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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Energy	HB 2942	Rep. Castelo	Amending certain Sections of PD 910, or the law creating the Energy Development Board (EDB), by providing that all fees, revenues, receipts, royalties, and other monies collected by the EDB shall also be used for other purposes "that redound to general public welfare," aside from these funds being used to finance energy resource development and exploitation projects of the government	<p>The Committee, chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate and harmonize the four bills.</p> <p>The resource persons from the following government agencies expressed their support for the bills: Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Energy (DOE), Commission on Audit (COA), Bureau of the Treasury (BTr), Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environment Management Bureau (DENR-EMB), and Philippine National Oil Company-Exploration Corporation (PNOC-EC). Private companies and associations such as Shell Philippines Exploration (SPEX), Manila Electric Company (Meralco), and Petroleum Association of the Philippines (PAP) also expressed their support for the bills.</p> <p>DBM and BTr favor the proposal under HB 3877 to transfer the Malampaya funds to the General Fund, stating that such transfer is in line with DBM's "one fund" policy wherein all revenues and other receipts of the government must go to the General Fund and their utilization must go through the budgeting process.</p> <p>As of June 30, 2017, the Malampaya fund amounts to P193.63 billion, according to BTr Deputy Treasurer Sharon Almanza.</p> <p>Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA), author of HB 3877, stressed the need to create the Energy Development Board, and to properly utilize the Malampaya fund as the Malampaya Natural Gas Field will only be operational for another decade.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Zarate regarding the unaccounted P20.1 billion Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) representing releases from the Malampaya fund, Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Resource Development Bureau OIC-Director Melita Obillo informed the Committee that the said</p>
	HB 3593	Rep. Batocabe	Amending PD 910, specifying the use of the Malampaya funds	
	HB 3877	Rep. Zarate	Amending PD 910, mandating the transfer of Malampaya funds to the General Fund subject to congressional appropriation for the purpose of re-nationalizing the country's power and energy industry	
	HB 4604	Rep. Ramirez-Sato	Authorizing the use of the special fund composed of the government share from the exploration, development and exploitation of energy resources for renewable energy development and biodiversity conservation activities, amending for the purpose Section 8 of PD 910, and specifying the use of the special fund for biodiversity conservation	

Continuation... Energy				<p>SARO is already reflected in their books. Obillo added that the Malampaya fund has not been utilized since the November 2013 Supreme Court (SC) decision.</p> <p>The November 2013 SC decision involves the prohibition on the use of the Malampaya fund for purposes other than energy-related projects.</p> <p>Meanwhile, COA Supervising Auditor Flovitas Felipe assigned in the DOE apprised the Committee of the results of the special audit on the Malampaya fund for the period 2002 to 2012.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Gil “Kabarangay” Acosta (3rd District, Palawan) if Shell Philippines has plans to conduct oil or gas exploration in the Malampaya area, Shell Philippines Exploration (SPEX) Managing Director and General Manager Rolando Paulino Jr. replied in the negative. Paulino cited geopolitical reasons given that the West Philippine Sea territorial issue has not been resolved yet.</p> <p>The concerned agencies were requested to submit to the Committee a detailed report on how the Malampaya fund was utilized as well as the list of implemented projects under the fund after the November 2013 SC decision. COA was also requested to submit the executive summary of its special audit report on the Malampaya fund for the period 2002 to 2012.</p>
Good Government and Public Accountability	HR 1582	Minority Leader Suarez	Investigation into Sandra Cam's allegations of lavish expenditure on the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office's (PCSO) Christmas Party	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), will deliberate further on the issues raised in HRs 1582 and 1599 in its next meeting.</p> <p>PCSO Board Member Sandra Cam criticized PCSO for throwing an extravagant multi-million peso Christmas party at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel last December 19, 2017. The amount should have just been used to help typhoon victims around the country, Cam added.</p> <p>Cam disclosed that PCSO's proposed budget for the event was P10.28 million. However, an amount of P10.69 million has been charged as cash advance, P6.47 million of which was actually spent for the affair. Thus, Cam said, the unutilized amount of P3.81 million (actual expenditure versus the proposed budget) must be accounted for and the discrepancy between the proposed budget and the actual cash advance must be explained.</p> <p>Rep. Pimentel stated that PCSO officials may have violated some laws when the cost of the affair was charged to cash advance. According to Pimentel, under Commission on Audit (COA) Memorandum Circular 92-382,</p>
