





<p>Continuation... Appropriations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Philippine Commission on Women (PCW)</li> </ul>	<p>Seguerra also discussed the major accomplishments of NYC for 2017, among which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creation of Local Youth Development Organizations (LYDOs);</li> <li>Development of <i>Sangguniang Kabataan</i> (SK) Operations Manual and Mandatory Training Module;</li> <li>Provision of technical assistance to more than 3,000 youth in various programs and activities of NYC;</li> <li>Launching of campaign on HIV/AIDS awareness; and</li> <li>Formulation of 17 regional inter-agency action plans on SK registration.</li> </ul> <p>Asked by Rep. Christopher V. P. De Venecia how the NYC intends to spend its additional budget of P2.27 million, Seguerra said that it will be utilized to formulate training modules that will be made available to the youth.</p> <p>Rep. De Venecia urged the NYC to collaborate with the different government agencies to make sure that their youth programs are aligned with the Philippine Youth Development Plan (PYDP).</p> <p>Rep. Cristal Bagatsing (5<sup>th</sup> District, Manila) inquired what the NYC intends to do to help fight the spread of HIV/AIDS. Seguerra said that the NYC has launched a campaign caravan dubbed as "<i>UsapTayo</i>" which intends to bridge the gap between parents and children in terms of communicating issues about sex, drugs, HIV/AIDS, and other youth-related issues and concerns.</p> <p>PCW Executive Director Emmeline Versoza said that under the FY 2018 NEP, the PCW is set to receive P94.83 million which is 11.89% higher than its 2017 budget of P84.75 million. The budget of the PCW is distributed as follows: PS, P33.18 million; MOOE, P54.6 million; CO, P4.04 million; and retirement and life insurance premium (RLIP), P3.01 million.</p> <p>Versoza highlighted the major accomplishments of the PCW for 2016 and the first semester of 2017. For 2018, the PCW will continue to pursue programs and activities that will promote women empowerment and gender equality.</p>
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FY 2018 BUDGET BRIEFINGS/HEARINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p>Appropriations</p>	<p>Briefing on the proposed FY 2018 budget, plans and programs, and major accomplishments of the following government agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office of the Ombudsman (OMB)</li> </ul>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles (1st District, Davao City), listened to the presentations on the proposed FY 2018 budget, plans and programs, and major accomplishments of the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), and the Commission on Elections (COMELEC).</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair Rep. Doy Leachon (1st District, Oriental Mindoro) sat as the presiding officer during the OMB's budget briefing.</p> <p>Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales said that under the FY 2018 National Expenditure Program (NEP), the OMB is set to receive P2.59 billion for next year, which is 12.57% higher than its current budget of P2.3 billion.</p> <p>However, Carpio-Morales said that the DBM-recommended budget is 44.47% lower than OMB's original proposal of P4.66 billion. She said that the amount slashed by DBM was supposed to fund the following projects/activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expansion of building to provide additional space for the</li> </ul>

