

Committee Daily Bulletin

17th Congress
Second Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. II No. 115
May 30, 2018

COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agrarian Reform	HB 7425	Rep. Relampagos	Amending Section 6 of RA 6657, as amended, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988 (by deleting the qualifications for the transfer of awarded land to each child of the landowner provided that the said land shall not exceed three hectares and shall be used for agricultural purposes only)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rene Relampagos (1st District, Bohol), will deliberate further on HB 7425 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Relampagos, author of HB 7425, explained that the bill clarifies Section 6 (Retention Limits) of RA 6657 to address the confusion and differing interpretations of this provision. Section 6 provides that a landowner can only own or retain an agricultural land of up to a maximum of five hectares. But the same provision allows the landowner to award three hectares of his land to each of his children, provided that the latter is at least 15 years old and is actually tilling the land or directly managing the farm.</p> <p>HB 7425 deletes these two qualifications and instead only requires that the land awarded to each child of the landowner shall not exceed three hectares and shall be used for agricultural purposes only. According to Rep. Relampagos, the bill takes into consideration the interests of small landowners and at the same time upholds the objectives of the agrarian reform program of the government.</p> <p>Resource persons from the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), Department of Justice (DOJ), Land Registration Authority (LRA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and National Irrigation Administration (NIA) expressed support for the passage of HB 7425.</p> <p>On the other hand, Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Undersecretary Luis Meinrado Pañgulayan manifested his objection to the bill, saying that the proposed amendment to Section 6 of RA 6657 will introduce “another breed of agrarian reform beneficiary” that does not conform to the supposed three basic attributes of a farmer-beneficiary: willingness, aptitude, and ability to cultivate the land.</p> <p>Representatives of groups advancing the interests of farmers also object to the bill, calling instead for the passage of a “genuine” land reform law.</p>

Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources	Substitute Bill to HBs 48 & 2126	Reps. Fortun and Salimbangon	Establishing marine protected areas in all coastal municipalities and cities	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Luis "Jon-Jon" Ferrer IV (6 th District, Cavite), approved the Committee Reports on the four substitute bills.
	Substitute Bill to HB 6392	Rep. Acosta	Establishing a multi-species marine hatchery in Barangay Binduyan, City of Puerto Princesa, Province of Palawan and appropriating funds therefor	
	Substitute Bills to HBs 6488; 6489; & 6490	Rep. Gonzalez	Establishing multi-species marine hatcheries in the Municipalities of Pioduran, Oas, Libon, all in the Province of Albay, and appropriating funds therefor	
	Substitute Bill to HB 6502	Rep. Dimaporo (A.)	Establishing a brackish water multi-species hatchery in the Municipality of Lala, Province of Lanao del Norte and appropriating funds therefor	
	Substitute Bill to HB 4680	Rep. Veloso	Establishing a multipurpose fishery breeding farm and hatchery in the Municipality of Villaba, Province of Leyte, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the two substitute bills subject to style and amendment.
	Substitute Bill to HB 5626	Rep. Sahali	Establishing a modified mariculture development park in the Municipalities of Simunul and Panglima Sugala, Province of Tawi-Tawi, appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 7259	Rep. Uy (J.)	Establishing an aquatic research and experimental breeding station for lake, river and other inland fishes in the Municipality of Claveria, Province of Misamis Oriental, appropriating funds therefor	
	HBs 7249-7258	Rep. Uy (J.)	Establishing multi-species marine hatchery in certain municipalities in the Province of Misamis Oriental and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee will deliberate further on the 11 bills in its next meeting. Rep. Juliette Uy (2 nd District, Misamis Oriental), author of the bills, welcomed the suggestion of Roy Ortega, chief of the Aquaculture Division of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), that the Bureau will immediately conduct an evaluation of the viability of the site in her district where the pilot marine hatchery will be put up.
Bases Conversion (Special Committee)	Substitute Bill to HBs 613, 2391, 3685, 3997 & 6379	Reps. Roman, Macapagal-Arroyo, and Calixto-Rubiano	Amending RA 7227, as amended by RA 9400, otherwise known as the Bases Conversion and Development Act of 1992, [by revising the allocation of the five percent tax on gross income earned by registered business enterprises within the Subic Special Economic Zone (SSEZ) and strengthening the powers of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), among others]	The Committee, chaired by Pasay City Rep. Emi Calixto-Rubiano, approved the substitute bill with amendment, and the corresponding Committee Report.
Games and Amusements	HB 6886	Rep. Lopez (M.L.)	Prohibiting the establishment of casinos and electronic gaming facilities within a 30-kilometer radius from residential areas, educational institutions, and places of worship	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Gus Tambunting (2 nd District, Parañaque City), will deliberate further on HB 6886 in its next meeting. Rep. Manuel Luis Lopez (1 st District, Manila), author of HB 6886, said that his bill seeks to provide a uniform zoning or distance requirement for the establishment of casinos and other similar facilities nationwide. Replying to the query of Reps. Joseph Stephen Paduano (Party-List, ABANG

