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BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 6452 & SB 1354	Deputy Speaker Quimbo and Majority Leader Sotto	Establishing a national mental health policy for the purpose of enhancing the delivery of integrated mental health services, promoting and protecting the rights of persons utilizing psychiatric, neurologic and psychosocial health services, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon), Chairperson of the House Committee on Health, and Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, approved the harmonized version of HB 6452 and SB 1354.</p> <p>Other conferees who were present during the bicameral conference committee meeting were the following: On the part of the House, Deputy Speaker Romero "Miro" Quimbo (2nd District, Marikina City), and Reps. Arlene Arcillas (1st District, Laguna), Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN), and Cristina "Chiqui" Roa-Puno (1st District, Antipolo City); on the part of the Senate, Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III and Senator Risa Hontiveros.</p>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Basic Education and Culture	Substitute Resolution to HR 603	Rep. Escudero	Urging President Rodrigo R. Duterte to issue a proclamation transferring the ownership and administration of a parcel of land located at Rizal Park, Ermita, Manila to the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP)	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ramon "Red" Durano VI (5 th District, Cebu), adopted the Substitute Resolution to HR 603 and approved the corresponding Committee Report.
	Substitute Resolution to HR 736	Rep. Escudero	Urging President Rodrigo R. Duterte to issue a proclamation transferring the ownership and administration of the Intendencia Building in Intramuros, Manila to the National Archives of the Philippines	The Committee adopted the Substitute Resolution to HR 736 and approved the corresponding Committee Report.
	HR 154	Rep. Atienza	Urging the Department of Education (DepEd) to require field trips of educational institutions to visit historical sites and landmarks within the Philippines	The Committee adopted HR 154 subject to style and amendment and approved the corresponding Committee Report.
	HR 232	Rep. Savellano	Proclaiming the month of September as Philippine Bamboo Month	The Committee adopted HR 232 subject to style and approved the corresponding Committee Report.

Continuation... Basic Education and Culture	HR 1384	Rep. Savellano	Urging the public in coordination with the concerned government agencies in preserving and restoring presidential houses and houses of heroes all over the country for the promotion of Philippine history and cultural heritage	The Committee adopted HR 1384 subject to style and approved the corresponding Committee Report.
	HB 2250	Rep. Cerilles	Converting the Bayog National High School in the Municipality of Bayog, Province of Zamboanga del Sur into a technical-vocational high school to be known as Bayog Technical-Vocational High School and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 2250 subject to style and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HB 3317	Rep. Acosta	Separating the Sicsican National High School-Annex in Barangay Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City from the Sicsican National High School, converting it into an independent national high school to be known as Santa Monica National High School and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 3317 subject to style and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HB 4956	Rep. Aggabao	Separating the Dabubu High School-Annex in Barangay Sinaoangan Sur in the Municipality of San Agustin, Province of Isabela from the Dabubu High School, converting it into an independent national high school to be known as the Sinaoangan Sur National High School and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 4956 subject to style and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HB 5598	Rep. Cuaresma	Establishing a national high school in Barangay Pinayag, Municipality of Kayapa, Province of Nueva Vizcaya to be known as Pinayag National High School and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 5598 subject to style and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HR 1553	Rep. Lopez (M.L.)	Congratulating and commending the members of the Philippine delegation composed of students from Tondo High School, Esteban Abada High School, Marcos High School, T. Alonzo High School, V. Mapa High School, Ramon Magsaysay High School, and P. Gomez Elementary School for honoring the country with their various medals and awards in the 2 nd World Invention and Innovation Forum held in Foshan, China	The Committee adopted HR 1553 subject to style and approved the corresponding Committee Report.
	HR 1564	Reps. Romualdez and Aumentado	Commending Hillary Diane Andales of the Philippine Science High School for winning the grand prize of the 2017 Breakthrough Junior Challenge	The Committee adopted HR 1564 subject to style and approved the corresponding Committee Report.
Cooperatives Development	HR 44	Rep. Bravo (A.)	Inquiry into the establishment of an apex organization of all cooperatives as a unifying body of the cooperative movement	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rico Geron (Party-List, AGAP), will deliberate further on the issues raised relative to HR 44 in its next meeting. Rep. Anthony Bravo (Party-List, COOP-NATCCO), author of HR 44, explained the need to establish a comprehensive guidelines governing the organization, recognition and