<p>Continuation... Appropriations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Justice (DOJ)</li> </ul>	<p>increasing number of OMB employees, as well as to provide lodging to OMB regional office personnel coming over to the central office on official mission instead of them staying in hotels;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision for the protection of whistle blowers; and</li> <li>• Roll-out of its electronic statement of assets, liabilities and networth (eSALN) project.</li> </ul> <p>Given that the DBM-recommended budget will not be sufficient to cover all the requirements of the OMB, Carpio-Morales requested Congress to include again a special provision in the General Appropriations Act of 2018 authorizing OMB to use its savings and the income generated from fees it collected to augment its budget.</p> <p>Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said that under the FY 2018 NEP, the DOJ and its attached agencies will get a total of P17.28 billion, an increase of 10% compared to the Department's 2017 budget of P15.58 billion.</p> <p>The DOJ budget for 2018 is distributed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office of the Secretary (OSEC) – P6.51 billion;</li> <li>• Public Attorney's Office (PAO) – P2.99 billion;</li> <li>• Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) – P2.36 billion;</li> <li>• National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) – P1.47 billion;</li> <li>• Land Registration Authority (LRA) – P1.07 billion;</li> <li>• Bureau of Immigration (BI) – P943.2 million;</li> <li>• Parole and Probation Administration (PPA) – P877.2 million;</li> <li>• Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) – P802.8 million;</li> <li>• Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) – P125.5 million; and</li> <li>• Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) – P120.4 million.</li> </ul> <p>Aguirre also discussed the DOJ's key strategies, core programs, and major accomplishments.</p> <p>Several House Members inquired on what the DOJ is doing with the case of Kian Delos Santos, a grade 12 student who was killed by the police purportedly in pursuit of the government's war on drugs. Aguirre said that he already instructed the NBI to conduct an investigation on the matter and file appropriate cases against those involved, if warranted. He added that he is willing to admit Kian's family and the witnesses to the Witness Protection Program (WPP) of the DOJ.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Edcel Lagman (1st District, Albay) to comment on the intention of the President to create an independent fact finding commission to investigate the escalating summary executions of drug suspects, Aguirre said it is not necessary since the Philippine National Police's (PNP) Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) and the NBI are capable of doing these investigations. Rep. Lagman countered that the proposed commission is essential especially when it is the police who are involved in the crime.</p> <p>BAGONG HENERASYON Party-List Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy inquired on the utilization of funds appropriated to the Board of Claims for victims of unjust imprisonment or detention and victims of violent crimes, considering that the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) and the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) are contributing huge amounts to the Board as mandated by law. Aguirre explained that any amount in excess of what was utilized by the Board is reverted back to the National Treasury.</p> <p>Rep. Henry Oaminal (2nd District, Misamis Occidental) noted that LRA only gets to use six to eight percent of its income when PD 1529 or the Property Registration Decree allows 20 percent of its income to be used for the agency's maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE) and capital outlay (CO).</p>
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<p>Continuation... Appropriations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)</li> <li>Commission on Elections (COMELEC)</li> </ul>	<p>A TEACHER Party-List Rep. Julieta Cortuna urged the PPA to act swiftly on the release of senior citizens and sick individuals under its Pardon and Parole Program. PPA Administrator Manuel Co said that his office is currently reviewing the cases of these applicants and have recommended 370 individuals for executive clemency, to include senior citizens and sick individuals.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Romero "Miro" Quimbo (2nd District, Marikina City) asked the NBI to look into the appointment of directors who did not come from the ranks, arguing that it defeats one of the purposes of the law which is to improve the morale in the NBI.</p> <p>The DOJ was requested to submit reports and documents pertinent to the proposed 2018 budget as requested by the Members of the Committee before the plenary deliberation of its budget.</p> <p>The Committee terminated its discussion on the proposed FY 2018 budget of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT).</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Nograles, DICT Secretary Rodolfo Salalima expressed the Department's commitment to utilize the remainder of its funds for 2016 and 2017 before the year ends.</p> <p>The FY 2018 proposed budget of the DICT was lengthily discussed in the Committee's previous meeting.</p> <p>The Committee deferred its deliberations on the FY 2018 budget of the COMELEC due to the absence of COMELEC Chair Andres Bautista.</p>
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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Banks and Financial Intermediaries	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 3682 & 3818	Reps. Yap (A.) and Bravo (A.)	Strengthening the secured transactions legal framework, which shall provide for the creation, perfection, determination of priority, establishment of a notice of registry, and enforcement of security interests in personal property	The Committee, chaired by Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone, approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 3682 and 3818.
	HB 5436	Rep. Cua	Regulating equity crowdfunding, amending for the purpose RA 8799, otherwise known as the Securities Regulations Code	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune the bill.</p> <p>Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, author of HB 5436, explained that the bill must be crafted in general terms so as not to defeat its intent of promoting investments in small and medium enterprises (SMEs).</p> <p>As defined in the bill, "equity crowdfunding" refers to "transactions involving the offer or sale of securities by an issuer, which is conducted through a funding portal that complies with the requirements of this Code" (Securities Regulations Code).</p> <p>Rep. Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte (2nd District, Camarines Sur) said that equity crowdfunding is inevitable in the Philippine capital market as it is already existing in other countries like the United States.</p>