Continuation... Games and Amusements				<p>LINGKOD) and Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) Senior Manager Dave Fermin Sevilla said that casinos and gaming establishments are not allowed to operate within a 300-meter radius from residential areas, educational institutions, and places of worship.</p> <p>Rep. Acop then chided PAGCOR for continuing to grant a license to operate despite the applicants' non-compliance with this requirement. He surmised that PAGCOR personnel who are in-charge of checking the sites may not be reporting the real situation on the ground.</p> <p>Relative to the proposed construction of a casino by Bloomberry Resorts Corporation in the Vertis North development in Quezon City, the city government's Legal Office Head Rodolfo Maisip informed the Committee that there is no application filed with the Quezon City Council for a permit to construct such casino.</p> <p>Asked to comment on the directive of the President imposing a moratorium on the grant of license to operate casinos nationwide, PAGCOR Senior Legal Counsel Rodrigo Silverio said that the moratorium does not cover online gaming or offshore gaming operations.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Ma. Theresa Collantes (3rd District, Batangas), Silverio said that PAGCOR intends to establish an electronic system that will be capable of monitoring transactions made in all e-gaming sites throughout the country.</p> <p>PAGCOR was requested to submit reports and other documents requested by the Members of the Committee.</p>
Good Government and Public Accountability	HR 1000	Rep. Marcoleta	Inquiry into the spurious land deals perpetrated by unscrupulous real estate developers in the Municipality of Mariveles, Bataan with the collusion of concerned agencies and public officials	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 1000 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP), author of HR 1000, refuted the statement made by Mariveles Resources and Development Corporation (MRDC) legal counsel Antonio Zulueta that the inquiry was being conducted to harass his client. Rep. Marcoleta asserted that the investigation aims to determine whether or not the "spurious land deals perpetrated by unscrupulous real estate developers in the Municipality of Mariveles, Bataan" resulted to losses in government revenues.</p> <p>Examining the documents submitted by the MRDC, the PMR Group Retirement Plan, Inc.</p>