Continuation... Cooperatives Development				<p>registration of an apex cooperative organization.</p> <p>Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) Chair Orlando Ravanera disclosed that the CDA complied with the directive of the Committee to draft the guidelines for the creation of an apex organization. However, the Philippine Cooperative Center (PCC) also submitted its proposed guidelines.</p> <p>PCC serves as a regular venue whereby national cooperative organizations arrive at common positions on various issues affecting the cooperative sector.</p> <p>Rep. Bravo asked the CDA on the number of cooperatives that attended the consultation on the crafting of the guidelines. Ravanera reported that of the 200 cooperative federations and unions nationwide, only 60 attended the consultation.</p> <p>Rep. Geron emphasized that the guidelines should have the consensus of the majority of the stakeholders. He also directed the CDA to convene a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate CDA's proposed guidelines and that of the cooperative sector.</p>
Housing and Urban Development	HR 1511	Rep. Benitez	Urging the National Housing Authority (NHA) to grant amnesty on all penalties and surcharges in unpaid loan amortizations and institute a loan restructuring program for beneficiaries of its socialized housing projects pursuant to RA 9507, also known as the Socialized and Low-Cost Housing Loan Restructuring Act of 2008	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental), adopted HR 1511 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Julieta Cortuna (Party-List, A TEACHER) reiterated that all the recommendations agreed upon during the meeting should be stipulated in the contract between the NHA and the beneficiaries who will avail of the amnesty. Some of these recommendations are the restructuring of the loan without penalties and surcharges and the extension of the period for loan payment.</p> <p>Rep. Benitez said that after the implementation of the amnesty program, the NHA should already closely monitor the compliance of the beneficiaries with the new payment terms in order to avoid any more loan default or late payment of loans.</p>
Public Information	HB 1524	Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo	Prohibiting the demonstration, performance or exhibition in public of certain sexual acts, and the production, importation, sale or distribution, or public showing or display of pornographic materials, providing penalties thereof	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy (Party-List, BAGONG HENERASYON), directed the Secretariat to draft a Substitute Bill to HB 1524, incorporating the suggestions of Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga), author of HB 1524.</p> <p>It likewise decided to seek the opinion of the Committee on Rules regarding the referral of HB 1524 as it also has provisions that amend the Revised Penal Code.</p>

Continuation... Public Information				<p>ABS-CBN Digital Media Services Innovations head Dennis Lim suggested the inclusion of a provision in the bill that will also regulate the content of novels.</p> <p>However, Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga), author of HB 1524, said that her bill focuses only on sexual acts that should not be allowed to be shown in public lest they be seen by children.</p> <p>Commenting on Section 3 (Penalties) of the bill, Social Welfare Officer Miramel Laxa of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) suggested that violators of the proposed law who are beyond 18 years of age but are unable to fully take care of themselves or are physically or mentally disabled shall be considered the offended party and be placed under protective custody.</p> <p>Laxa also suggested that the destruction of prohibited materials required under the proposed law be witnessed by representatives from the local government units (LGUs) where these materials were seized.</p> <p>The resource persons were directed to submit their respective position papers on the proposed bill.</p>
	HB 2481	Rep. Castelo	Allowing advertisers and advertising agencies to determine billboard content and prescribing self-regulatory criteria thereof	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 2481 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) Legal Counsel Rudolph Jularbal explained that the regulation of the content of billboards lies on the Ad Standards Council (ASC), which is the advertising industry body in charge of screening and regulating advertising content.</p> <p>When asked by Rep. Herrera-Dy if the government has the authority to prohibit the posting of billboards with malicious content, Jularbal answered in the negative saying that some of the establishments or areas where billboards are placed are private properties.</p> <p>Rep. Herrera-Dy and Jose Reynaldo Lunas of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) suggested that the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) be designated as the lead agency to regulate billboard content. But Jularbal suggested that it should be the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).</p> <p>Likewise, Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) Undersecretary George Apacible said that there should be a governing body that will review the content of billboards. He added that penalties should be imposed to those who will not comply with the</p>

