

Committee Daily Bulletin



17th Congress
Second Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. II No. 59
December 5, 2017

BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 5636 & SB 1592	Rep. Cua and Senator Angara	Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion Act (TRAIN)	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee, co-chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua and Senator Sonny Angara, respective Chairpersons of the Committee on Ways and Means of both Houses, will deliberate further on the disagreeing provisions of HB 5636 and SB 1592 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Other conferees who were present during the bicameral conference committee meeting were the following: On the part of the House, Minority Leader Danilo Suarez (3rd District, Quezon), Deputy Speakers Romero "Miro" Quimbo (2nd District, Marikina City) and Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), and Reps. Gus Tambunting (2nd District, Parañaque City) and Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales Jr. (3rd District, Pampanga); On the part of the Senate, Senate President Pro-Tempore Ralph Recto, Minority Leader Franklin Drilon, and Senators Loren Legarda and Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri.</p>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food	Substitute Bill to HBs 3540, 3700, 3985, 4724 & 4741	Deputy Speaker Garin, Reps. Antonio, Aglipay-Villar, Villafuerte, and Tupas	Promoting the scientific propagation, processing, utilization, and development of Philippine native animals, hereby creating the Philippine Native Animal Development Center	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jose Panganiban Jr. (Party-List, ANAC-IP), approved the substitute bill subject to style.</p> <p>Pambansang Kilusan ng Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA) Vice Chair Samuel Fuellas expressed support for the bill.</p> <p>On the other hand, Board Member Vicente Domingo of the Professional Regulation Commission's (PRC) Board of Agriculture expressed apprehension that the proposed law might affect backyard farming which is an additional source of income for low-income farmers.</p> <p>Rep. Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte (2nd District, Camarines Sur), author of HB 4724, explained that, on the contrary, the bill will greatly benefit backyard farmers as they are among the intended beneficiaries of the native animal development program.</p>

Continuation... Agriculture and Food	HBs 2453, 3422, 5835, 6132, 6278 & 6324	Reps. Yap (A.), Romero, Go (A.), Panganiban, Deputy Speaker Garin, and Rep. Sy-Alvarado	Promoting and supporting the development of the corn industry and establishing the Philippine Corn Research Institute (PhilCorn)	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the six bills.</p> <p>Rep. Panganiban, author of HB 6132, said that the proposed establishment of PhilCorn will help modernize the corn industry and consequently improve the income of corn farmers.</p> <p>Representatives from the Department of Agriculture (DA), National Food Authority (NFA), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and Philippine Maize Federation Inc. (PhilMaize) interposed no objection to the passage of the proposed law.</p> <p>Rep. Peter "Sr. Pedro" Unabia (1st District, Misamis Oriental) proposed the inclusion of a provision in the bill that will grant incentives to farmers to encourage them to plant corn.</p>
Energy	HB 4269	Rep. Escudero	Ordaining the development of the downstream natural gas industry, consolidating for the purpose all laws relating to the transmission, distribution, and supply of natural gas	<p>The Committee, chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on HB 4269.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II (1st District, Zamboanga Sibugay).</p> <p>Rep. Evelina Escudero (1st District, Sorsogon), author of HB 4269, emphasized that the bill aims to accelerate the development of the downstream natural gas industry considering that the energy source of the Malampaya gas field is projected to be depleted by 2022.</p> <p>Department of Energy's (DOE) Natural Gas Management Division Chief Ma. Laura Saguin emphasized the need to conduct an in-depth study of the bill, explaining that another source of natural gas has yet to be discovered or explored. Saguin suggested to include a provision in the bill allowing the importation of liquefied natural gas (LNG) while the domestic natural gas industry is not yet fully developed.</p> <p>Philippine National Oil Company-Exploration Corporation (PNOC-EC) Vice President Raymundo Savella and Shell LNG Business Development Officer Joven Hernandez concurred with the DOE's recommendation to allow the importation of LNG.</p> <p>The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), Department of Trade and Industry-Bureau of Investment (DTI-BOI), and Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) expressed support for the bill.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers and other required documents to the TWG.</p>
	HRs 85 & 1034	Minority Leader Suarez and Rep. Salceda	Investigation into the status of the 650-megawatt natural gas-fired power plant and LNG hub terminal project being constructed by Energy World Corporation (EWC) in Pagbilao Grande Island, Quezon Province	<p>The Committee agreed to suspend deliberation on HRs 85 and 1034 pending compliance of EWC with its existing agreement with the National Grid Corp. (NGCP) to install a new 230kv transmission line (the "EWC Line") from the project site to the existing 230kv Naga-Tayabas transmission line of</p>