Continuation... Banks and Financial Intermediaries				<p>Asked to comment on the bill, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Commissioner Ephyro Luis Amatong said that equity crowdfunding may fall under the alternative trading system which is provided for in the Code. However, there is a need to amend the Code to define this new form of raising capital, Amatong said.</p> <p>The SEC was requested to prepare a crowdfunding regulation framework to serve as reference of the Committee in the crafting of the proposed law.</p> <p>The resource persons present were likewise requested to submit their position papers for the TWG's consideration.</p>
	HB 5629	Rep. Villafuerte	Enabling banks to expand service delivery channels through cash agents and providing guidelines therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to fine-tune the bill and resolve the issues and concerns raised during the meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Villafuerte, author of HB 5629, presented the main features and rationale of his bill, also called <i>Bangko sa Baryo Act</i>. He also discussed the two-fold goals of the bill, namely, to deploy authorized cash agents to deliver banking services, especially in far-flung and unserved areas; and to increase Filipinos' financial literacy and capability in understanding financial services.</p> <p>The bill defines "cash agent" as any person with a retail outlet such as convenience stores, pharmacies, and other highly accessible retail outlets that deliver bank services.</p> <p>AGRI Party-List Rep. Orestes Salon lauded the intent of the proposed law as this will provide convenient financial services to farmers who are remotely situated and alleviate poverty especially in the countryside.</p>
	HBs 5723 & 5934	Reps. Durano and Evardone	Amending RA 8484, otherwise known as the Access Devices Regulation Act of 1998	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HBs 5723 and 5934. The Secretariat was directed to consolidate the two bills.</p> <p>Rep. Evardone, author of HB 5934, explains that the proposed measure is a product of the Committee's <i>motu proprio</i> investigation into the prevalence of bank computer system breakdowns, hacking and skimming of automated teller machine (ATM) accounts in several banks.</p>
	HR 461	Rep. Batocabe	Inquiry into the viability of pre-need companies and to determine the liability of directors and officers of pre-need companies which fail due to mismanagement	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 461 in its next meeting.</p> <p>The Insurance Commission (IC) was requested to submit to the Committee the following data pertinent to each of the pre-need companies which failed or went bankrupt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total amount of trust funds involved for life, pension and educational plans;</li> <li>• Number of claimants and amount of</li> </ul>

Continuation... Banks and Financial Intermediaries				<p>claims due versus returned contributions or payments made; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status of cases filed in courts against these pre-need companies.</li> </ul>
Good Government and Public Accountability	HR 882	Majority Leader Fariñas	<p>Inquiry into the use by the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte of its shares from the excise taxes on locally manufactured Virginia-type cigarettes or the Special Support Fund under RA 7171 for a purpose other than those provided for by the said law, and its highly irregular purchase of motor vehicles made through cash advances without the benefit of public biddings for the total amount of P66.45 million</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), continued its inquiry relative to HR 882.</p> <p>Ilocos Norte Governor Imee Marcos maintained that the provincial government followed the prescribed rules and procedures in its purchase of motor vehicles mentioned in HR 882, adding that the Commission on Audit (COA) has said that all transactions were fully liquidated and delivered.</p> <p>When asked why the Local Finance Committee of the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte recommended cash advance as the mode of payment for the purchase of the motor vehicles, Ilocos Norte Provincial Treasurer Josephine Calajate said that it was stated in the terms of contract for the said procurement.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Cebu) stressed that RA 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991 prohibits advance payments and grant of cash advances.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Fabian Go, president of Granstar Motors and Industrial Corporation, claimed that he had no idea that the purchase of the questioned motor vehicles involved government funds. Granstar Motors and Industrial Corporation is the distributor of Foton-Forland mini trucks which were purchased by the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte.</p> <p>On the query of Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1<sup>st</sup> District, Ilocos Norte), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Region IV OIC-Director Jethro Sabariaga said that only 5% value added tax (VAT), instead of 12%, was imposed on the questioned motor vehicles indicating that the purchase was a government transaction.</p> <p>ABS Party-List Rep. Eugene Michael de Vera inquired if the 5% VAT and the 1% creditable tax were reflected in the official receipt (OR) covering the purchase of the motor vehicles. Genedine Jambaro, from the Office of the Ilocos Norte Provincial Treasurer, answered in the affirmative.</p> <p>Go agreed to look for the original duplicate of the OR, but lamented that it would be difficult for his office to locate documents pertaining to transactions undertaken several years back.</p> <p>The Committee also decided to invite the members of the <i>Sangguniang Panlalawigan</i> and the Municipal Assessors' League of Ilocos Norte to attend its next meeting.</p>

