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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Higher and Technical Education	HB 2275	Rep. Kho	Converting the Dr. Emilio B. Espinosa Sr. Memorial State College of Agriculture and Technology in Masbate into a state university to be known as the State University of Masbate (SUM), and establishing its campuses in Masbate City and in the Municipalities of Aroroy, Cawayan, and San Jacinto, all located in the Province of Masbate	The Committee, chaired by Rep Ann Hofer (2 nd District, Zamboanga Sibugay), approved HB 2275 subject to style and amendment.
	HB 4961	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Appropriating funds for the construction of additional classrooms, laboratories, and dormitories in the Central Mindanao University	The Committee approved HB 4961.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 6286, 898, 2166, 2951, 3472, 3586, 5990, 6213, 4025 & 6361	Reps. Hofer, Tan (A.), Santos-Recto, Herrera-Dy, Macapagal-Arroyo, Vargas, Nieto, Belaro, and Olivarez	Establishing a medical scholarship program and service program for qualified students and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan M.D. (4th District, Quezon), author of HB 898, proposed that the return service requirement for scholars accepted to the medical scholarship program should be five years after passing the board examinations.</p> <p>Under Section 6 of the substitute bill, one of the conditions for the grant of medical scholarship is a requirement to serve in any government hospital or local health office for at least eight years or two years for every scholarship year availed of within 10 years upon graduation.</p> <p>However, Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga), author of HB 3472, argued that the eight-year return service requirement would be more advantageous to the government and to the public healthcare system.</p> <p>The University of the Philippines College of Medicine (UPCM) Community Health and Development Program Director, Dr. Anthony Cordero, informed the Committee that under the present set up of the UPCM Scholarship Program, the scholar should complete his or her three-year return service obligation within five years upon graduation. Cordero added that the scholar may choose to undergo post-graduate clinical residency</p>

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education				<p>and/or fellowship training in any accredited government or private hospital in the country as part of his or her return service obligation. He also mentioned that the UPCM return service compliance rate is 90% which is very high.</p> <p>Philippine Medical Association's (PMA) Governor for Central Tagalog Dr. Rogelio Dazo Jr. suggested that the proposed law should specify the health services that the scholars should engage in when they comply with the return service requirement.</p> <p>Dr. Ben Caragay, dean of the Bicol University College of Medicine, expressed support for the bill, but raised several issues and concerns, including which agency should pay for the services of medical graduates who are complying with their return service obligation. He said that local government units (LGUs) may not have adequate funds to support these scholars.</p> <p>Likewise, Dr. Jose Nemesio Granada, dean of the West Visayas State University (WVSU) College of Medicine, while expressing support for the bill, voiced out his concern for the safety of the doctors especially if they are assigned in remote areas. He suggested that the bill must carry a provision that will ensure their safety.</p>
	HB 6147	Rep. Cortuna	Establishing the Polytechnic University of the Philippines-Sablayan campus in Occidental Mindoro to be known as PUP-Sablayan Campus	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 6147 in its next meeting.</p> <p>The newly-elected president of the Occidental Mindoro State College, Marly Nuelo, will be invited to attend the Committee's next meeting on the bill to allow her to explain her opposition to the proposed measure.</p>
Housing and Urban Development	HR 599	Rep. Evardone	Inquiry into perceived snail-paced implementation of housing relocation and resettlement projects for those affected by Typhoon Yolanda and for those living in dangerous zones, and to recommend appropriate legislation	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental), deferred further deliberations on the resolution pending the approval of its request for a joint inquiry with the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability.</p> <p>Rep. Benitez explained that aside from the issue of snail-paced implementation of the housing relocation and resettlement projects in Yolanda-affected areas, there are other issues surrounding the controversial resettlement projects that are under the purview of the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability.</p> <p>Expressing dismay over the miserable performance of the National Housing Authority (NHA), Rep. Benitez pointed out that as of February 2017, out of the targeted 205,128 housing units under the government's resettlement program for the victims of Typhoon Yolanda, only 71,629 units were</p>