Continuation... Energy				<p>NGCP to be funded from EWC's equity. This is without prejudice to the reopening of the inquiry in case problems arise that will be prejudicial to the interest of the public, the Members of the Committee emphasized.</p> <p>EWC President Stewart Elliott cited the problems that cause the delay in the dispatch of power to the grid, which include the lack of substation facility, right-of-way (ROW) issues, and the company's failure to comply with the required documents for bank loans. But Elliot is hopeful that once these problems are resolved, EWC will be able to distribute power supply of up to 200 megawatts to Quezon Province in six months' time.</p> <p>Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) Vice President Francis Nicolas Chua and Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) Account Manager Ernesto Magsanoc informed the Committee that EWC's loan application with DBP and LBP intended to fund the project has not been approved yet mainly due to the latter's failure to submit the required documents.</p>
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Overseas Workers Affairs	Substitute Bill to HBs 192, 227, 288, 543, 822, 1936, 2334, 3255 & 4899	Rep. Bertiz, Deputy Speaker Singson, Rep. Romero, Arenas, Yap (A.), Villar, Cojuangco, Aglipay-Villar, and Castelo	Creating the Department of Migration and Development, defining its powers and functions, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Joint Committee, co-presided by Rep. Virgilio Lacson (Party-List, MANILA TEACHERS), Vice Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Jesulito Manalo (Party-List, ANGKLA), Chair of the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs, agreed to refer the substitute bill back to the technical working group (TWG) for further revision in view of additional amendments agreed upon by the body.</p> <p>Rep. Aniceto "John" Bertiz III (Party-List, ACTS OFW), presented the report of the TWG. The substitute bill seeks to create the Department of Migration and Development (DMD), the primary government entity that shall protect and promote the rights and interests of overseas Filipino workers (OFW) and Filipinos living abroad.</p> <p>Representatives from various OFW groups such as the OFW International, MRRD NECC-UAE (Mayor Rodrigo Roa Duterte National Executive Coordinating Committee-United Arab Emirates), and Lumbaca Unayan International-United Bangsaranao Council (LUI-UBC), expressed support for the bill.</p> <p>On the other hand, representatives from the Integrated Seafarers of the Philippines, Master and Mates Association of the Philippines, Phoenix Maritime Corporation, and National Maritime Polytechnic suggested the inclusion of a provision addressing the concerns of seafarers since their case is different from land-based OFWs.</p> <p>However, Maritime Industry Authority's (MARINA) Legal Service head Maximo Bañares Jr. explained that policies concerning the seafarers are already prescribed under RA 10635 or the law creating the MARINA. Bañares further said that the rights and welfare of seafarers are also very</p>

Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ Overseas Workers Affairs				<p>well protected by international conventions on seafaring and maritime safety.</p> <p>The Committee requested the stakeholders present to submit their respective position papers for the TWG's consideration.</p> <p>The TWG will now be co-chaired by Reps. Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN) and Manalo.</p>
Local Government	HB 1013	Rep. Pacquiao	Creating the Municipality of Malandag in the Province of Sarangani	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Pedro Acharon Jr. (1st District, South Cotabato and General Santos City), approved HB 1013 with amendment, subject to the submission of a certification from the Land Management Bureau (LMB) stating that the contiguous territory of the proposed municipality has a land area of at least 50 square kilometers as required under RA 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991.
	HB 1555	Rep. Go (M.)	Revising the Charter of the City of Baguio, repealing for the purpose Chapter 61, Act No. 2711, otherwise known as the Revised Administrative Code of 1917, as amended	The Committee approved HB 1555 with amendments.
	HB 4670	Rep. Marquez	Providing for the reapportionment of the lone legislative district of the Province of Aklan	The Committee approved HB 4670.
Local Government jt. w/ Muslim Affairs and Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (Special Committee)	HBs 92, 6121, 6263 & 6475	Deputy Speaker Sema, Reps. Macapagal- Arroyo, Dimaporo (M.K.), and Speaker Alvarez	Providing for the basic law for the Bangsamoro and abolishing the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), repealing for the purpose RA 9054, or the law strengthening and expanding the Organic Act for the ARMM, and RA 6734 or the law providing for an Organic Act for the ARMM	<p>The Joint Committee, chaired by Reps. Pedro Acharon Jr. (1st District, South Cotabato and General Santos City), Mauyag "Jun" Papandayan Jr. (2nd District, Lanao del Sur), and Ruby Sahali (Tawi-Tawi), for the Committees on Local Government and on Muslim Affairs, and the Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, respectively, agreed to create a subcommittee to consolidate the four bills.</p> <p>The Subcommittee will be chaired by Rep. Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II (1st District, Zamboanga Sibugay).</p> <p>Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga), author of HB 6121, said that her bill is the same version of the Basic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (BLBAR) which was filed by former Senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. during the 16th Congress. According to her, using the same bill that has already gone through deliberations would expedite the process of enacting the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL).</p> <p>Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte), author of HB 6263, said that the jurisdiction over matters on national defense and security within the Bangsamoro as well as auditing powers must not be devolved to the envisioned Bangsamoro government. He also suggested that a Deputy Ombudsman should be created in the Bangsamoro government.</p> <p>Rep. Dimaporo expressed his opposition to the "creeping expansion" or opt-in provision of the</p>

<p>Continuation... Local Government jt. w/ Muslim Affairs and Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (Special Committee)</p>				<p>BBL. He argued that the proposed Bangsamoro government must first prove that it can effectively govern its initial territory before making any expansion.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Deputy Speaker Bai Sandra Sinsuat Sema (1st District, Maguindanao), author of HB 92, suggested that HB 6475, principally authored by Speaker Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez (1st District, Davao del Norte), should be used as the working draft in the consolidation of the bills. Deputy Speaker Sema said that HB 6475 is the final draft of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC) which was submitted to the President.</p> <p>Rep. Acharon presented the timeline of the Joint Committee relative to the passage of the proposed BBL. He said that the target date for the bill's plenary deliberation and approval is March 12 to 21, 2018.</p> <p>Reps. Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City) and Jesus Nonato Sacdalan (1st District, North Cotabato) opined that the deliberations on BBL cannot be rushed and crafted haphazardly because the proposed law does not only concern the Bangsamoro territory but the nation as a whole.</p> <p>In response, the chairpersons of the three Committees assured the body that the proposed law will pass through full scrutiny of the Joint Committee. They also assured that all House Members, whether or not members of the Joint Committee, will be given opportunity to take part in the deliberations on the proposed law.</p>
<p>Poverty Alleviation</p>	<p>HBs 17, 41, 73, 207, 293, 318, 366, 399, 501, 518, 699, 823, 887, 901, 1098, 1429, 1548, 1661, 1694, 1948, 2278, 2456, 2545, 2688, 2772, 4135 & 6536 and Privilege Speech 277</p>	<p>Rep. Biazon, Deputy Speaker Quimbo, Reps. Vargas, Violago, Suansing (H.), Primicias-Agabas, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Belmonte (J.), Yap (V.), Deputy Speaker Castro, Reps. Macapagal-Arroyo, Yap (A.), Tan (A.), Fortuno, Castelo, Tupas, Angara-Castillo, Rodriguez (M.), Santos-Recto, Tambunting,</p>	<p>Institutionalizing the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Raymond Democrito Mendoza (Party-List, TUCP), will deliberate further on the 31 measures in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Mendoza said that based on the Commission on Audit's (COA) findings, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has already undertaken the following measures to address the issues surrounding the implementation of 4Ps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary suspension of registration of new 4Ps beneficiaries while operational problems are being fixed; • Remittance of unliquidated funds to the Bureau of Treasury (BTr); and • Tapping the Philippine Veterans Bank as an alternative bank for the payment of the 4Ps beneficiaries. <p>DSWD Undersecretary for Operations and Programs Maria Lourdes Turalde-Jarabe and Undersecretary for Legislative Liaison Affairs Luzviminda Ilagan explained that the DSWD has suspended the registration of new beneficiaries of 4Ps, affecting 48,000 to 50,000 applicants, to address first the operational problems pertaining</p>