<p>Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability</p>	<p>HR 1126</p>	<p>Rep. Casilao</p>	<p>Inquiry into the utilization of the tobacco excise tax and determination of the tangible benefits acquired by tobacco farmers of Ilocos Norte</p>	<p>The Committee assumed jurisdiction over HR 1126.</p> <p>ANAKPAWIS Party-List, Rep. Ariel "Ka Ayik" Casilao, author of HR 1126, stressed that the farmers should directly benefit from the share of the Province of Ilocos Norte from the proceeds of the tobacco excise tax.</p> <p>Rep. Casilao requested that reports and documents regarding the utilization of the proceeds from the tobacco excise tax from 2006 to 2016, which have already reached P1.5 billion, be submitted by the provincial government to the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee will invite Commission on Audit (COA) Chair Michael Aguinaldo and the farmers' alliances from Ilocos Norte as resource persons in its next hearing on the resolution.</p>
	<p><i>Motu proprio inquiry</i></p>		<p>Inquiry into the transactions of the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte, particularly on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase of portrait bust sculpture and services for the development of Paoay Museum on July 17, 2012;</li> <li>• Materials and installation of precast concrete for Paseo de Paoay on July 18, 2012;</li> <li>• Purchase of medicines and Libspray 211 for distribution to the different municipalities on October 24, 2012;</li> <li>• Purchase of Panlaban 5EC for distribution to the different municipalities on November 23, 2012; and</li> <li>• Purchase of medicines for distribution to the different municipalities on December 11, 2012.</li> </ul>	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the alleged irregular transactions of the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte undertaken in 2012.</p> <p>In response to the queries of the Committee Members, Marcos and the officials of the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte stated the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the purchase of bust sculpture and services for the development of Paoay Museum, the issue on the Memorandum of Agreement between Marcos and the lone bidder having the same date as the acceptance and inspection report was explained as a possible mistake and may have used the date when the down payment was given.</li> <li>• On the precast concrete project for Paseo de Paoay, the funding which amounted to P4.83 million was sourced from the province's budget for capital outlay and not from its share from the excise tax on tobacco. Since the project requires specialized antique finishes, direct contracting was undertaken.</li> <li>• On the purchase of medicines and Libspray fertilizers, the funding of P5.9 million was sourced from the province's share from excise tax on tobacco. The purchase of medicines, which were requested by the farmers, was done through public bidding; while the purchase of Libspray fertilizers, which were necessary to revitalize the soil that have been ravaged by the typhoons that hit the province, was done through direct contracting.</li> </ul> <p>Rep. Pimentel stressed that purchase of medicines is not allowed under RA 7171, the</p>

Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability				<p>law promoting the development of the farmers in the Virginia tobacco-producing provinces. He further explained that per COA regulations, advance payments are prohibited, hence, payment can only be made when goods and services are fully delivered.</p> <p>Majority Leader Fariñas said that Section 339 of RA 7160 provides that no cash advance shall be granted to any local official or employee, elective or appointive, unless made in accordance with COA rules and regulations.</p> <p>Several lawmakers criticized COA's failure to notice early on the irregularities in the transactions of the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte.</p> <p>State Auditor Cornelio Viernes of COA Region I said that it was the responsibility of the audit team leader who audited the questioned transactions, identified as Rizalino Franco, to issue an audit observation memorandum (AOM) to the agency concerned. Franco claimed that he signed the AOM and left it to Viernes.</p> <p>Another COA Auditor Jose Acebu, who was a member of the audit team assigned to audit the transactions of the provincial government, confirmed that he has prepared and submitted for review and approval to the audit team leader and the supervising auditor of COA the list of officials and employees with unliquidated advances from the provincial government's general and trust funds.</p>
Housing and Urban Development	Substitute House Joint Resolution (HJR) to HJR 11	Rep. Benitez	Authorizing the National Housing Authority (NHA) to award to other qualified beneficiaries the unawarded housing units in the housing projects of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), and Bureau of Corrections(BuCor), the awarded housing units that are not yet occupied and whose ownership and possession is surrendered by their respective awardees, and housing units whose respective awards were cancelled by reason of default in the payment of amortization or for any violation of the terms and conditions of the individual loan agreement	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental), approved the substitute HJR with amendments and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>HJR 11 was approved by the Committee in its previous meeting, but the approval was reconsidered to introduce additional amendments.</p>
	HBs 228, 1724 & 2125	Deputy Speaker Singson, Reps. Biazon and Ocampo	Prescribing the mechanisms to facilitate the disposition of idle government-owned lands for socialized housing	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the four bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Benitez disclosed that the Committee was able to secure an inventory of all idle government lands in Metro Manila totaling around 3,400 hectares. He said that government lands should be utilized for better purposes.</p>
	HB 2807	Rep. Castelo	Mandating that at least ten percent (10%) of government-owned lands to be sold, alienated or otherwise encumbered for development purposes be segregated for socialized housing projects	

