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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Health	HRs 444 & 480 and Privilege Speech 125	Reps. Tan (A.), Suansing (E.), and Leachon	Inquiry into the legality of the procurement process and use of public funds relative to the school-based dengue immunization program of the Department of Health (DOH) as well as the efficacy and safety of the vaccine procured	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), Chair of the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon), Chair of the Committee on Health, will deliberate further on the issues raised in the three measures in its next meeting.</p> <p>Reps. Pimentel and Tan said that the Joint Committee will look into the safety and efficacy of the Dengvaxia vaccine as well as possible malfeasance, misfeasance and nonfeasance in connection with the Department of Health's (DOH) procurement of the anti-dengue vaccine from Sanofi Pasteur, the vaccines division of French pharmaceutical company Sanofi.</p> <p>The investigation, which was previously terminated subject to the submission of certain documents, was resumed following reports that children who have not been exposed to dengue and were vaccinated with Dengvaxia were more likely to get severe dengue after immunization.</p> <p>Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija), author of HR 480, asked Sanofi Pasteur to explain its conflicting statements with regard to the safety of the Dengvaxia vaccine.</p> <p>Sanofi Pasteur Asia Pacific Head Thomas Triomphe explained that the pharmaceutical company has always maintained the position that based on current data, the Dengvaxia vaccine is both safe and effective, and has complied with the existing regulations of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Philippine government.</p> <p>His statement was supported by University of the Philippines - Institute of Health Policy and Development (UP-IHPDS) Director Hilton Lam who was commissioned by Sanofi to conduct a study on the vaccine. According to Lam, the risk posed by Dengvaxia to subjects who have not been exposed to the dengue virus prior to the administration of the vaccine was only 0.02% higher compared to those who have had prior exposure. This, according to Lam, meant that Dengvaxia does not pose any considerable danger to the lives of the patients.</p>

<p>Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Health</p>				<p>On the other hand, Dr. Leonila Dans, chief of the Rheumatology Section of the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) in Manila, said that Sanofi Pasteur's claim that Dengvaxia is safe and effective is premature. She disclosed that the study on the safety of Dengvaxia was only on its second year when Sanofi started to claim that it was safe. This was, according to Dans, contrary to the WHO guidelines which require that the study on vaccines should be conducted in a span of five years at the minimum.</p> <p>DOH Secretary Francisco Duque III accused Sanofi of committing "mental dishonesty" as he believed the company already had information regarding the potential negative side effects of Dengvaxia, but did not disclose it to the government prior to the latter's procurement of the vaccine.</p> <p>Rep. Doy Leachon (1st District, Oriental Mindoro) chided the DOH for fast-tracking the procurement of the vaccine which was not listed in the 2016 General Appropriations Act (GAA). He also questioned the DOH for spending P3.5 billion on the dengue vaccine, which is open to suspicion because of the huge amount involved.</p> <p>Several House Members questioned Triomphe regarding Sanofi Pasteur's purported private meeting with former President Benigno Aquino III shortly before the purchase of the vaccines was made.</p> <p>Triomphe insisted that there was nothing irregular about the meeting and that the company's objective was to provide the President with nothing but facts concerning the vaccine.</p> <p>When asked about the actions taken by the DOH to address the situation, Duque said that the DOH has stopped administering the Dengvaxia vaccine and has set-up a "Dengue Hotline" to provide assistance to those who may have questions or problems regarding the vaccine. DOH has likewise collated the list of children in the country who have been administered with the Dengvaxia vaccine. Duque said that the DOH will conduct a post-immunization surveillance on these children in the next five years.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), several doctors present during the meeting agreed that Dengvaxia should only be administered to children who have had prior exposure to the dengue virus, otherwise, they are at risk of getting infected with severe dengue after immunization.</p> <p>Sanofi Pasteur was instructed to submit data on the sale and production of Dengvaxia in the country and abroad, and related studies on the vaccine.</p> <p>Likewise, Lam was instructed to submit a copy of his study on the Dengvaxia vaccine.</p>
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Information and Communications Technology	Substitute Bill to HBs 929, 2556, 2874, 2907, 3629 & 4241	Reps. Abaya, Castelo, Yap (V.), Sandoval, and Belaro	Providing for the establishment of no calls and no text registration system	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Victor Yap (2nd District, Tarlac), approved the substitute bill and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HBs 2873 & 5195	Reps. Yap (V.) and Velasco	Establishing number portability for mobile telephone service	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate and deliberate further on the bills.
	HB 5765	Rep. Gatchalian	Requiring public telecommunications entities to provide nationwide mobile number portability to subscribers	<p>Rep. Yap, author of HB 2873, said that the measures seek to implement the mobile telephone number portability to allow the users to retain their mobile numbers even when they decide to shift from one mobile network carrier to another.</p> <p>Mobile telephone number portability, as defined in HB 2873, refers to the “ability to transfer an existing mobile telephone number assigned by a telephone service provider to another service provider.”</p> <p>Representatives from the two giant telecommunications companies (telcos) in the country, Smart and Globe, suggested, among others, assigning an independent database provider to facilitate the processing of the proposed mobile telephone number portability, and limiting the number of times that a subscriber could avail himself of this service to once per year.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to get a copy of the minutes of the Senate discussion on the bill with similar subject matter for reference by the TWG.</p>
	HB 6736	Rep. Cua	Systemizing spectrum user fees imposed on all allocated and assigned radio frequency bands, amending for the purpose RA 7925, otherwise known as the Public Telecommunications Policy Act of the Philippines	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the two measures in its next meeting.</p> <p>NTC Deputy Commissioner Edgardo Cabarios presented the legal basis for the allocation and assignment of radio frequencies in the country.</p>
	HR 1338	Rep. Yap (V.)	Investigation into the management and administration of the country’s radio frequency spectrum by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC)	<p>Meanwhile, Democracy.Net.PH co-founder Pierre Galla presented the challenges and opportunities of the Philippine mobile communications industry and the mobile spectrum situationer in the country. Galla also brought up his organization’s proposals which may help the Committee in crafting legislation on the management of radio frequency spectrum.</p> <p>Democracy.Net.PH is an organization that advocates the rights to use the Internet and information and communications technology (ICT).</p> <p>DICT’s National Spectrum Monitoring System Project Manager Rommel Natividad said that there was a proposal for the procurement of a spectrum sensor to monitor and gather data on unused and floating frequencies. He also said the DICT will look into the amount of government revenue losses for the non-payment of spectrum user fees.</p> <p>The NTC was requested to submit an inventory of mobile spectrum allocated/assigned to the telcos and the available spectrum for new applicants.</p>