Continuation... Public Information				<p>rules and regulations of the regulatory body.</p> <p>The ASC was requested to assist the Committee in drafting a bill creating a regulatory body that would regulate the contents of all billboards and prescribe penalties in violation thereof.</p> <p>The resource persons were directed to submit their position papers on the bill before its next meeting on February 14, 2018.</p>
	HBs 3694 & 6818	Reps. Castelo and Rodriguez (M.)	Limiting exposure of children to violent and obscene programming on television and cable systems	<p>The Committee instructed the Secretariat to draft a substitute bill consolidating HBs 3694 and 6818.</p> <p>Rep. Maximo Rodriguez Jr. (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), author of HB 6818, said that the MTRCB should review all the commercials being shown on television and cinemas.</p> <p>KBP Executive Director Reynaldo Hulog suggested the formulation of a set of standards for television programs being shown during child-viewing hours and to work closely with the industry for the implementation of the said standards.</p> <p>KBP promised to craft its suggestions with regard to the mandate of the MTRCB.</p>
Public Works and Highways	HB 2431	Rep. Siao	Creating a separate district engineering office in the City of Iligan and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City), approved HB 2431.
	HB 5778	Rep. Bataoil	Naming the 54-kilometer road in Mangatarem, Province of Pangasinan to Sta. Cruz, Province of Zambales as the Daang Kalikasan National Road	The Committee approved HB 5778.
	HB 6515	Rep. Collantes	Naming the Taal Lake Circumferential Road in the Province of Batangas to Assemblyman Manuel Collantes Road	The Committee approved HB 6515.
	HB 6701	Rep. Matugas	Re-numbering the Surigao del Norte 1st and 2nd district engineering offices to conform and correspond, respectively, to the numbering of the legislative districts in the Province of Surigao del Norte	The Committee approved HB 6701.
	HB 2779	Rep. Dimaporo (A.)	Providing for the construction of a national highway from the junction of the Iligan-Aurora National Highway in Barangay Santa Cruz, Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte to Iligan-Aurora National Highway in Poblacion, Aurora, Zamboanga del Sur to be known as the Iligan-Aurora National Highway By-Pass Road and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved in principle HB 2779 subject to the result of the feasibility study being conducted by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).
	HB 3136	Rep. Dimaporo (M.K.)	Providing for the construction of a national highway from the Municipality of Tagoloan, Province of Lanao del Norte to the Municipality of Talakag, Province of Bukidnon, via Kapai, Lanao del Sur, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved in principle HB 3136 pending the result of the feasibility study being conducted by the DPWH.

Continuation... Public Works and Highways	HB 4165	Reps. Dimaporo (M.K.)	Providing for the construction of a national highway from the Lanao del Norte Interior Circumferential Road in the Municipality of Tagoloan, Lanao del Norte to the Municipality of Talakag, Province of Bukidnon, with a crossroad at Barangay Panalawan in Tagoloan and connecting roads to the national highway in Iligan City and the national highway in Marawi City, to be known as the Muslim-Christian Unity Crossroad and Highways and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved in principle HB 4165 pending the result of the feasibility study being conducted by the DPWH.
	HB 2524	Rep. Mercado	Mandating the construction of San Juan to Nava, Hinunangan Road in Southern Leyte	The Committee approved in principle HB 2524 pending the result of the feasibility study being conducted by the DPWH.
	HB 627	Rep. Lanete	Mandating the construction of the Quezon-Bicol Expressway (QuBex)	The Committee deferred consideration of HB 627 pending the finalization of the project's feasibility study.
	HB 5610	Rep. Radaza	Establishing the Lapu-Lapu City lone district engineering office of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee deferred consideration of HB 5610 pending the review of the DPWH of its Department Order (DO) No. 110, which prescribes the guidelines on the creation, classification or reclassification of district engineering offices (DEOs). Rep. Lobregat reiterated that said guidelines must be finalized first by the DPWH before the Committee acts on bills creating DEOs.
	HR 1107	Minority Leader Suarez	Investigation into the possible mandatory construction of alternative roads to major highways	The Committee deferred the deliberation of HR 1107 pending the conduct of a feasibility study of every area that needs an alternate route.
	HR 1120	Minority Leader Suarez	Investigation into the possible relocation of national government centers to General Nakar, Quezon, and the construction of national circumferential road connecting various provinces in the country	The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 1120 in its next meeting. Minority Leader Danilo Suarez (3 rd District, Quezon) supports the relocation of the national government centers to General Nakar, Quezon, instead of Clark Green City in Tarlac. This is because, he said, General Nakar will be best able to accommodate housing provisions for all government employees with its 24,000-hectare area, as compared to the 9,450-hectare area in Clark Green City. Rep. Anna Katrina "Trina" Enverga (1st District, Quezon) also supports the proposal, but she cited a news report that the site in Clark intended to house the national government centers has already been inaugurated. The Secretariat was directed to secure the comments of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) on HR 1120.
Transportation	HB 1215	Rep. Acharon	Regulating the business operation of motorcycles-for-hire	The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to study the bills further.