<p>Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability</p>				<p>(PMR GRPI), and the GN Power Dinginin, Ltd. Co., Rep. Marcoleta said that it was clear that the PMR GRPI is being used as a conduit to defraud the government of taxes.</p> <p>Rep. Marcoleta also remarked that the interlocking directorates of these three companies are highly questionable, thus, he demanded that their principals should be present in the Committee's next meeting to explain the matter.</p> <p>Based on HR 1000, MRDC acquired large tracts of land in Mariveles and sold a portion of its consolidated properties to a shell company, the PMR GRPI, for P732.50 million. Part of said property was in turn "leased" by PMR GRPI to GN Power Dinginin Ltd., Co. for 50 years in the amount of P2.13 billion payable between P28 million and P50 million per quarter from 2016 to 2066.</p> <p>Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Region IV Director Jethro Sabariaga requested that the Bureau be given a copy of the documents submitted by these companies so that he could apprise the BIR Commissioner on the matter.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to issue a subpoena <i>duces tecum</i> to the BIR, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and Land Registration Authority (LRA) to compel the submission of the following documents: tax payments, deeds of sale, land and derivative titles, and other documents pertinent to the investigation.</p>
<p>Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Housing and Urban Development</p>	<p>HR 599</p>	<p>Rep. Evardone</p>	<p>Investigation into the perceived snail-paced implementation of housing relocation and resettlement projects for those affected by Typhoon Yolanda and for those living in dangerous zones</p>	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), Chair of the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Rep. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental), Chair of the Committee on Housing and Urban Development, terminated its inquiry relative to HR 599 subject to the submission of documents requested during its previous meeting.</p> <p>Assistant Secretary Evelyn Cruzada of the Interagency Task Force for the Unified Implementation and Monitoring of Rehabilitation and Recovery Programs in the Yolanda Corridor (IATF-Yolanda) reported that 92,088 of the 205,128 houses have already been constructed in the typhoon-stricken areas. She gave the assurance that the units in the two resettlement sites in Iloilo were built following the required housing standards.</p> <p>Cruzada also reported that the National Housing Authority (NHA) has terminated the contracts with contractors that have incurred a considerable amount of slippage in undertaking the housing projects in Yolanda-affected areas.</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Housing and Urban Development</p>				<p>Rep. Benitez manifested that there is a need to come up with a third-party evaluation which shall look into the structure of the houses and shall guarantee the safety or livable condition thereof.</p> <p>IATF-Yolanda was created by virtue of Administrative Order 5 series of 2017 to serve as the overall and central coordination committee of all government agencies in relation to the various aspects of implementation and monitoring of the rehabilitation and recovery programs in Yolanda-affected areas.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go asked the NHA about its plan of action against contractors whose contracts have been terminated due to slippages.</p> <p>NHA Assistant General Manager Froilan Kampitan replied that concerned contractors will be blacklisted and will not be eligible to participate in government projects for five years.</p> <p>Rep. Pimentel asked the NHA to practice due diligence in selecting the contractors that will undertake government housing projects, focusing on the contractors' technical and financial capabilities.</p>
<p>Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Justice</p>	<p>HR 867</p>	<p>Speaker Alvarez</p>	<p>Inquiry into the allegedly grossly disadvantageous contract entered into by the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) and the Tagum Agricultural Development Company, Inc. (TADECO)</p>	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), Chair of the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Rep. Carlos Roman Uybarreta (Party-List, 1-CARE), member of the Committee on Justice, terminated its inquiry relative to HR 867.</p> <p>The Committee Secretariat was instructed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p>
<p>Government Reorganization jt. w/ Population and Family Relations</p>	<p>Substitute Bill to HBs 6251, 802 & 7018</p>	<p>Reps. Datol, Batocabe, and Vargas</p>	<p>Creating the National Commission of Senior Citizens, defining its powers and functions, and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Ma. Lourdes Aggabao (4th District, Isabela), Vice Chair of the Committee on Population and Family Relations, approved the substitute bill subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to draft the corresponding Committee Report.</p>
<p>Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples</p>	<p>HB 2886 in consolidation with HB 5727</p>	<p>Reps. Macapagal-Arroyo and Vargas</p>	<p>Strengthening the healthcare system in cultural and indigenous communities by institutionalizing the training and employment of tribal health workers</p>	<p>The Committee, presided by Ifugao Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr., approved HB 2886 in consolidation with HB 5727.</p>
	<p>HBs 3288 & 3558</p>	<p>Reps. Catamco and Cuaresma</p>	<p>Maximizing the contribution of indigenous peoples (IPs) to nation building, ensuring equal employment opportunities, and granting benefits and special privileges, creating for the purpose the Office of</p>	<p>The Committee agreed to consolidate the two bills.</p> <p>Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, author of HB 3558, raised the issue of most</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples</p>			<p>Indigenous Peoples Affairs, and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>IP-applicants not being able to enter the police force due to height requirement imposed by the Philippine National Police (PNP).</p> <p>Police Chief Superintendent Alfred Corpus of the PNP's Directorate for Personnel and Records Management said that the PNP has already waived the height requirement for bonafide IPs who want to join the police force.</p> <p>The height waiver applies to applicants in the PNP, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), and Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) who are IPs or Muslim Filipinos as certified by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and National Commission on Muslim Filipinos, respectively.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Gerard Peter Mariano of the Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) reported that there is no existing labor policy that requires private companies to allocate 10% of their rank-and-file positions to IPs.</p> <p>Robert Jaranilla, representative of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP), suggested limiting the penalty provision in the bill to civil liability.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their position papers on the bill.</p>
	<p>HB 4415</p>	<p>Rep. Baguilat</p>	<p>Recognizing and institutionalizing IPs educational systems within the Philippine educational systems, promulgating the procedures for the establishment, recognition, management and evaluation of IP schools, appropriating the necessary government funds, financial assistance, incentives and support therefor</p>	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 4415 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Lourie Victor, IP education head of the Department of Education (DepEd), underscored the need to align the proposed measure with the existing policy framework of the DepEd. Victor presented her initial comments on the bill but promised to submit the Department's official position paper at a later date.</p>
	<p>HR 1752</p>	<p>Rep. Baguilat</p>	<p>Investigation into the death of Ifugao environmental activist Ricardo Pugong Mayumi and the worsening attacks against IPs around the country</p>	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 1752 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Baguilat requested the Committee to hold the hearing on the matter in the Province of Ifugao because most of the witnesses are from this province. The matter will be discussed with the Chair of the Committee, Rep. Nancy Catamco (2nd District, North Cotabato).</p> <p>Mayumi led the opposition to the construction of the proposed mini-hydro dam in the Municipality of Tinoc, Province of Ifugao.</p>
<p>People's Participation</p>	<p>HR 780 in consolidation with HR 799</p>	<p>Reps. Batocabe and Mangaoang</p>	<p>Inquiry into the status of implementation of RA 9418, otherwise known as the Volunteerism Act of 2007, and on the</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Maria Valentina Plaza (1st District, Agusan del Sur), approved with amendments the Committee</p>