Continuation... Housing and Urban Development				<p>On the query of Rep. Benitez, Agnes Agay, acting division manager of the Policy Studies and Development Division of NHA, disclosed that out of the approximately 1,135 hectares of NHA's landholdings, about 300 hectares are already included in its planned housing development projects.</p> <p>Rep. Alberto Ungab (3rd District, Davao City) suggested that the Land Management Bureau (LMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) be required to submit an inventory of all government lands nationwide to help NHA identify which of these lands are idle.</p> <p>AKO BICOL Party-List Rep. Rodel Batocabe cited the need to also determine the suitability of lands for housing. He added that the government owned or controlled corporations (GOCCs) be required, by way of a subpoena, to submit a list of their properties which are considered idle lands.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Gavini "Apo" Pancho (2nd District, Bulacan) inquired whether idle lands include those occupied by informal settler families (ISFs).</p> <p>Agay said that based on NHA's definition, even lands occupied by ISFs are considered idle if there is no development plan or housing program yet for said lands. She added that idle lands must first be evaluated if they are fit for housing purposes.</p> <p>The government agencies with representatives in the meeting were requested to submit an inventory of their respective landholdings.</p>
Natural Resources	HB 4208	Rep. Fernando	Authorizing the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to cut, ball, transfer, dispose or plant trees when implementing national or local infrastructure projects	<p>The Committee, chaired by LPGMA Party-List Rep. Arnel Ty, approved HB 4208 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Thomas Kabigting, forest management specialist of the Forest Management Bureau (FMB), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), expressed his support for the bill. However, Kabigting said that the DPWH may not have the expertise to undertake the cutting, earth-balling and transferring of trees, such that he suggested that the FMB be consulted on the matter.</p> <p>Dr. Willie Abasolo, dean of the College of Forestry and Natural Resources of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UP-LB), likewise manifested his support for HB 4208. He said that securing a permit to conduct earth-balling involves a long process, thereby hampering the implementation of infrastructure projects.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Joseph Stephen Paduano (Party-List, ABANG LINGKOD),</p>

Continuation... Natural Resources				Kabigting said that logs derived from the cutting of trees shall be turned over to the DENR for proper disposal, as required by law.
	HB 4577	Rep. Savellano	Classifying bamboo as an unregulated forest product	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on HB 4577.</p> <p>The bill aims to promote the development of the Philippine bamboo industry by streamlining policies that constrain its growth, encourage investors to invest in plantations and processing factories, and provide sustainable livelihood in rural areas.</p> <p>DENR Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) Director Henry Adornado, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Region III Chief Trade and Industry Development Specialist Leonor Paningbatan, as well as Kabigting and Abasolo, conveyed their support for the proposed law. However, they pointed out that the bill must have safeguard mechanisms to avoid the depletion of bamboo.</p> <p>Reps. Paduano and Leo Rafael Cueva (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Negros Occidental) emphasized the need to revitalize the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council, citing its paramount role in promoting and enhancing the potential of the bamboo industry in the country.</p>
People's Participation	Substitute Bill to HB 146	Rep. Acosta-Alba	Institutionalizing volunteerism as a strategy for national development, amending for the purpose RA 9418 or the Volunteer Act of 2007	<p>The Committee, chaired by San Jose del Monte City Rep. Florida "Rida" Robes, approved the Substitute Bill to HB 146 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 3789 & 3023	Reps. Zarate and Roque (H.)	Strengthening the right of the people to free expression, to peaceably assemble and to petition the government for redress of grievances, repealing for the purpose Batas Pambansa Blg. 880, otherwise known as the Public Assembly Act of 1985	<p>The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 3789 and 3023 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p>
	HR 1173	Rep. Robes	Urging the House of Representatives, through the Committee on People's Participation, to initiate the conduct of forum to educate the citizens and encourage their participation towards the adoption of a regional self-governance through federalism	<p>The Committee adopted HR 1173.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p>
	HBs 5842 & 6120	Reps. Vargas and Nieto	Encouraging volunteerism during emergencies by protecting volunteers from liability	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate HBs 5842 and 6120.</p> <p>Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Capacity Building Bureau Assistant Director Leah Mejias</p>

