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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Public Order and Safety	HR 763	Rep. Acop	Inquiry into the manifest breakdown of discipline in the Philippine National Police (PNP) in the light of the recent high-profile criminal incidents allegedly involving officers and members of the organization	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 763 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Edgar Erice (2nd District, Caloocan City) asked the Philippine National Police (PNP) on the reason behind the decision to relieve all the members of the Caloocan police from their posts, considering that not all of them were involved in wrongdoings.</p> <p>Police Chief Superintendent Alfredo Corpuz explained that the decision came about due to the following high-profile cases involving the Caloocan police: killing of Kian delos Santos during an anti-illegal drug operation; killing of Carl Angelo Arnaiz who was supposed to have been tagged by a taxi driver as a robber; and the raid of a private residence conducted by the Caloocan City police without a search warrant.</p> <p>Corpuz disclosed that the relief of the Caloocan police force was ordered by PNP Chief Director General Rogelio dela Rosa, who also ordered the deployment of police officers from various regions in the country to man the Caloocan police stations.</p> <p>Police Chief Superintendent Edwin Roque, acting director of the PNP Directorate for Plans, is of the opinion that the first to be relieved are the police personnel directly involved in the incidents mentioned by Corpuz, and would be required to undergo retraining and reorientation.</p> <p>On Rep. Erice's comments that masked men in some incidents of killing in Caloocan were probably being financed by syndicates, Roque said that there might be a possibility that certain groups or syndicates are out to sabotage the administration's on-going war against illegal drugs. Roque added that the PNP is looking into this angle.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu) urged the PNP to immediately investigate and act on the matter.</p>

Continuation... Public Order and Safety				On the request of MAGDALO Party-List Rep. Gary Alejano for the submission of spot reports concerning police operations and cases of death of suspects while in police custody, Manzanilla said that the PNP has prepared the documents, but clearance from the President is needed for the documents to be released.
Poverty Alleviation	HB 4700	Rep. Garcia (J.E.)	Institutionalizing community-based monitoring system in all barangays, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Rep. John Marvin "Yul Servo" Nieto (3rd District, Manila), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to come up with a substitute bill. The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Nieto.
	HB 5588	Rep. Zubiri	Establishing a nationwide geo-tagging and poverty tracking system and appropriating funds therefor	<p>HB 4700, authored by Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2nd District, Bataan), requires barangays to establish and maintain a community-based monitoring system (CBMS) to provide data on each and every household which will be useful in formulating anti-poverty programs at the local level.</p> <p>HB 5588, authored by Rep. Manuel Zubiri (3rd District, Bukidnon), seeks to institutionalize geo-tagging in all local government units (LGUs) to track the status of government projects (including poverty-alleviation projects) in real time and to allow for a more effective policy-making by both the national government and the LGUs.</p> <p>The term "geo-tagging" is defined in HB 5588 as the "process of adding geographical identification to various media in the form of metadata. The captured information is uploaded to a web-based application which provides the platform to geo-tag."</p> <p>Dr. Celia Reyes, director and CBMS network leader at the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network Asia, gave a brief background on the CBMS. She defines CBMS as an organized process of data collection and processing at the local level for integration in local planning, program implementation and impact-monitoring. It is useful for the following purposes: local level planning and budgeting; poverty mapping; program impact monitoring; disaster risk reduction management; and monitoring of the country's achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p> <p>Director Gerelyn Balneg of the Local Affairs Coordinating and Monitoring Service of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) expressed support for the bills. She suggested that all the data collection systems of the government, including the LGUs' CBMS, the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR), and the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA), be consolidated into a unified data collection system without compromising the purposes that led to their establishment.</p>