Continuation... People's Participation			various volunteerism efforts undertaken by concerned national government agencies (NGAs), local government units (LGUs), and other stakeholders towards national development and in accelerating rural development throughout the Philippines	Report on HR 780 in consolidation with HR 799.
	HB 7198	Rep. Salon	Strengthening nation-building through the institutionalization of strategic volunteerism-based multi-sectoral public-private partnership framework in all local government units and congressional districts in the country	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on HB 7198.</p> <p>Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba (1st District, Bukidnon) was designated as chair of the TWG.</p> <p>AGRI Party-List Rep. Orestes Salon, author of HB 7198, explained that his bill seeks to encourage private sector participation in public and civic affairs through collaboration and cooperation with the government achieving the goal of making every Filipino a nation-builder.</p> <p>Representatives from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Departments of Health (DOH), Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and Foreign Affairs (DFA) support the intent of HB 7198.</p> <p>However, Angelica Sanchez, policy officer of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), suggested that there is no need to enact a new law that will govern the coordination and cooperation between and among NGAs, LGUs, non-government organizations (NGOs), and people's organizations (POs). Sanchez said that the Local Government Code of 1991 (RA 7160) already provided the framework and parameters on how the public and private sectors may work together.</p> <p>Rep. Salon pointed out that his bill seeks to be more proactive rather than reactive in instilling volunteerism among the people.</p> <p>The Committee requested the resource persons to submit their position papers on the bill for the TWG's consideration.</p>
Public Works and Highways	HBs 3476 & 5607	Reps. Escudero and Vargas	Strengthening PD 1096, or the National Building Code of the Philippines, as amended, by mandating a comprehensive nationwide inspection of buildings and imposing stiff penalties against building officials who violate the pertinent provisions of the said Code	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the four bills.</p> <p>Rep. Lobregat inquired on the status of the proposal to revise the National Building Code being prepared by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the University of the Philippines Diliman.</p> <p>Johnson Domingo, project director of the DPWH's Buildings Management Cluster-Unified Project Management Office (BuMC-</p>
	HB 5801	Rep. Yap (V.)	Providing for the telecommunications technology readiness of buildings and structures, amending certain sections of PD 1096	
	HB 7075	Rep. Alejano	Expediting and streamlining the application process for securing building	