Continuation... People's Participation				<p>suggested that the proposed law should adopt the definition of terms used in RA 9418 and RA 10121 or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010.</p> <p>John Anthony Geronimo, senior economic development specialist of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), said that volunteers should have the proper training on how to respond to emergencies.</p>
	HRs 780 & 799	Reps. Batocabe and Mangaoang	Inquiry into the status of implementation of RA 9418 and on the various volunteerism efforts undertaken by the concerned national government agencies, local government units and other stakeholders towards national development and in accelerating rural development throughout the Philippines	<p>The Committee will conduct a joint meeting with the Committee on Rural Development to discuss the issues raised in HRs 780 and 799.</p> <p>The Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) discussed the agency's various volunteerism programs. PNVSCA Volunteer Service Officer Irene Volante also mentioned that lack of funding hampers the agency's ability to fully perform its mandate.</p> <p>In response to the query of Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Quezon City) as to why volunteers have to be paid, Volante clarified that the funding requirement is intended to cover the cost of training for volunteers.</p>
Public Order and Safety	HB 5338	Rep. Campos	Requiring personnel of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) to be certified first responders, amending for the purpose RA 9263, as amended, otherwise known as the BFP and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology Professionalization Act of 2014	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Antipolo City), approved HB 5338 subject to style.</p> <p>Rep. Luis Jose Angel Campos Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Makati City), author of HB 5338, said that the bill requires fire officers to become certified medical first responders by requiring them to undergo and complete the public safety basic recruit course. By institutionalizing training and certification of fire officers as medical first responders, they will be capable not just of suppressing fire but also responding to medical emergencies.</p>
	HBs 742 & 2471	Reps. Aglipay-Villar and Geron	Strengthening the private security industry, amending for this purpose RA 5487, otherwise known as the Private Security Agency Law, as amended	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to draft a substitute bill to HBs 742, 2471 and 3219.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Horacio Suansing Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Sultan Kudarat).</p> <p>DIWA Party-List Rep. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar, author of HB 742, said that the bill seeks to professionalize the private security industry and increase its efficiency by intensifying the requirements for training and professional certification of security practitioners. She added that the bill has provisions that deter private security agencies from turning into private armies.</p> <p>On the other hand, Rep. Evelina Escudero (1<sup>st</sup> District, Sorsogon), author of HB 3219, stated that the bill provides for a "study now pay later scheme" for security guards,</p>
	HB 3219	Rep. Escudero	Amending Sections 5 and 6 of RA 5487, as amended	

Continuation... Public Order and Safety				<p>watchmen and private detectives who may opt or are mandated to finish the security management specialist course. It likewise seeks to extend the validity of license of security guards to three years.</p> <p>The stakeholders present expressed their support for the proposed law.</p>
Public Works and Highways	HBs 444 & 445	Deputy Speaker Quimbo	Converting the Shoe Avenue and J. Molina Street in the Second District of Marikina City into national roads	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Celso Lobregat (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Zamboanga City), approved HBs 444 and 445.
	HB 4916	Rep. Garin (O.)	Converting the road stretching from Barangay 5 to Barangay Igcabugao, all in the Municipality of Igbaras, Province of Iloilo into a national road and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HBs 4916, 4917 and 4920.
	HB 4917	Rep. Garin (O.)	Converting the road stretching from Barangay Sibucauan, Municipality of Tubungan to Barangay Igcabugao, Municipality of Igbaras, all in the province of Iloilo into a national road and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 4920	Rep. Garin (O.)	Converting the road stretching from Barangay Poblacion East to Barangay Alegre, all in the Municipality of Oton, Province of Iloilo into a national road and appropriating funds therefor	
	HBs 944, 1244, 1424, 2342, 2421, 2422, 2885, 2888, 2889, 2891, 3638, 3957, 4121, 4123, 4164, 4611, 4912, 4913, 4918, 4919, 4969, 4970, 5743 & 5764	Reps. Tiangco, Villafuerte, Cosalan, Caminero, Dimaporo (A.), Gatchalian, Martinez, Go (A.C.), Garin (O.), and Nolasco	Converting streets/roads into national roads in various parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the 24 measures in its next meeting.</p> <p>Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Undersecretary Dimas Soguilon promised to the Committee that DPWH will review the proposed bills and at the same time come up with less stringent requirements for the conversion of streets/roads into national road.</p>
Tourism	HB 5362	Rep. Olivarez	Requiring the Philippine Postal Service to print postage stamps depicting Philippine tourist spots and that these stamps be affixed on all outgoing mail matter for a certain period of time to attract foreign tourists	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Lucy Gomez (4th District, Leyte), approved HB 5362.</p> <p>Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) Assistant Postmaster General Luis Carlos expressed support for the bill.</p>
	HR 450	Rep. Castelo	Urging the Department of Tourism (DOT) to institutionalize the <i>Kalapati Festival</i> of Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City	<p>The Committee adopted HR 450.</p> <p>Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), author of HR 450, said that his resolution seeks to include the <i>Kalapati Festival</i> of Barangay Holy Spirit in Quezon City, which started way back in 2005, in the DOT calendar of festivals and activities.</p> <p>The DOT expressed support for the measure.</p>
	HR 915	Rep. Sandoval	Requesting the DOT, through the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone	The Committee adopted HR 915.