	HR 1599	Rep. Zarate	Investigation into the alleged misuse of funds of the PCSO as well as the various charges of corruption and anomalies	

<p>Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability</p>				<p>cash advances may only be issued for: salaries and wages; commutable allowances; honoraria and other similar payments to officials and employees; and petty operating expenses.</p> <p>Meanwhile, PCSO General Manager Alexander Balutan maintained that the amount spent for the party was justifiable considering the high cost of organizing a big event. In addition, Balutan said that the agency even spent way below the P11 million budget approved by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for the event.</p> <p>Balutan gave assurance that liquidation papers were already turned over to the auditing department of the PCSO and all unused funds were returned to the National Treasury.</p> <p>Lea Ortega, training officer of PCSO's Human Resource Department, also explained to the Committee that apart from Christmas parties being an annual tradition in PCSO, the latest Christmas party in Shangri-La served as a morale booster for the employees given that their 2017 benefits and bonuses were disallowed by COA.</p> <p>Rep. Pimentel countered that the PCSO could have just held a simple party and that the budget for this event should have been distributed to its more than 1,500 employees instead.</p> <p>On the other hand, Minority Leader Danilo Suarez (3rd District, Quezon) commented that the PCSO should not be singled out for its Christmas party expenditures as other government agencies are also spending much for their own Christmas parties every year.</p> <p>The lawmakers likewise questioned the P16,000 stipend given to the officiating priest during the Christmas party, saying that it is a violation of the constitutional provision on the separation of church and state.</p> <p>The Committee requested the submission of the following documents from the PCSO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of District Representatives that allegedly received funds from the PCSO; List of names of "gambling lords;" List of authorized agents and corporations (AACs) authorized to operate small-town lottery (STL); and • Detailed report on sales, collections and earnings from STL operations, and the legal basis for the allocation of revenues. <p>Atong Ang was also requested to submit his</p>
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Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability				report on virtual gaming operations while the Police Security and Protection Group (PSPG) will submit a copy of the office order authorizing the security detail assigned to Sandra Cam.
Local Government jt. w/ Muslim Affairs and Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity	Draft Substitute Bill to 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, will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City) reiterated his proposal that the phrase "right to self-determination" in the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law's (BBL) Preamble be changed to "right to internal self-determination." This, he said, will avoid any misinterpretations of the intent of the BBL framers.</p> <p>However, BTC Commissioner Datu Omar Yasser Sema said that the sublime intention of the bill is autonomy and not secession from the Philippine government. Likewise, BTC Commissioner Firdausi Ismael Abbas maintained that the fear for Bangsamoro's secession has no basis.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Sahali expressed her concern on the plight of the employees who will be affected once the ARMM is abolished with the passage of the proposed law. She suggested that there should be a concrete plan or mechanism that will outline the gradual phasing out of ARMM offices.</p> <p>Sema said that Rep. Sahali's concern will be addressed in the transition plan that will be crafted by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA), the interim government of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (BAR) during the transition period. Sema added that the transition period will commence upon ratification of the proposed BBL.</p> <p>With regard to Section 10 (Bangsamoro Waters) of the bill, Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte), author of HB 6263, suggested that the Joint Committee should ask for the opinion of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) on whether or not the proposed law is consistent with the provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991 (RA 7160), Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 (RA 8550), and other related laws.