Continuation... Public Works and Highways			permits and certificates of occupancy, amending for the purpose certain provisions of RA 6541, otherwise known as the National Building Code of the Philippines	UPMO) and acting executive director of the National Building Code Development Office (NBCDO), replied that the proposal is currently with the Office of DPWH Secretary Mark Villar. Dr. Benito Pacheco, representing UP, added that the proposed amendments to PD 1096 are based on a two-year study and involved nationwide consultations. Engineer Adam Abinales, president of the Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines (ASEP), and Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) consultant Alberto Suansing expressed support for the bills.
	HR 1839	Rep. Gonzales (A.D.)	Directing the Committee on Public Works and Highways to conduct a review on the regulations and standards of the National Building Code of the Philippines and calling on the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to review and propose comprehensive revisions in order to enhance resilience	The Committee adopted the resolution.
	HB 7464	Rep. Cosalan	Renaming the Junction Talubin-Barlig-Natonin-Paracelis-Calaccad Road in the Province of Mountain Province to Cong. Maximo B. Dalog Road	The Committee approved HB 7464.
	HB 7720	Rep. Lobregat	Naming the national road from Crossing Airport Road and C.A Fernandez Road (Baliwasan Chico Road) to Limpapa Bridge as Gen. Vicente Alvarez Highway	The Committee approved HB 7720.
	HB 2847	Rep. Gonzales (A.D.)	Reconstituting the engineering district offices in the Province of Pampanga into four regular district engineering offices and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 2847.
Transportation	HB 460	Rep. Manalo	Amending certain provisions of RA 9295, otherwise known as the Domestic Shipping Development Act of 2004 [by mandating the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) to accredit only one local classification society that shall cater to the classification requirements of ships in the domestic trade]	The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, deferred its deliberation on HB 460 pending the submission of the MARINA of its position paper on the bill.
Ways and Means	HBs 7214 & 7458	Reps. Suansing (H.) and Cua	Amending certain sections under Chapters I, II, III, IV, V, and VI of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended (by lowering the corporate income tax rate, reforming the corporate income tax system, and broadening the tax base)	The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, will deliberate further on the 12 bills in its next meeting. Department of Finance (DOF) Director Juvy Danofrata reiterated that the proposed Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Package 2 or TRAIN 2, also referred to as the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (CTRP) Package 2, aims to lower the corporate income tax to 25 percent, from 30 percent, and rationalize the grant of tax incentives.
	HBs 231, 3359 & 7364	Deputy Speakers Singson and Garin	Rationalizing the grant and administration of fiscal incentives	
	HBs 36, 1537, 1658, 2379,	Reps. Yap (A.), Herrera-Dy,	Reducing the corporate income tax rate, amending Sections 27 and 28 of the	Expressing their apprehensions about the proposed rationalization of incentives, the

Continuation... Ways and Means	3835 & 5384	Angara-Castillo, Deputy Speaker Quimbo, Reps. Zubiri and Villafuerte	National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended	stakeholders present in the meeting said that it might deter current and potential investors from expanding their businesses or investing in the country. They also pointed out that this will make the country less competitive compared to its neighboring countries or members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) that grant long-term and attractive incentives to investors.
	HB 6037	Rep. Benitez	Providing for fiscal investments for corporations with business enterprises duly established and located in the Island of Mindanao	Thus, the stakeholders appeal for the <i>status quo</i> on the tax incentives that investors are currently enjoying. Rep. Cua said that the incentives in the proposed TRAIN 2 will be reviewed and possibly enhanced taking into consideration the needs of the industries.
West Philippine Sea (Special Committee)	HR 1855	Rep. Biazon	Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on the need to convene the National Security Council in order that a national policy on the West Philippine Sea may be formulated and defined	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Feliciano Belmonte Jr. (4 th District, Quezon City), adopted HR 1855.
Women and Gender Equality	Draft Substitute Bill to HB 6595	Speaker Alvarez	Recognizing the civil partnership of couples, providing for their rights and obligations	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy (Party-List, BAGONG HENERASYON), will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting. Rep. Herrera-Dy asked the position of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) with regard to the adoption rights of civil partners under Section 12 of the bill. DSWD Social Welfare Officer Rosalie Rimonte said that the Department has yet to come up with its official position on the matter. Commenting on Section 17 (Unlawful or Discriminatory Employment Practices) of the bill, Rep. Ma. Lourdes Aggabao (4th District, Isabela) said that companies should be allowed to exercise discretion when it comes to hiring their employees. The DSWD, Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and Coalition of Christians for Change (CCC) were requested to study Section 17 of the bill.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Subcommittee on Athlete's Welfare (Youth and Sports Development)	Substitute Bill to HB 5032	Rep. Pineda	Expanding the coverage of game-fixing, repealing certain provisions of Presidential Decree Nos. 483 and 1602, and prescribing stiffer penalties therefor	The Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Cristina "Chiqui" Roa-Puno (1st District, Antipolo City), approved the substitute bill subject to style and amendment, and the corresponding Committee Report.