Continuation... Tourism			Authority (TIEZA), to allocate funds for the construction and maintenance of public restrooms within the eastern and western nautical highways in the Philippines	In support of the resolution, TIEZA Legal Counsel Michelle Rivera said that the provision of public restrooms within the eastern and western nautical highways in the Philippines is already incorporated in TIEZA's planned tourist assistance centers (TAC) which will be put up in targeted tourism areas across the country.  TACs will house basic facilities and services that the tourists may need while they are on the road, such as comfort rooms, rest areas, charging and WiFi stations, tourist information desks, police outposts, and "Go Lokal" stores where products from small businesses in the area may be sold.
	HR 956	Deputy Speaker Garin	Inquiry into the status of the implementation of RA 10816 or the Farm Tourism Development Act of 2016	The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 956.  The Committee also agreed to conduct a joint meeting with the Committee on Agriculture on the matter.
	HR 1087	Rep. Sarmiento (E.M.)	Inquiry into the road map, programs, projects and action plans of the DOT that aim to regulate tourist spots in order to promote sustainability	The Committee will continue its inquiry relative to HR 1087.

COMMITTEE MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Constitutional Amendments	Organization of technical working groups (TWGs) that will study and deliberate on specific Articles in the 1987 Constitution in connection with the proposed shift from a unitary to a federal type of government	<p>The Committee, chaired by Southern Leyte Rep. Roger "Oging" Mercado, organized the technical working groups (TWGs) that will study and deliberate on specific Articles in the 1987 Constitution, and thereafter recommend the corresponding amendments to effect a shift from a unitary to a federal type of government.</p> <p>The TWGs will be using as common resource materials the draft Philippine Federal Constitution, that is an attached document to Resolution of Both Houses (RBH) No. 8; Joint Resolution 10, which was filed by former Senator Aquilino Pimentel Jr. during the 14<sup>th</sup> Congress; Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan's (PDP-Laban) proposed federal Constitution; and the 1935 and 1973 Philippine Constitutions.</p> <p>The four TWGs created were assigned to study the following subject matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>TWG 1</u> - Legislative Branch; Executive Branch; Local Governments and Taxation/Allocation of Resources; and a new article on Federal and Regional Powers and the number of States that will comprise the proposed federal government. The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Corazon Nuñez-Malanyaon (1st District, Davao Oriental);</li> <li>• <u>TWG 2</u> - Bill of Rights; Citizenship; Judiciary; Suffrage; Constitutional Commissions; and Amendments or Revisions; The TWG will be chaired by Deputy Speaker Fredenil "Fred" Castro (2nd District, Capiz);</li> <li>• <u>TWG 3</u> - Preamble; National Territory; Declaration of Principles and State Policies; General Provisions; and Transitory Provisions. The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental); and</li> <li>• <u>TWG 4</u> - Accountability of Public Officials; National Economy</li> </ul>



<p><i>Continuation...</i> Tourism</p>		<p>to be located in the Entertainment City in Parañaque City. It will be a two-floor theme park showcasing the replica of tourist spots, festivities and legends in the country, and will also promote all products of the various regions in the Philippines. The construction of the new Nayong Pilipino theme park is expected to be completed in three years.</p> <p>Asked about the source of funds for the proposed new Nayong Pilipino, Ocampo said the agency is considering a public-private partnership (PPP) to implement the project.</p>
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