Continuation... Poverty Alleviation		Pineda, Tan (S.), Mercado, Bag-ao, and Villarin		to the identification of beneficiaries and the payment scheme.
	HB 4155	Rep. Bolilia	Institutionalizing the rice allowance program in 4Ps and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee members urged the DSWD to lift the suspension as soon as possible citing its effects on the poor households badly needing government assistance. With the suspension of the registration of new beneficiaries, the Committee also expressed concern that the DSWD will not be able to utilize the 2017 approved budget intended for the program that will cover 4.4 million households.
	HB 6600	Rep. Romero	Mandating the national government to allocate two percent of the country's annual gross domestic product (GDP) to the mandatory implementation of the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Program	Rep. Emmi de Jesus (Party-List, GABRIELA), author of HR 464, acceded to the request of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to delete the "whereas" clause in her resolution alleging that the Philippine government's loans with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank were entirely used for the implementation of the 4Ps. The DBM said that these loans funded not only the 4Ps but also the other programs of the government.
	HR 464	Rep. De Jesus	Inquiry into the implementation of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) and seeking more sustainable programs that raise the standard of living and quality of life of poor families	Also during the meeting, leaders of the Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Pamilya ng Pantawid (SNPP) expressed their support for the measures institutionalizing the 4Ps. They gave a briefing on the benefits of the 4Ps in the lives of the poor specifically from six regions in the Philippines. Upon the request of Rep. De Jesus, the Committee agreed to ask the Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Health (DOH), and National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) to submit a report on the country's achievements in the areas of primary education, maternal and child health, and poverty eradication, using the millennium development goals (MDGs) indicators.
Science and Technology	Substitute Bill to HBs 3578, 3717, 4059, 4320 & 4368	Reps. Jalosjos, Yu, Aumentado, Nieto, and Salceda	Modernizing the National Measurement System (NMS) of the Philippines, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Erico Aristotle Aumentado (2 nd District, Bohol), approved the substitute bill. The bill will be transmitted to the Committee on Appropriations for review of its funding provisions.
	HB 1833, in consolidation with HBs 5541 & 6670	Reps. Vargas, Romero, and Villafuerte	Amending RA 8439, or the law providing a Magna Carta for scientist, engineers, researchers and other science and technology (S&T) personnel in government, by providing additional benefits and privileges to S&T professionals	The Committee approved HB 1833, in consolidation with HBs 5541 and 6670.
Social Services	Substitute Bill to HBs 656, 1584, 1586, 1916, 2396, 4865 & 5058	Reps. Treñas, Vargas, Violago, Sy-Alvarado, Laogan, Aglipay-Villar, and Velasco-Catera	Granting additional privileges to persons with disability, amending for the purpose RA 7277, as amended, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Persons with Disability (PWDs) and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sandra Young Eriguel M.D. (2nd District, La Union), approved the substitute bill, subject to style and amendment. It agreed to integrate HBs 6284, 5579, 5705 and 6108 into the substitute bill which have similar subject matter. The substitute bill shall be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for review of its funding provision.
	HBs 6284, 5579, 5705 &	Reps. Velasco-Catera,	Providing for the mandatory Philippine Health Insurance Corporation	

Continuation... Social Services	6108	Bagatsing, Castelo, and Villafuerte	(PhilHealth) coverage to PWDs, amending for the purpose RA 7277, as amended, providing funds therefor	<p>Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Assistant Secretary Grace Princesa noted that RA 8239 or the Philippine Passport Act of 1996 does not specifically provide for the grant of exemptions to PWDs from the payment of passport processing fees, travel taxes, terminal fees, and other fees and charges levied in airports, ports, and other terminals in the country.</p> <p>Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) legal counsel Michelle Rivera interposed no objection to the bill.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HB 2094	Rep. Tinio	Declaring Filipino sign language as the national sign language of the Filipino deaf and the official language of government in all transactions involving the deaf, and mandating the use in schools, broadcast media, and workplaces	<p>The Committee approved the motion of Rep. France Castro (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS), co-author of HB 2094, to adopt Senate Bill 1455 which has a similar subject matter, and subsequently approved the Substitute Bill to HB 2094.</p> <p>The bill shall be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for review of its funding provision.</p> <p>George Lintag, member of the Deaf Education Council (DEC) of the School of Deaf Education and Applied Studies, De La Salle College of Saint Benilde, expressed support for the bill, saying that the proposed law will grant full accessibility to the deaf community.</p>