<p>Continuation... Housing and Urban Development</p>				<p>actually constructed, and only 24,109 of the units completed are currently occupied.</p> <p>NHA General Manager Marcelino Escalada Jr. explained that the delay is caused by the following: funds for the project were not immediately released; the properties to be expropriated do not have a certificate of land title; the process for acquiring the necessary permits is rigorous; and the requirement for complete land development prior to the actual construction of housing units was difficult to achieve.</p> <p>On the report that about 70% of lands in Eastern Visayas are not covered by land titles, Rep. Benitez asked the Commission on Audit (COA) if tax declarations could be accepted in lieu of land titles to enable NHA to procure the lands needed for its housing project.</p> <p>Director Mary Adelino of the COA Social Security Unit explained that the terms of reference (TOR) for the procurement of lots under the NHA's Yolanda permanent housing program provide that all acquired lands should be "with clean titles/without illegal occupants/structures upon utilization."</p> <p>Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone, author of HR 599, could not accept the reasons behind the delay in the completion of the housing projects. He warned that persons involved in anomalous transactions will be administratively and criminally prosecuted.</p> <p>Other Committee Members said that the NHA should have religiously monitored the projects and penalized contractors who failed to deliver on time.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Camilo Salazar, who claims to be a subcontractor of the JC Tayag Builders Inc., and Virgilio Salazar, who also claims to be a third party subcontractor of the housing projects in Balangiga, Eastern Samar, testified that substandard materials were used in the construction of some housing units in the resettlement site in Balangiga.</p> <p>Juanito Tayag, owner of JC Tayag Builders Inc., one of the contractors of the NHA housing projects in Yolanda-affected areas, denied the accusations. Tayag also clarified that Camilo Salazar was a foreman at a project site in Balangiga and not a subcontractor of his company.</p> <p>Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso (3rd District, Leyte) said that Tayag may have violated the provision of the Labor Code against labor-only contracting when it engaged the labor services of Camilo Salazar through a "pakyaw" system.</p> <p>On the delay in the completion of the housing units, Tayag explained that this was due to the</p>
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Continuation... Housing and Urban Development				<p>massive earthworks that his company had to undertake prior to his actual construction of the houses. He also disclosed that out of the 7,572 housing units for construction in the whole Province of Eastern Samar, only 2,949 were awarded to J.C. Tayag Builders in 2016, belying allegations that it bagged 80% of the projects.</p> <p>The NHA was requested to submit the list of construction companies that were contracted to construct housing units in the NHA's resettlement areas for Typhoon Yolanda victims, as well as the location and the status of these housing projects.</p>
Transportation	Substitute Bill to HBs 1319 & 5595	Reps. Velarde and Sarmiento (C.)	Providing for the special protection of child passengers in motor vehicles	The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, approved the substitute bill subject to amendment.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Constitutional Amendments (Technical Working Group)	Discussion on the Technical Working Group IV's timeline for the drafting of the amendments to Articles XI, XII, XIII, XIV and XV of the 1987 Constitution in connection with the proposed shift from a unitary to a federal type of government	<p>The Technical Working Group IV (TWG IV), chaired by Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso (3rd District, Leyte), discussed its timeline for the drafting of proposed amendments to specific articles in the 1987 Constitution in line with the proposed shift from a unitary to a federal type of government.</p> <p>TWG IV is tasked to study possible amendments to the following: Accountability of Public Officers (Article XI); National Economy and Patrimony (Article XII); Social Justice, Human Rights, Labor, and others (Article XIII); Education, Science and Technology, and others (Article XIV); and The Family (Article XV).</p> <p>According to Rep. Veloso, the output of the small groups created by the TWG to study each subject matter should be presented to the TWG on October 9. Afterwhich, the consolidated output of the TWG will be presented to the Mother Committee on November 14.</p>

AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Games and Amusements jt. w/ Public Order and Safety	Briefing by the Resorts World Manila (RVM) on its new security and safety protocols	<p>The Joint Committee, co-presided by Rep. Gus Tambunting (2nd District, Parañaque City), Chair of the Committee on Games and Amusements, and Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), Chair of the Committee on Public Order and Safety, listened to the briefing conducted by the Resorts World Manila (RVM) on its new security and safety protocols.</p> <p>At the outset, Reps. Tambunting and Acop urged casinos to adopt stricter security measures to ensure the safety of their employees and guests as they recall the tragic incident that happened at the RWM on June 2, 2017.</p> <p>RWM Chief Operating Officer Stephen James Reilly, along with RWM's top security officials, presented the major changes that have been incorporated in the casino/hotel's new safety and security protocol. One of the changes involved RWM's hiring of retired police</p>