Continuation... Poverty Alleviation				<p>Reps. Vilma Santos-Recto (6th District, Batangas) and Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP) recognize the value of first-hand data at the barangay level in the identification and implementation of government programs. Rep. Santos-Recto, for one, shared the experience of the provincial government of Batangas which has successfully implemented important projects in the province based on data generated through the CBMS.</p> <p>On the suggestion of Rep. Lianda Bolilia (4th District, Batangas), the Committee asked the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) to submit an estimated cost for the conduct of data collection per household.</p>
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ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
West Philippine Sea (Special Committee)	Approval of the Special Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Feliciano Belmonte Jr. (4th District, Quezon City), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p> <p>The Special Committee, currently composed of 16 members, has jurisdiction over "all matters directly and principally relating to West Philippine Sea issues, including territorial and boundary disputes, national and regional peace and security issues, joint cooperation arrangements, and maritime and environmental concerns."</p> <p>An executive session was subsequently held to listen to the briefing by the National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 4018, 4904, 5023, 5326, 5433, 5443 & 6190	Reps. Unabia, Yap (A.), Macapagal-Arroyo, Chavez, Panganiban, Deputy Speaker Garin, and Rep. Geron	Replacing the quantitative import restrictions on rice with tariffs, amending for the purpose RA 8178, as amended, or the law replacing quantitative import restrictions on agricultural products, except rice, with tariffs, creating the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by ANAC-IP Party-List Rep. Jose Panganiban Jr., will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill.</p> <p>BUTIL Party-List Rep. Cecilia Leonila Chavez, author of HB 5326, asked about the plans and programs of the Department of Agriculture (DA) in preparation for the eventual replacement of the quantitative restriction (QR) on rice imports with tariff.</p> <p>DA Undersecretary Segfredo Serrano said that the DA already has programs that are aimed at enhancing farmers' productivity to raise their income and increase their competitiveness.</p> <p>The draft substitute bill is intended to implement the Philippines' commitment to the World Trade Organization (WTO) to remove the QR on rice imports and subject the same to ordinary customs duties or tariffs by June 30, 2017.</p>

Continuation... Agriculture and Food (Technical Working Group)				<p>The bill also provides that all duties collected from the importation of rice shall accrue to the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund and will be utilized to provide the necessary support services to rice farmers.</p> <p>ANAKPAWIS Party-List Rep. Ariel “Ka Ayik” Casilao asserted that the tariffication of imported rice, regardless of the rates to be imposed, should redound to the benefit of the farmers.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Panganiban suggested that the National Food Authority (NFA) should be authorized to import rice only for the purpose of maintaining the required level of rice buffer stock and responding to shortages or emergencies, and should retain its power to issue permits for the importation of rice.</p> <p>The stakeholders were requested to submit their respective position papers on the substitute bill for consideration of the TWG.</p>
Government Reorganization jt. w/ National Defense and Security (Technical Working Group)	HB 108	Rep. Alejano	Establishing the Emergency Management Agency (EMA), amending for the purpose RA 10121 or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction Management Act of 2010	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), agreed to draft a substitute bill to the 35 measures, incorporating the pertinent suggestions of the resource persons. The Secretariat was instructed to furnish the resource persons with the draft substitute bill for their further comments.</p> <p>PHIVOLCS Deputy Director Bartolome Bautista and PAGASA Deputy Administrator for Research and Development Flaviana Hilario suggested to strengthen the disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) capacity of local government units (LGUs) and to allow the participation of the academe in DRRM.</p> <p>Department of Social Welfare and Development’s (DSWD) Disaster Response Assistance and Management Bureau Director Felino Castro underscored the need to delineate the respective roles and to strengthen coordination between the NDRRMC and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) to effectively respond to calamities and disasters.</p> <p>Regine Palma of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) pointed out the importance of specifying in the bill the role of the private sector in national disaster management.</p> <p>The Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Civil Service Commission (CSC), and the CCC manifested their support for the bills.</p>
	HBs 344, 3093, 4203, 4648 & 6075	Reps. Romualdez, Castelo, Herrera-Dy, Leachon, and Salceda	Creating the Department of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, defining its mandate, powers and functions, and appropriating funds therefor	
	HBs 596 & 164	Rep. Pichay	Establishing the Philippine Emergency and Disaster Management Authority and providing funds therefor	
	HB 2638	Rep. Gatchalian	Instituting a National Disaster Rehabilitation Program and establishing the Philippine Disaster Rehabilitation Commission	
	HB 138	Rep. Noel	Providing for emergency warehouses in areas devastated by calamities to provide affected consumers access to basic necessities or prime commodities at discounted and tax-free prices	
	HB 805	Rep. Batocabe	Mandating all schools and universities to establish an area-specific disaster risk management and education program in their respective jurisdictions, amending for the purpose RA 10121	
	HBs 397 & 2661	Reps. Belmonte (J.C.) and Angara-Castillo	Strengthening the Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Change Adaptation Linkages, amending RA 10121	
	HB 1132	Rep. Alejano	Granting disaster service volunteers a paid leave during period of disasters	
	HBs 1149 & 1379	Reps. Alejano and Vargas	Including responsive, empowered and service-centered youth in the Disaster	

Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ National Defense and Security (Technical Working Group)			Risk Reduction and Management Council in all levels, amending for the purpose RA 10121	Civil society organizations (CSOs), such as the Disaster Risk Reduction Network (DRRNet), Save the Children, and World Vision Philippines, likewise expressed support for the bills. All the resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills for the TWG's consideration.
	HBs 1374, 1763, 1812, 2146 & 2608	Reps. Tan (A.), Zarate, Vargas, Pineda, and Santos-Recto	Providing for the establishment of evacuation centers in provinces/cities/municipalities or other strategic areas throughout the country during times of calamity or disaster	
	HB 1485	Rep. Abayon	Requiring local government units (LGUs) to prepare their disaster preparedness plans using up-to-date industry standards or the best technology available	
	HBs 2555 & 3083	Rep. Castelo	Expanding the Philippine disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) system thereby institutionalizing a comprehensive recovery and reconstruction plan through a whole-of-society approach with the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), through the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), as the lead agency	
	HBs 2804 & 5593	Reps. Castelo and Vargas	Mandating the conduct of fire, earthquake and other hazardous phenomena drills in educational establishments, school buses, workplaces and healthcare institutions	
	HBs 3094 & 3889	Reps. Castelo and Escudero	Institutionalizing a system of effective fund administration of cash donations or humanitarian aid from local or foreign donors and sponsors during natural or man-made disasters, crises, tragedies, or emergencies	
	HB 3509	Rep. Ortega	Providing for alternative source of livelihood for small-scale fishermen and subsistence fisher folks in coastal communities in the Philippines by deputizing them as auxiliary response team in natural and man-made calamities and disasters	
	HB 4521	Rep. Yu	Establishing the Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards (NOAH) center to strengthen disaster prevention and mitigation program and appropriating funds therefor	
	HBs 454. 2784 & 2854	Reps. Gomez and Rodriguez (I.)	Establishing disaster and emergency centers in certain areas in Leyte and in the 2nd District of Rizal, appropriating funds therefor	
HR 439	Rep. Castelo	Directing the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), and PHIVOLCS to submit to the House of Representatives a joint comprehensive report on the nation's preparedness for natural calamities before and after their		