</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Local Government jt. w/ Muslim Affairs and Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity</p>				<p>Rep. Lobregat lectured that under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), every state has the right to establish the breadth of its territorial sea up to a limit not exceeding 22.22 kilometers or 12 nautical miles from the shore. However, Rep. Lobregat argued, that this is not applicable to the proposed Bangsamoro political entity because it is not a state, but rather an autonomous region under the Philippine Republic.</p> <p>Under the proposed BBL, Bangsamoro waters refer to those within the 22.22 kilometers from the low-water mark of the coasts that are part of the Bangsamoro geographical area.</p> <p>Rep. Makmod Mending Jr. (Party-List, AMIN) opined that the proposal that Shari'ah courts in the Bangsamoro will have jurisdiction over criminal cases (Section 107) runs counter to Section 18, Article X of the Philippine Constitution, which allows special courts to have jurisdiction only over personal, family, and property cases.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Aurora Enerio-Cerilles (2nd District, Zamboanga del Sur), Abbas clarified that once the proposed BBL is ratified, the Bangsamoro government will have jurisdiction over Lake Lanao, the major source of electricity in Mindanao.</p> <p>Some House Members manifested that the draft bill must have a clear provision on agrarian reform.</p>
<p>Overseas Workers Affairs</p>	<p>HB 6519</p>	<p>Rep. Manalo</p>	<p>Creating the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) Sovereign Fund</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jesulito Manalo (Party-List, ANGKLA), approved the Committee Report on HB 6519.</p>
	<p>HBs 674 & 1983</p>	<p>Reps. Aglipay-Villar and Suansing (H.)</p>	<p>Expediting the process of repatriation of Filipino migrant workers</p>	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to further discuss and consolidate the two bills.</p> <p>Rep. Manalo said that the passage of the proposed law is timely in light of the pronouncement of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte banning the deployment of OFWs to Kuwait and directing the repatriation of all OFWs in Kuwait due to abuses committed against them.</p>
	<p>HR 1485</p>	<p>Rep. Manalo</p>	<p>Inquiry into the reported anomalies and corruption in the issuance of Overseas Employment Certificates (OEC) to OFWs by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), and determining whether there are modifications to be made with respect to the latter's systems, processes or procedures</p>	<p>The Committee agreed to elevate the subsequent discussion of issues raised in HR 1485 to the Congressional Oversight Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs.</p> <p>Rep. Manalo asked the POEA to present its findings on the alleged anomalies and corruption in the issuance of overseas employment certificates (OECs).</p> <p>Atty. Harvey Dumbab, legal counsel and chair</p>

Continuation... Overseas Workers Affairs				<p>of the POEA's special fact-finding committee, said that the investigation has already been concluded. He said erring POEA employees will be charged administratively for grave misconduct.</p> <p>The anomaly was discovered based on the report of a labor attaché saying that some OFWs deployed to South Korea were issued <i>Balik Manggagawa</i> OECs despite the fact that it is their first time to leave the country as OFWs or they are not returning to the same employer.</p> <p><i>Balik Manggagawa</i> Certificates are only issued to OFWs returning to the same employer and to the same job site. Holders of OECs are exempted from paying the travel tax and terminal fee.</p> <p>Rep. Manalo stressed that those perpetuating and conniving in this illegal activity should be severely punished as they endanger the lives of OFWs.</p> <p>Rep. Aniceto "John" Bertiz III (Party-List, ACTS-OFW) brought to the attention of the Committee the expired contract of Value Systems Philippines Inc., an IT management and consulting company, with the POEA. He remarked that dealing with a private contractor which holds all the data used for the <i>Balik Manggagawa</i> Online Processing System (BMOPS) without a valid contract puts the OFWs and the system at risk.</p> <p>BMOPS is a web-based program that determines if the OFW is exempted from securing an OEC.</p> <p>Rep. Bertiz stressed the need for Value System to turn over all data systems and applications used in the program to the POEA since its contract has already expired.</p>
Public Order and Safety	Substitute Bill to HB 5338	Rep. Campos	Requiring new personnel of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) to be certified emergency medical technicians, amending for the purpose Sections 3 and 8 of RA 9263, as amended, otherwise known as the Bureau of Fire Protection and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology Professionalization Act of 2014	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 5338.