<p>Continuation... Games and Amusements jt. w/ Public Order and Safety</p>		<p>and military officials as head of its security and safety department/units, including retired Gen. Jose Erwin Villacorte, who is now the new Chief of Security and Safety. RWM has also employed the services of Black Panda as its international security consultant, whose expertise is to offer “comprehensive security solutions to clients operating in challenging environments.”</p> <p>Reilly added that RWM has increased its coordination with City Government of Pasay, the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), and other law enforcement agencies. It also increased the number of K9 units and CCTV cameras; increased the number and enhanced the capabilities of its security and surveillance teams; upgraded its fire detection alarm system (FDAS); and installed panic/duress alarm system, among others.</p> <p>RWM has a new Incident and Crisis Manual containing 41 incident scenarios and created a Crisis Management Team to respond to particular emergency situations. Training courses on security and safety awareness, fire and life safety, and first aid and basic life support are being conducted for all its employees.</p> <p>RWM Chief Legal and Corporate Service Officer Ma. Georgina Alvarez informed the Committee that RWM has already acquired a Fire Safety Inspection Certificate (FSIC) from the BFP.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu) and Reps. Vincent "Bingbong" Crisologo (1st District, Quezon City) and Henry Oaminal (2nd District, Misamis Occidental) expressed their satisfaction with the improvements made by RWM on its security and safety protocols.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2nd District, Pangasinan), Reilly said that no representatives from the Public and Safety Unit of the Pasay City Government were present during the last joint tabletop exercise during which appropriate responses to particular emergency situations are discussed.</p> <p>Pasay City Rep. Emi Calixto-Rubiano committed to call the attention of the Pasay City Government for its full cooperation in these exercises.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon inquired on the measures undertaken by the RVM to ensure the continuity of operations in the surveillance rooms during emergencies, citing the abandonment of the surveillance rooms during the June 2 incident at the RWM which contributed to the delay in response and rescue operations. Reilly gave his assurance that it will not happen again, adding that RWM's surveillance rooms have been increased to 45 and a crisis management room was also established.</p> <p>Reps. Acop and Tambunting suggested that the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation's (PAGCOR) Security Protocol be adopted by all casinos nationwide as the standard basis for security policy and not merely to serve as a checklist of requirements, as what PAGCOR manifested in previous hearings of the Committee.</p>
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Briefing on the plans and programs of the following government agencies in addressing traffic congestion in Metro Manila:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter-Agency Council on Traffic (i-ACT) 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, listened to the briefing of the Inter-Agency Council for Traffic (i-ACT) and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) on their respective plans and programs in addressing traffic congestion in Metro Manila.</p> <p>Retired General Manuel Gonzales, i-ACT secretariat head, said that i-ACT aims to synchronize the efforts of government agencies involved in traffic management in the country, particularly in Metro Manila, under a unified chain of command.</p>

<p>Continuation... Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) 	<p>The i-ACT, which was launched last August 2016, is an inter-agency body composed of the Department of Transportation (DOTr), MMDA, Land Transportation Office (LTO), Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), and the Philippine National Police-Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG). It initially focused on addressing the traffic problem in Metro Manila, but has expanded its operations to nearby provinces of Bulacan, Rizal, Cavite, and Laguna.</p> <p>On the query of Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu) regarding the function of i-ACT in traffic enforcement, Director Roy Taguinod, head of MMDA's Traffic Discipline Office (TDO), said that the i-ACT helps in implementing traffic ordinances and in identifying and apprehending "colorum" public utility vehicles.</p> <p>When asked about the total number of traffic enforcers in Metro Manila, Taguinod answered that there are 2,037 traffic enforcers in all, 120 of whom are deployed along Commonwealth, Quezon City where the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) 3 project is currently being constructed.</p> <p>Reps. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City) and Julieta Cortuna (Party-List, A TEACHER) called on i-ACT to fulfill its mandate effectively and consistently.</p> <p>Taguinod explained that pursuant to RA 7924 or the MMDA Charter, the MMDA is mandated to plan, monitor, coordinate and implement programs, and exercise regulatory and supervisory authority over the delivery of metro-wide services in Metro Manila.</p> <p>Taguinod said that among the accomplishments of the MMDA in the area of traffic management are the following: filing of administrative cases against seven barangay captains who failed to secure the roads previously cleared by the MMDA of illegally-parked vehicles and obstructions; closure of bus terminals along EDSA; apprehension of traffic violators; reorganization and reassignment of MMDA personnel to various sectors and divisions to reduce opportunities for corruption; and conduct of training and education for traffic enforcers.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Vincent "Bingbong" Crisologo (1st District, Quezon City) on which agency is primarily in-charge of addressing the traffic problem in Metro Manila, Gonzales said that it is the i-ACT.</p> <p>However, Rep. Bayani Fernando (1st District, Marikina City) refuted Gonzales' statement, saying that as former chair of the MMDA, he knows for a fact that providing solutions to Metro Manila's traffic crisis falls under the mandate of the MMDA.</p> <p>Other transport agencies were no longer asked to make their presentations due to time constraints. Instead, they were just requested to submit the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From the Road Board - List of projects approved by the Road Board; From the LTFRB - Number of public utility vehicles (PUVs), particularly buses, plying along EDSA and estimated number of commuters on EDSA; Number of terminals (legal and illegal) along EDSA and apprehended colorum buses; From the LTO - Number of LTO-registered vehicles and drivers for the year 2016; and From MRT and Light Rail Transit (LRT) - Number of MRT/LRT passengers for years 2016 and 2017.
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