Natural Resources	Substitute Bill to HB 6625	Rep. Savellano	Classifying bamboo as an unregulated forest product	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Arnel Ty (Party-List, LPGMA), approved the substitute bill.
	HB 6060	Rep. Yap (V.)	Establishing the forest boundary of the Province of Tarlac	The Committee approved HB 6060 subject to amendment.
	HB 6242	Rep. Go (M.)	Granting another period to file manifestation of intention to validate titles issued under Civil Reservation Case No. 1, GLRO Record No. 211, pursuant to RA 931, as amended, and as provided under PD 1271, as amended	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to study further HB 6242.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, author of HB 6242, said that his bill aims to resolve the long-standing issue with regard to the validation of certain certificates of title covering lands within the Baguio Townsite Reservation in Baguio City.</p> <p>Rep. Go said that out of the more than 8,500 holders of certificates of titles qualified to apply for validation of title under PD 1271, about 1,902 failed to file their application prior to the deadline. As a result, said property owners are faced with the possibility of their titles being cancelled.</p> <p>Lawyer Rhandolfo Amansec, director for legal services of the Land Registration Authority (LRA), disclosed that the present occupants of the lands in question have filed their petition with LRA seeking the cancellation of the certificates of title that were issued to individuals before PD 1271 became a law in 1977.</p> <p>Based on the explanatory note to HB 6242, PD 1271 nullified the decrees of registration and certificates of title covering lands within the Baguio Townsite Reservation, but considered as valid certain titles of such lands that are alienable and disposable under certain conditions. The titles that were considered valid were those issued on or before July 31, 1973, but these should be validated within the prescribed period. The last day of filing the application for validation was on May 31, 1980, after several extensions of the deadline.</p> <p>Amansec stressed that in accordance with existing laws, the LRA is constrained to cancel the titles which were not submitted for validation. However, a legislative act will certainly hold such cancellation in abeyance, he added.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Special Committee on Bases Conversion (Technical Working Group)	HB 613	Rep. Roman	Designating one seat in the Board of Directors of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) to represent the Municipality of Dinalupihan, Province of Bataan, amending for the purpose RA 7227, otherwise known as the Bases Conversion and Development Act of 1992, as amended	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Malabon City Rep. Federico "Ricky" Sandoval II, will deliberate further on the five bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Geraldine Roman (1st District, Bataan), author of HBs 613, 2391 and 3997, explained the merits of her bills. She underscored the need for the indigenous peoples (IPs) living</p>

Continuation... Special Committee on Bases Conversion (Technical Working Group)	HB 2391	Rep. Roman	Changing the allocation formula used in the computation of the share of the local government units (LGUs) in the 2% tax on gross income earned by all business enterprises within the Subic Special Economic Zone (SSEZ), amending for the purpose RA 7227, as amended	<p>within the Subic military reservation to have a voice in the SBMA Board.</p> <p>SBMA Administrator and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Wilma Eisma suggested that the President shall appoint the IP representative to the SBMA Board based on the list of qualified nominees submitted by the IPs and endorsed by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).</p> <p>The TWG agreed that the term of office of the members of the Board will be coterminous with the appointing authority, the President of the Philippines.</p> <p>The following government agencies were requested to submit to the TWG their respective position papers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philippine National Police (PNP) on the proposed creation of SBMA police; • Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) on SMBA's direct control over the establishment, operation and maintenance of telecommunications in the Subic area; and • Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) on SBMA's own registry for international vessels.
	HB 3685	Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo	Amending Sec. 15 of RA 7227, as amended, by remitting one percent of the tax on gross income imposed on registered business enterprises within the Clark Freeport Zone (CFZ) to the Provincial Government of Pampanga	
	HB 3997	Rep. Roman	Mandating the appointment of representatives from the indigenous peoples (IPs) to the Board of Directors of the SBMA, further amending for the purpose RA 7227	
	HB 6379	Rep. Calixto-Rubiano	Amending RA 7227, as amended, by strengthening the powers of the SBMA as the operating and implementing arm of the government over the Subic Bay Freeport Zone (SBFZ) and the SSEZ	