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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Basic Education and Culture	HBs 2076; 3872, 3874 & 3919; and 4288 & 4289	Reps. Cerilles, Almario, and Ungab	Establishing national high schools in the Municipality of Margosatubig, Province of Zamboanga del Sur; in the Municipalities of Governor Generoso, Lupon, and San Isidro, all in the Province of Davao Oriental; and in Barangays Sibulan and Catigan, Toril District, Davao City, respectively, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee chaired by Rep. Ramon "Red" Durano VI (5 th District, Cebu), approved the six bills.
	HB 5500	Rep. Garcia (J.E.)	Establishing a national science high school in the City of Balanga, Province of Bataan, to be known as the Balanga City National Science High School and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 5500.
	HB 5578	Rep. Mangaoang	Separating Magtoma National High School - Dupligan Annex in the Municipality of Tanudan, Province of Kalinga from the Magtoma National High School, converting it into an independent national high school, to be known as Biga National High School and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 2076
	HB 753	Rep. Aglipay-Villar	Expanding the definition of a book and the benefits attendant thereto, amending for this purpose RA 8047, otherwise known as the Book Publishing Industry Development Act	The Committee will deliberate further on the six bills in another meeting. Antonio Calipjo Go will again be invited in the next meeting of the Committee to present the factual errors in some textbooks published by the Department of Education (DepEd). (Go is a private school owner best known for exposing factual, logical, and grammatical errors in textbooks used in public schools in the Philippines.)
	HB 3662	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Mandating that educational curriculum and the consequent preparation of textbooks and related materials should have continuity and stability, and that the same should not be affected for a period of at least six years, amending for the purpose RA 8047	Rep. Gabriel Bordado Jr. (3 rd District, Camarines Sur) urged the DepEd to give credence to the allegations of Go and not just dismiss them. He chided the National Book Development Board (NBDB) and the DepEd for being remiss in their duty to develop the book publishing industry.
	HB 5310	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Decentralizing the textbook procurement program of the Department of Education (DepEd) by creating a Textbook Procurement Services Unit (DTPSU) in all provincial and city division offices, including those in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), repealing for the purpose Section 10 of RA 8047	DepEd Assistant Secretary Tonisito Umali maintained that there are no errors in the textbooks used in public schools. He challenged Go to sit down with him together with representatives from the academe to go over these textbooks and spot for errors, if ever there are.
	HB 5742	Rep. Romero	Amending RA 8047, by adopting a more systematic, comprehensive and effective formulation and implementation of a	Umali also clarified that the DepEd does not

Continuation... Basic Education and Culture			national book policy and a national book development plan, providing stiffer penalties and sanctions	publish textbooks, but chooses textbooks published by authors and private publishing companies based on stringent guidelines.
	HB 1033	Rep. Castelo	Creating the National Textbook Review Board and appropriating funds therefor	Dominador Buhain, chair and president of publishing company Rex Group of Companies, objects to the creation of another body that will oversee, regulate and support the development and publication of textbooks as espoused in HBs 1033 and 5696, arguing that RA 8047 already addresses the intent of the bills. NBDB Director Anthony John Balisi concurred with Buhain, adding that the proposed body will only duplicate the functions of the NBDB and the Instructional Materials Council (IMC) of the DepEd.
	HB 5696	Rep. Olivarez	Creating the National Textbook Development Council	
	HB 2083	Rep. Cerilles	Establishing a national high school in Barangay Lumbog in the Municipality of Margosatubig, Province of Zamboanga del Sur, to be known as Lumbog National High School and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee agreed to table HB 2083 upon the manifestation of the author, Rep. Aurora Enerio Cerilles (2nd District, Zamboanga del Sur). Rep. Cerilles explained that the Sangguniang Bayan of Margosatubig issued a resolution requesting that the national high school be situated in Barangay Limbatong of the same town instead.
Higher and Technical Education	HB 4565	Rep. Salo	Providing for the legal framework and mechanisms for the creation, operation, and administration of transnational higher education in the Philippines, providing funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ann Hofer (2 nd District, Zamboanga Sibugay), approved the bill subject to style and amendment.
	HBs 1909, 3631, 3653, 3654 & 5800	Reps. Yap (M.), Lazatin, and Tupas	Providing for the establishment of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) training and accreditation centers in the First District of Negros Occidental, in certain areas in Pampanga, and in San Dionisio, Province of Iloilo and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the five bills subject to style and amendment and compliance with TESDA requirements.
	HR 1042	Deputy Speaker Garcia	Congratulating the University of San Carlos Department of Accountancy and its graduates for their outstanding performance in the last board examinations for certified public accountants (CPAs)	The Committee adopted HR 1042.
	HR 957	Rep. Uy (J.)	Inquiry into the dire consequences of the Commission on Higher Education's (CHED) order to close the various Bukidnon State University External Studies Center (BSU-ESCs) to students and communities in Misamis Oriental	The Committee terminated its discussion on the issues relative to HR 957. Rep. Juliette Uy (2 nd District, Misamis Oriental), author of HR 957, urged the Committee to recommend the cancellation of CHED Resolution No. 338-2015 ordering the closure via phase out of all BSU-ESCs in Misamis Oriental starting school year 2016-2017. The ESCs were ordered not to accept new enrollees and to facilitate completion and graduation of the currently enrolled students in the sophomore to senior year levels. Instead of closing the ESCs, Rep. Uy said, the CHED should initiate actions that will help the affected schools comply with its standards and ensure the delivery of quality and affordable education. The CHED objects to the cancellation of the said resolution.