Continuation... Transportation	HBs 2530 & 6909	Reps. Uy and Del Mar	Regulating motorcycles-for-hire or habal-habal, thereby authorizing cities and municipalities to grant franchises for their operations, amending for the purpose Sections 447 and 458 of Republic Act 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and Section 7 or RA 4136, otherwise known as the Land Transportation and Traffic Code	Rep. Pedro Acharon Jr. (1st District, South Cotabato and General Santos City), author of HB 1215, said that his bill seeks to legalize the operation of motorcycle-for-hire or the habal-habal, which is the cheapest mode of transportation especially in the rural and remote areas. He went on to say that regulating the business operation of motorcycle-for-hire will protect both the operator and the riding public.
	HB 3941	Rep. Durano	Devolving the regulatory and franchising powers over the operation of motorcycle-for-hire, or habal-habal to cities and municipalities, amending for the purpose Section 447 and 458 of RA 7160, as amended	<p>Likewise, Rep. Ramon "Red" Durano VI (5th District, Cebu), author of HB 3941, underscored the need to regulate the motorcycle-for-hire business, explaining that many of its drivers do not have a driver's license and are minors.</p> <p>Rep. Raul del Mar (1st District, Cebu City), author of HB 6909, manifested that the explanatory note attached to his bill be included in the record as his sponsorship speech.</p> <p>Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña said that habal-habal addresses the transport needs of people not just in rural areas but also in the cities.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon said that the regulation of the motorcycle-for hire can be done by local government units (LGUs).</p> <p>Police Superintendent Oliver Tanseco of the Philippine National Police-Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG) and Virgilio Montaña, representative of the Motorcycle Development Program Participants Association, Inc. (MDPPA), suggested that only the driver and one passenger be allowed to ride a motorcycle-for-hire.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to conduct a public hearing outside of Metro Manila on the bills.</p>
Transportation jt. w/ Public Order and Safety	HBs 5381, 5714, 5839 & 6226	Rep. Yap (V.), Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Umali and Villafuerte	Penalizing and preventing the use of motorcycles or scooters in the commission of crimes through the use of bigger plate numbers and identification marks, and regulation of back riders	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento of the Committee on Transportation, and Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City) of the Committee on Public Order and Safety, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on the four bills.</p> <p>Rep. Acop said that with the increasing number of killings and other crimes committed by persons riding in motorcycles or scooters, increasing the size of plate numbers and making them more visible will allow witnesses and law enforcers to easily read the plate numbers from a distance and identify the motorcycle riders.</p> <p>Department of Transportation (DOTr) Assistant</p>