Continuation... Subcommittee on Athlete's Welfare (Youth and Sports Development)				The substitute bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Energy (Technical Working Group)	HB 4269	Rep. Escudero	Ordaining the development of the downstream natural gas industry, consolidating for the purpose, all laws relating to the transmission, distribution and supply of natural gas	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II (1st District, Zamboanga Sibugay), terminated its deliberation on HB 4269.</p> <p>The Secretariat will draft a substitute bill to HB 4269, which will be submitted to the mother Committee.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their recommendations to the proposed law on or before July 15.</p>

AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)	Briefing by the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) on its 2019 proposed budget and plans and programs for North Luzon	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1st District, Ilocos Sur), listened to the presentation conducted by the PCA on its 2019 proposed budget and plans and programs for Regions I (Ilocos Region) and II (Cagayan Valley) and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).</p> <p>PCA OIC-Regional Manager Dennis Andres reported that PCA's 2019 proposed budget for North Luzon is P22.79 million, which is 75% higher than its current budget of P13.03 million.</p> <p>The proposed budget will be used for the implementation of PCA's Accelerated Coconut Planting and Replanting Project (ACPRP) and Coconut Fertilization Project (CFP).</p> <p>Based on 2016 data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the three regions have an aggregate area of 28,312 hectares of coconut plantation, with an annual production of 118,372 metric tons of coconut fruit, and tended by 35,400 farmers.</p>
Transportation	Discussion on the effect of excise tax on fuel on the fares of all modes of transportation	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, discussed possible effects of the excise tax on fuel on the fares of all modes of transportation.</p> <p>Department of Finance (DOF) Fiscal Policy and Planning Office Director Rowena Sta. Clara apprised the Committee of the increasing price of crude oil in the world market which started last August 2017.</p> <p>DOF Strategy, Economics and Results Group (SERG) Director Euvimil Nina Asuncion pointed out that this increase in the world prices of crude oil and the devaluation of the peso are the ones</p>

<p>Continuation... Transportation</p>		<p>primarily causing the increase in fuel price in the country. Only one-fourth of the domestic price increase may be attributed to the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law.</p> <p>Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Assistant Secretary Ernesto Perez also remarked that prices of basic commodities in the country were not affected by the increase in fuel prices, explaining that transport cost only constitutes five percent of the price of goods.</p> <p>Representatives from the land, sea and air transportation sector claimed that the high cost of fuel creates a big impact on their industries.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu) underscored the need to discuss not only the impact of excise tax on fuel but also the 12 percent value-added tax (VAT) already imposed on the price of fuel where the effect is already felt by the public. This is the reason why several sectors are already requesting for the suspension of excise tax on fuel, Deputy Speaker Garcia added.</p>
<p>West Philippine Sea (Special Committee)</p>	<p>Briefing by the National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea (NTF-WPS) on the recent developments in the WPS</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Feliciano Belmonte Jr. (4th District, Quezon City), listened to the presentation by the National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea (NTF-WPS) on the recent developments in the WPS.</p> <p>Secretary Delfin Lorenzana of the Department of National Defense (DND) reported that the government has begun the improvement of the facilities in Pag-asa Island, including the runway which was built way back in the 1970s. A beaching ramp will be constructed in the Island as well as other facilities for the use of the fishermen. The Department of Agriculture (DA) will also provide a modern refrigeration system in the Island that will allow fishermen to store their catch for a longer period but still retain the quality.</p> <p>Pag-asa Island is the largest of the nine features of the Philippine claims in the Kalayaan Group of Islands or the Spratly Islands. It is about 480 kilometers west of Puerto Princesa City in Palawan and is the seat of the Kalayaan municipal government.</p> <p>Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary Allan Peter Cayetano emphasized that the government takes a diplomatic approach in protecting the sovereign rights of the Philippines. He explained that bilateral talks rather than multi-lateral are preferred by the government in resolving the territorial disputes in the Spratly Islands. Cayetano further reiterated that the Philippines renounces war as a national policy and adopts the international law that adhere to peace, equality, justice, freedom, cooperation and amity.</p> <p>Rep. Manuel "Chiquiting" Sagarbarria (2nd District, Negros Oriental) asked what assurance the Philippine government has that China will not occupy other areas in the Spratlys that are claimed by the Philippines. Cayetano said that on-going diplomatic talks on the matter are being undertaken and that the government is closely monitoring the situation in WPS.</p> <p>The Committee discussed sensitive issues regarding the WPS in an executive session.</p>