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education	HBs 2578 & 3265	Reps. Rodriguez (M.) and Aglipay- Villar	Providing guidelines for the establishment and operation of local colleges and universities	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate HBs 2578 and 3265. The TWG will be co-chaired by Rep. Maximo Rodriguez Jr. (2 nd District, Cagayan de Oro City) and DIWA Party-List Rep. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar.
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COMMITTEE MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Ways and Means	<i>Motu proprio</i> inquiry into the alleged irregularities in the assessment and collection of taxes due Del Monte Philippines Inc. (DMPI) resulting in revenue loss to the government	<p>The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, will continue its inquiry into the alleged irregularities committed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) in the assessment and collection of taxes due Del Monte for years 2011 to 2013 in its next meeting.</p> <p>BIR Commissioner Caesar Dulay expressed concern that his testimony before the Committee may be self-incriminatory since complaints were already filed against him and several BIR officials relative to the Del Monte case.</p> <p>Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1st District, Ilocos Norte), however, cited Section 1 (Power To Conduct Inquiries) of the Rules of Procedure Governing Inquiries In Aid of Legislation which provides that “filing or pendency of a case before any court, tribunal or quasi-judicial or administrative body shall not stop or abate any inquiry conducted to carry out a legislative purpose.”</p> <p>On Rep. Cua’s query whether the BIR has already submitted all the documents pertaining to the case, Dulay said he has already submitted a certified true copy of most of the required documents, except for a few. He informed the Committee that the complete docket of the Del Monte case is with the National Investigation Division of the BIR-Legal Group.</p> <p>BIR Deputy Commissioner Jesus Clint Arenas promised to submit the remaining documents the following day (August 1, 2017).</p> <p>Meanwhile, BIR OIC-Assistant Commissioner for Large Taxpayers Service Teresita Angeles presented the chronology of events that led to the decision allowing Del Monte to pay its tax liabilities to a reduced amount of P65 million for years 2011 to 2013. Angeles explained that the preliminary tax assessment of Del Monte amounting to P8.72 billion was disputed by the company, which is allowed under Section 228 (Protesting of Assessment) of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997 or Republic Act 8424.</p> <p>DMPI Chief Operations Officer Luis Alejandro presented to the Committee its justification for challenging the tax assessment for 2011-2013 and the documents it submitted to the BIR that supported the tax dispute.</p> <p>Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2nd District, Oriental Mindoro) asked Angeles to submit a copy of her professional credentials and track record to prove her expertise and competence to handle cases involving large taxpayers, including the case of Del Monte.</p>

AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Metro Manila Development	Discussion on the proposed redevelopment of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex (RMSC)	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Winston ‘Winnie’ Castelo (2 nd District, Quezon City), discussed with the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) the proposed redevelopment of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex (RMSC)