<p>Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ National Defense and Security (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>HR 721</p>	<p>Rep. Alejano</p>	<p>occurrences with the end in view of formulating an efficient and systematic national scheme of reducing risks to lives and properties</p> <p>Inquiry into the strategy of the national government in preparing the whole citizenry to respond to national emergencies</p>	
<p>Transportation (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>Substitute Bill to HBs 106, 296, 758 & 4433</p>	<p>Reps. Tan (A.), Suansing (H.), Aglipay-Villar, and Abayon</p>	<p>Establishing the taxi passengers' rights</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija), will fine-tune the substitute bill and thereafter present it to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Among the agreements reached during the TWG meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify the definition of the term "taxi" under Section 3 to exclude tourist car transport service (TCTS), transport network vehicle service (TNVS), and similar types of public utility vehicles (PUVs); • Amend Section 5 (a) (Rights of Taxi Passengers) to include drivers of TNVS and TCTS as among those who will be issued an official identification (ID) by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB); • Include in Section 8 (Taxi Passengers' Rights Notification) of the bill a provision requiring the display or posting of a sign inside the taxi on the mandatory use of seat belts pursuant to RA 8750 or the Seat Belts Use Act of 1999; and • Delete Section 12 (Special Fund for Education Seminars and Public Information Campaign) of the bill. According to Dalisay Francisco, senior budget and management specialist of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), under the "one-fund" concept, all income and revenues of the government must accrue to the General Fund. Francisco said that the funds needed for public information campaign and education seminars for PUV drivers shall be charged to the LTFRB's current year's appropriation. <p>Manifesting their support for the proposed measure were resource persons from the government side, namely, Department of Transportation (DOTr), Land Transportation Office (LTO), LTFRB, Department of Tourism (DOT), Philippine National Police - Highway Patrol Group (PNP - HPG), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), and the Philippine Information Agency (PIA); and from the private transport groups, TNVS and TCTS.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Constitutional Amendments (Technical Working Group II)	Discussion on the rules and the general conceptual framework to be adopted by the Technical Working Group II in deliberating on Articles III, IV, V, VIII, IX, and XVII of the 1987 Constitution and a proposed Article on Bill of Duties in relation to the proposed shift from a unitary to a federal type of government	<p>The Technical Working Group II (TWG), chaired by Deputy Speaker Fredenil "Fred" Castro (2nd District, Capiz), adopted the Rules of Procedure of its mother Committee, agreeing that it is also applicable to the TWG in the conduct of its business.</p> <p>In line with the proposed shift from a unitary to a federal type of government, the TWG is tasked to study and come up with possible amendments to the following articles of the Constitution: Bill of Rights (Article III); Citizenship (Article IV); Suffrage (Article V); Judicial Department (Article VIII); Constitutional Commissions (Article IX); and Amendments or Revisions (Article XVII). It is also tasked to review a proposed Article on Bill of Duties.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Castro requested the TWG members to submit a list of resource persons whom they wish to take part in the upcoming TWG deliberations. He clarified that the TWG deliberations are not exclusive to the present TWG members, but are open to all House Members as well.</p>

AGENCY BRIEFING

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Science and Technology	<p>Briefing by the following government/private entities on their research and development programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) • Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) 	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Kalinga Rep. Allen Jesse Mangaoang, listened to the briefing conducted by the PhilRice, PCAARD, Department of Agriculture (DA), and Biotech on their research and development programs.</p> <p>Created by virtue of Executive Order 1061 in November 1985, PhilRice is mandated to develop, in coordination with the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), a national rice research program aimed at sustaining and further improving the gains already made in rice production, improving the income and economic condition of rice farmers, and promoting the general welfare of the people through self-sufficiency in rice production.</p> <p>PhilRice Acting Deputy Executive Director Eduardo Quilang highlighted the major accomplishments of PhilRice and gave an overview of the country's rice industry.</p> <p>Quilang said that the low palay production in 2014 to 2016 were brought about by the long dry spell due to the El Niño phenomenon, the damage caused by strong typhoons that hit the country the past years, and the high production cost. To respond to these challenges, Quilang said that PhilRice is committed to continuously embark on various research and development programs that will raise the competitiveness of the country's rice industry, create cutting-edge agricultural innovations, develop resilient rice-farming communities, and provide access to safe, nutritious and affordable rice and rice-based products.</p> <p>Dr. Melvin Carlos, director of the Technology Transfer and Promotion Division of PCAARRD, briefed the Committee on PCAARD's mandate, functions, banner programs, and research and development outputs and services.</p> <p>Carlos said that PCAARRD is committed to contribute to the socio-economic agenda of the present administration and will continue to serve as a catalyst in moving the Philippine agriculture, aquatic, and</p>