COMMITTEE MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Ethics and Privileges	Committee Case No. SC-07-2017, entitled: Rep. Ron Salo, complainant, versus Rep. Herminio Harry Roque Jr., respondent, for unethical conduct	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Delphine Gan Lee (Party-List, AGRI), dismissed the case for being “moot and academic” since the respondent has already assumed the position of Presidential Spokesperson and that his name was already dropped from the rolls of House Members.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare an Order of Dismissal, a copy of which will be provided to the parties concerned.</p>
	Committee Case No. SC-08-2017, entitled: Rep. Herminio Harry Roque Jr., complainant, versus Rep. Ron Salo, respondent, for violation of the House of Representatives’ Code of Conduct	<p>The Committee determined that the complaint has substantially complied with the required form and content prescribed under Section 16 of the Committee’s Rules of Procedure. The case was referred to the Subcommittee on Preliminary Inquiries for initial review.</p> <p>Former Rep. Roque’s complaint against Rep. Salo stemmed from the latter’s alleged posting of an open letter to then Department of Health (DOH) Secretary Paulyn Jean Rosell-Ubial expressing grave concern over Roque’s “mental condition.”</p> <p>Rep. Geraldine Roman (1st District, Bataan) asked if Rep. Roque has already filed a libel suit against Rep. Salo in any judicial court. Committee Secretary Amado Lanuza replied that the Committee is not aware if a libel case has been filed against Rep. Salo.</p> <p>The Chair instructed the Committee Secretariat to prepare a Transmittal Notice to the respondent about the determination with a statement requiring him to submit to the Committee his written response to the complaint within 10 calendar days from receipt of the transmittal notice.</p>

Continuation... Ethics and Privileges		The Committee referred the Manifestation filed by Rep. Roque and the Counter Manifestation filed by Rep. Salo to the Subcommittee on Preliminary Inquiries for initial review.
	Memorandum of Transmittal from House Secretary General Cesar Pareja regarding the letter of Director Jaime Llaguno Mabilin of the Presidential Complaint Center, Office of the President, forwarding to the Committee a copy of the October 2, 2017 e-mail of Robert "Bobby" Javier; Memorandum of Transmittal from Secretary General Pareja forwarding to the Committee the follow-up letter of Javier dated November 27, 2017	<p>The Committee decided to inform Javier that it cannot process the information contained in his letter based on the following grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee has no information on the alleged Ombudsman decision against Iligan City Rep. Frederick Siao; and • The Committee cannot take cognizance of the alleged Ombudsman decision for lack of jurisdiction. <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare a letter-reply addressed to Javier, a copy of which shall be furnished to the House Secretary General and Mabilin.</p>

IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Justice	Determination of probable cause in relation to the verified complaint for impeachment against Supreme Court Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, filed by Atty. Lorenzo G. Gadon and endorsed by 25 House Members	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2nd District, Oriental Mindoro), will continue its hearing on the determination of probable cause with regard to the impeachment complaint against the Chief Justice in its next meeting.</p> <p>In today's hearing, the Committee focused its discussion on the alleged inordinate delay in the resolution of retirement benefit claims for justices and judges and their spouses. The said benefits are provided for under RA 9946 or the law granting additional retirement, survivorship, and other benefits to members of the Judiciary.</p> <p>Gadon alleged that the deliberate creation of the Special Committee on Retirement and Civil Service Benefits consisting of two technical working groups (TWGs) did not actually serve its supposed purpose of expediting the process of application for retirement benefit claims for spouses of deceased justices and judges. Instead, it actually delayed the resolution of some 29 applications for more than two years to the detriment of the elderly spouses of former members of the Judiciary. This act of the Chief Justice, Gadon claimed, constitutes an impeachable offense as it contradicts the intention of Section I, Article XI of the Constitution (Accountability of Public Officers).</p> <p>Supreme Court Administrator Jose Midas Marquez attested to the veracity of facts stated in the impeachment complaint, manifesting that from the time RA 9946 was enacted in 2010, benefit applications were resolved within a period of two to three weeks by the SC en banc.</p> <p>However, with the creation of the Special Committee and the two TWGs (one for screening of applications and the other for legal matters), the processing of applications for benefit claims received from October 2015 and onwards took too long, some for more than two years, before these were endorsed for consideration by the Supreme Court en banc. Marquez added that it was only after the announcement of Gadon that the delay in the processing of applications for survivorship benefits would be included in the impeachment complaint against Sereno, that the applications for survivorship benefits were endorsed to the Supreme Court en banc.</p> <p>Meanwhile, through the manifestations of Reps. Alfredo Garbin Jr. (Party-List, AKO BICOL) and Vincent "Bingbong" Crisologo (1st District, Quezon City), Gadon was reprimanded for issuing unfounded statements to the media which include those that may obfuscate the issues raised in the Impeachment Committee.</p>