<p>Continuation... Metro Manila Development</p>		<p>located in the City of Manila.</p> <p>PSC Chair William “Butch” Ramirez disclosed that the PSC, which manages the sports complex, is backing out of the planned redevelopment of the facility into a commercial complex. He said the PSC sent a letter to Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada on July 25, 2017 informing the latter of this decision. Ramirez, however, admitted that the 83-year old national sports facility is in dire need of immediate rehabilitation.</p> <p>Ramirez explained the reasons for PSC’s decision to reject the redevelopment plan. One, it took the City of Manila, the owner of the property where the RMSC is located, over a year to close the deal. Another is that the amount being offered to PSC as bid price for the RMSC is only P2.5 billion compared to the asking price of P3.5 billion to P5 billion.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Cristal Bagatsing (5th District, Manila) on the plan to construct another national sports complex in a different location, Ramirez said that the PSC is looking into the proposal of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) to build a modern sports facility in Clark Green City in Pampanga.</p> <p>National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) Chair Rene Escalante informed the Committee that the NHCP issued Resolution No. 5 last March 27, 2017 declaring the RMSC as a national historical landmark.</p> <p>Rep. Edgar Erice (2nd District, Caloocan City) said that the PSC’s 2018 budget should be increased to provide for the rehabilitation of the RMSC, citing the need to preserve the sports complex having been declared a national heritage site.</p> <p>Heritage Conservation Society President Mark Evidente pointed out the need to enact a law to give teeth to NHCP’s resolution.</p>
	<p>Discussion on the possible reversion of some functions of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) to the local government units (LGUs) relating to business establishments within economic zones</p>	<p>The Committee, according to Rep. Castelo, is looking into the possible reversion of some functions of the PEZA to the LGUs, which have jurisdiction over areas where economic zones are located, in response to the tragic incident at the Resorts World Manila. The incident gave rise to a number of issues including inadequate safety and security measures and lack of coordination among agencies.</p> <p>Rep. Castelo believes that PEZA lacks the necessary expertise and technical know-how in handling safety and security matters compared to the LGUs which are better equipped in this aspect.</p> <p>ANGKLA Party-List Rep. Jesulito Manalo underscored the need to revisit the Special Economic Zone Act of 1995 (RA 7916), particularly the provision granting PEZA the authority to issue business permits to locators within economic zones. He stressed that the issuance of business permits is well within the LGUs’ mandate regardless of whether the business establishment is inside the ecozone or not.</p> <p>PEZA Deputy Director General for Operations Mary Harriet Abordo asked for time to confer the matter with her principals before issuing PEZA’s official stand.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon requested PEZA to submit to the Committee a briefer on PEZA’s authority to issue building permits as it differs from the LGU’s function in terms of coverage and requirements.</p>

BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Games and Amusements jt.	Briefing by the Bloomberry Resorts and Hotels, Inc. (Solaire) on its security and safety protocols	The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Gus Tambunting (2nd District, Parañaque City), Chair of the Committee on Games and Amusements, and

<p>w/ Public Order and Safety</p>	<p>Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), Chair of the Committee on Public Order and Safety, listened to the briefing conducted by Bloomberry Resorts and Hotels, Inc. (Solaire) on its security and safety protocols.</p> <p>Rep. Tambunting said that the briefing aims to determine whether the hotel's security and safety protocols are in place to ensure the safety of their employees and guests. He recalled the tragic incident at the Resorts World Manila which he said should not happen again in any hotel or casino anywhere in the Philippines.</p> <p>Bloomberry Vice President for Security John Ross Laing assured the Joint Committee of Solaire Resort and Casino's commitment to ensure the safety of its guests, patrons, suppliers, and employees, as it also means protecting its US\$1.2 billion-dollar investments in the property.</p> <p>Bloomberry board member Donato Almeda added that part of the security and safety protocol of the casino is to get the right people for the job, as he proceeded to introduce the members of the hotels' security group.</p> <p>Responding to the query of 1-PACMAN Party-List Rep. Enrico Pineda on how Solaire would respond to attacks similar to what happened in Resorts World, Laing said that the hotel's quick response team would immediately take action and its security personnel manning the control room would guide its personnel on the ground in the evacuation of guests. Solaire is also equipped with fire safety devices and it has six security operations managers working alternately on a 24-hour shift, Laing added.</p> <p>Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2nd District, Pangasinan) inquired about Solaire's training program for its security personnel. Laing said that Solaire conducts crisis management training on an annual basis, aside from conducting other trainings and seminars designed to enhance the capability of its security personnel.</p> <p>Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1st District, Ilocos Norte) asked Solaire to adopt gender-sensitive practices such as in frisking casino guests, wherein only lady guards should be assigned to physically inspect female guests and male guards should do the checking of male guests.</p> <p>ACTS-OFW Party-List Rep. Aniceto "John" Bertiz III expressed doubt on the effectiveness of Solaire's security protocol citing as an example the death of Solaire's casino manager in February 2016 which happened inside the hotel the cause of which was alleged to be due to drug use. Rep. Bertiz stressed that in that incident, there had been a security lapse because the entry of drugs inside the hotel had not been detected.</p> <p>Michael Ray Aquino, Bloomberry's security executive director, admitted that Solaire's K9 dogs were trained to detect bombs but not drugs. However, he said that the Philippine National Police (PNP) Scene of the Crime Operatives (SOCO) was called to investigate the case.</p> <p>Rep. Acop urged the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) to develop a standard security management protocol for all casinos throughout the country. This after PAGCOR Vice President Lino Calingasan revealed that PAGCOR only has a checklist of security measures which is counterchecked with the security plan of a particular casino.</p>
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