executive Gregorio Rulloda of PhilHealth's Fund Management Sector reported that PhilHealth's collection efficiency rate for the government sector is 91%.</p> <p>On the query of Sen. Risa Hontiveros on PhilHealth's position regarding the proposal to include mental health and persons with disability (PWDs) in the coverage of PhilHealth, Basa replied that he is supportive of the proposals.</p> <p>Sen. Richard "Dick" Gordon and Rep. Tan asked about the alleged failure of PhilHealth to settle its financial obligations to hospitals representing health and hospital services to its members. Basa responded that PhilHealth observes a maximum of 60 days to pay the claims of hospitals. Dela Serna added that PhilHealth has been holding meetings on the matter and has assigned its central office to prepare all the data needed for the payment of these claims.</p> |
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