Continuation... Justice		<p>Rep. Umali likewise warned Gadon in relation to the latter's statements in the broadcast media against some senators who allegedly may have already received considerations from the Chief Justice's camp in exchange for a favorable decision. These are contemptuous allegations against the Senators who will be the judges if and when the impeachment case will prosper, Rep. Umali said.</p> <p>The Committee decided to issue subpoena duces tecum and subpoena ad testificandum against the following in its next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atty. Anna-Li Papa-Gombio, SC deputy clerk of court en banc and chairperson of the Special Committee on Retirement and Civil Service Benefits; and • Atty. Socorro Inting, chief, Office of Recruitment, Selection and Nomination, Judicial and Bar Council (ORSN-JBC). <p>The Committee likewise decided to issue an invitation to Supreme Court Associate Justice Samuel Martires to attend its next hearing.</p>
----------------------------	--	--

AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Games and Amusements jt. w/ Public Order and Safety	Briefing by the Philippine National Police (PNP) on the status of operations of small town lottery (STL)	<p>The Joint Committee, co-versed 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, deferred its discussion of the status of STL operations due to the absence of the police officer who was supposed to conduct the briefing.</p> <p>Police Chief Superintendent Fausto Manzanilla Jr., deputy director of the PNP's Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management (PNP-DIDM), explained that Director Camilo Cascolan of the Directorate for Operations of the PNP was authorized by PNP Chief Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa to attend the meeting of the Committee. However, Manzanilla said that Cascolan was unable to attend due to a prior commitment.</p> <p>Rep. Tambunting emphasized that this meeting was supposed to discuss, among others, the following: status of the 2016 Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) on STL Operations; the STL Market Expansion Program; efforts of the PNP to address the proliferation of illegal numbers games, such as "jueteng;" and alleged difficulty of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) in seeking assistance from the PNP when problems with regard to STL operations arise.</p> <p>For his part, Rep. Acop said he wanted to seek the explanation of the PNP on the alleged involvement of some of its personnel in illegal gambling, and the STL operators' use of their license as front for <i>jueteng</i> operations or other illegal numbers games.</p> <p>Reps. Acop, Tambunting and Leopoldo Bataoil (2nd District, Pangasinan) expressed disappointment over the absence of the resource person authorized to represent the PNP Chief. They ordered the PNP delegation present in the meeting to relay to their leaders to take seriously and heed the invitation of the Committee.</p>
Science and Technology	Briefing by the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) on its mandate and plans and programs	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Erico Aristotle Aumentado (2nd District, Bohol), listened to the presentation of the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) on its mandate and plans and programs.</p> <p>NRCP Executive Director Marieta Sumagaysay said that the NRCP was created by virtue of Act 4120 to promote and support fundamental or basic research, provide advise on problems and</p>

<p>Continuation... Science and Technology</p>		<p>issues of national interest, and serve as repository of scientific and technical information of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).</p> <p>Sumagaysay also enumerated its research and development services in various fields, among which are the following: potential sources of antibiotics; protocols to increase agricultural and economic productivity; documentaries on culture and heritage; and intellectual property application for patents, utility models, industrial models, and copyrights.</p> <p>She also discussed the country's National Integrated Basic Research Agenda (NIBRA) 2017 to 2022 which was created to provide a roadmap for basic research in the country.</p> <p>Looking forward, Sumagaysay said that the NRCP's efforts will be geared towards the promotion of basic research for enhanced science culture and global competitiveness.</p>
---	--	---