Continuation... Transportation jt. w/ Public Order and Safety				<p>Secretary Arnulfo Fabillar and Land Transportation Office (LTO) Director Francis Almora expressed support for the bills.</p> <p>Almora presented samples of bigger plate numbers which considered the suggestions of the stakeholders.</p> <p>Representatives of the Riders Safety Advocates of the Philippines and the Motorcycle Development Program Participants Association, Inc. (MDPPA) suggested to follow the size of the motorcycle plates used in Europe. They also suggested that other identifying marks be installed in front of the motorcycle because some models are not designed to have plates in front.</p>
Tourism	HR 1087	Rep. Sarmiento (E.)	Inquiry into the roadmap, programs, projects and action plans of the Department of Tourism (DOT) that aim to regulate tourist spots in order to promote sustainability	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Lucy Gomez (4th District, Leyte), concluded its discussion of issues relative to HR 1087.</p> <p>Rep. Edgar Sarmiento (1st District, Samar), author of HR 1087, explained that Boracay Island was highlighted in his resolution because of its status as the prime tourist destination in the country. The environmental and physical challenges confronting the Island such as pollution, improper waste disposal, and its alleged dwindling capacity to absorb the growing number of infrastructure and tourists must be addressed, Rep. Sarmiento said, which should also be done in other tourist destinations in the country.</p> <p>Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Wanda Corazon Teo reported that the DOT and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have embarked on a joint effort to save Boracay Island. Teo said she and DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu conducted an aerial survey of the island last January 9, 2018 and met with the island's tourism stakeholders to discuss issues requiring immediate action, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishments being constructed too close to the shoreline; • Traffic; • Drainage and sewerage problem; • Flooding due to clogged drainage system; • Improper solid waste disposal; and • Resorts being built over natural bodies of water. <p>Meanwhile, Pocholo Paragas, chief operating officer (COO) of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), informed the Committee that the TIEZA Board of Directors has approved on January 12, 2018 Phase II of the Boracay Drainage Improvement Project with a budget of P851.46 million.</p>

Continuation... Tourism				<p>Set for completion by 2020, the project is a joint venture with Boracay Island Water Company, Inc. (BIWC), and its ultimate goal is to improve the water quality and supply, solve the flooding problem, and ensure the environmental sustainability of Boracay Island.</p> <p>Paragas also informed the Committee that the Phase I of the project was already completed in 2014 which involved the construction of a pumping station (PS) and a network of drainage lines along the Central Boracay Business District, a flood prone area.</p> <p>The DOT Secretary mentioned that the main cause of pollution in Bulabog Beach, one of the beaches in Boracay Island, is the illegal connection of several business establishments and houses to the DOT water treatment system, which is meant only for the treatment of rain water. Teo said that they should instead connect to the sewage treatment plants (STP) of BIWC and the Boracay Tubi System Inc. Out of the 500 business establishments in Boracay Island, only 25 are connected to the BIWC, Teo added.</p> <p>Rep. Jocelyn Limkaichong (1st District, Negros Oriental) questioned the issuance of business permits to establishments found violating an existing Municipal Ordinance in Malay, Aklan, which requires businesses to connect to BIWC's STP or have their own STPs.</p> <p>In response, Malay Mayor Ciceron Cawaling assured the Committee that his office will inspect these establishments and those found guilty of violating said ordinance will be penalized.</p> <p>The DENR Secretary made the same commitment to penalize establishments not complying with environmental standards by cancelling their environmental compliance certificates (ECC).</p> <p>Cimatu also said that in a recent inspection-survey conducted by DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) during the period July to October 2017, only 11 of the 180 establishments surveyed were found to be not connected to a sewerage system.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Games and Amusements (Technical Working Group)	HBs 6111 & 6514	Rep. Pineda and Speaker Alvarez	Rationalizing and consolidating government regulations relating to all games of chance under the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), will further deliberate on HBs 6111 and 6514 in its next meeting.

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Games and Amusements (Technical Working Group)</p>			<p>(PAGCOR), Games and Amusements Board (GAB), Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), and special economic zones, creating for the purpose the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Authority (PAGA)</p>	<p>PAGCOR Assistant Vice President Arnold Salvosa supports the consolidation of the regulatory functions of government agencies over games of chance, but expressed concern on the possible displacement of numerous personnel as a result of such consolidation.</p> <p>PCSO Legal Affairs Chief Marissa Medrano expressed the same sentiment and requested that the PCSO be given a chance to improve their operations in order to combat all forms of illegal numbers games especially at the local level.</p> <p>Likewise, GAB Chair Abraham Kahlil Mitra opposed the abolition of GAB as proposed in the bills. He informed the TWG that there is currently a bill, HB 4843, authored by Rep. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL), which seeks to strengthen GAB.</p> <p>Representatives from various freeports and economic zones, namely, Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Freeport Authority (APECO), Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA), and Authority of Freeport Area of Bataan (AFAB), also object to the proposed transfer of regulatory functions relating to games of chance to the proposed Philippine Amusements and Gaming Authority (PAGA). They asked that the TWG take into consideration the very reasons why they were created in the first place.</p> <p>CEZA Senior Deputy Administrator Byron San Pedro added that CEZA has various ongoing infrastructure projects inside the ecozone that might be jeopardized by the proposed consolidation, and which might also have an adverse effect on the gaming companies and the development of the ecozone.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Tiger Resort Leisure and Entertainment, Inc. (Okada) Counsel Joseph Perez interposed no objection to the bills as long as the company's existing contract with PAGCOR is honored. He said other hotels such as Solaire Resort and Casino, Resorts World Manila, and City of Dreams share the same sentiments.</p> <p>Rep. Acop promised to make sure the authors of the two bills will be present in the next meeting to respond to the concerns raised by the resource persons.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
People's Participation (Technical Working Group)	Discussion on the social protection programs and status of implementation of RA 9418 or the Volunteer Act of 2007	The technical working group (TWG), presided by Committee Secretary Rolando Cronico, discussed the social protection programs of the International Center for Innovation,

<p>Continuation... People's Participation (Technical Working Group)</p>		<p>Transformation and Excellence in Governance (INCITEGov) and the status of implementation of RA 9418.</p> <p>INCITEGov Community and Policy Development Officer Reuben James Barrete and Sectoral Development Officer Chollim May Vocal presented the social protection programs of INCITEGov.</p> <p>INCITEGov, a non-profit organization founded in August 2005, is committed to developing and operationalizing a policy agenda that links democratic politics, good governance, and development outcomes in critical reform areas. The organization is funded by the European Union (EU) and partners with international and local organizations that support its advocacy.</p> <p>According to Barrete, INCITEGov's social protection programs aim to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) representing marginalized groups to engage in inclusive social protection policymaking and effective program implementation. The target sectors of the program include senior citizens, persons with disability (PWDs), women and children, and farmers.</p> <p>Social protection can be understood as a set of public actions which address not only income, poverty and economic shocks, but also social vulnerability, thus taking into account the inter-relationship between exclusion and poverty. Through income or in-kind support and programs designed to increase access to services (such as health, education and nutrition), social protection helps realize the human rights of children and families. (Source: Unicef.org)</p> <p>On the other hand, Vocal outlined INCITEGov's recommendations to strengthen the powers and functions of the Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office (PDAO) and the health care assistance for PWDs. Vocal also emphasized the need for efficient and effective social pension program for senior citizens.</p> <p>With regard to the status of implementation of RA 9418, the TWG agreed to conduct a policy forum and dialogue in the CARAGA Region in partnership with the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). The date and venue of this forum will be announced later.</p> <p>The effort to check on the status of implementation of RA 9418 is pursuant to HRs 780 and 799, authored by Reps. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL) and Allen Jesse Mangaoang (Lone District, Kalinga), which seek to inquire into the status of implementation of RA 9418 and on the various volunteering efforts undertaken by the concerned national government agencies (NGAs), local government units (LGUs), and other stakeholders towards national development.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)	Briefing/Dialogue with the National Tobacco Administration (NTA) on its plans and programs for the tobacco farmers	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1st District, Ilocos Sur), postponed the briefing of the NTA to another date in view of the failure of NTA Administrator Robert Seares to attend the meeting.

<p><i>Continuation...</i> North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>	<p>NTA Deputy Administrator for Operations Mel John Verzosa explained that Seares had to appear in court as a material witness in a case being tried in the Province of Abra.</p> <p>Not wanting to waste the time and effort of the Committee Members and other NTA officials who came to the meeting, the Committee instead held an informal discussion of issues and concerns related to the tobacco industry.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Eric Singson (2nd District, Ilocos Sur), for his part, suggested a review or modification of the existing method of monitoring and determining the volume of tobacco production at the municipal and barangay levels in order to address discrepancies in the reports and come up with a more accurate data.</p> <p>Recalling the NTA's tree planting program in 2013 using seedlings for fuel wood, the lawmakers agreed that a similar program may again be implemented, seeing it as a good alternative business or source of livelihood in the region.</p> <p>The resource persons from the NTA were requested to report to the Committee, on a regular basis, its activities and projects, including those that will be implemented in the Members' respective districts.</p>
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