	HB 5236	Rep. Acop	Providing for the rank classification in the Philippine National Police (PNP), amending for the purpose Section 28 of RA 6975, as amended, otherwise known as the Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990	The Committee approved the Committee Report on HB 5236.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 1347 & 1607	Reps. Acop and Cagas	Providing for the mechanism for the determination of the propriety of filing criminal complaint against alleged	The Committee approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to HBs 1347 and 1607.

Continuation... Public Order and Safety			<p>possessors of unlicensed ammunition under certain conditions, amending for the purpose RA 10591, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act and providing penalties for violations thereof</p>	<p>Rep. Edgar Sarmiento (1st District, Samar) presented to the Committee the output of the technical working group (TWG) tasked to study the bills and which he chaired.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento mentioned that the bill will protect passengers inside an airport or seaport from the “<i>laglag bala</i>” scheme, because under the proposed law, a passenger shall not be made liable if found to be in possession of a single ammunition.</p> <p>The following resource persons expressed their support for the proposed law: Department of Justice (DOJ), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Office of Transportation Security (OTS), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), and Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP).</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 421, 1393, 3699, 4882 & 6044	Deputy Speaker Quimbo, Reps. Amante, Antonio, Sy-Alvarado, and Villafuerte	Prohibiting the dissemination of false information on bomb threats, explosives, or any other life-threatening or destructive materials and providing penalties therefor	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Manuel Luis Lopez (1st District, Manila) presented to the Committee the output of the technical working group (TWG) tasked to study the bills and which he chaired.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to amend Section 5 (Penalties) of the bill by reducing the maximum period of imprisonment to “not more than five years” from the previous proposal of “not more than six years.”</p> <p>It also agreed to consider the offense of disseminating false information involving bomb threats, explosives, or any other life-threatening or destructive materials, whether wilfully or maliciously done, as “<i>mala prohibita</i>” and therefore punishable by law. (<i>Mala prohibita</i> is a Latin phrase used in law to refer to a conduct that constitutes an unlawful act only by virtue of statute, as opposed to conduct that is evil in and of itself.)</p> <p>Commenting on Section 4 (Prohibition) of the bill, Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon said that the prohibition against the dissemination of false information on bomb threats and similar acts should not be limited to “high density or sensitive areas” in order for the proposed law to be all encompassing.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to discuss the proposed amendments with the authors of the bill.</p>
Ways and Means	HBs 1664, 3297, 3470 & 4057	Reps. Cosalan, Escudero, Paduano, and Kho	Amending Sections 32 and 151 of RA 8424, as amended, otherwise known as the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC), to exclude from gross income and exempt from the payment of excise tax the	<p>The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, will deliberate further on the six bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Benguet Rep. Ronald Cosalan, author of HB</p>

Continuation... Ways and Means			sale of gold by small-scale miners to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) pursuant to RA 7076, otherwise known as the People's Small-Scale Mining Act	1664, said that by removing excise and income taxes on gold sold to the BSP, small-scale miners and traders would be encouraged to sell their gold to the BSP instead of to the black market. The smuggling of gold out of the country would thus be curbed and the accumulation by the BSP of gold resources would be greatly enhanced.
	HBs 3304 & 7133	Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Alvarez	Strengthening the country's gross international reserves (GIR), amending for the purpose Sections 32 and 151 of the NIRC, as amended	<p>Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Assistant Governor Iluminada Sicat expressed support for the bill, agreeing that it will minimize the trade of gold in the black market, thereby increasing the sale of gold to the BSP.</p> <p>However, Director Juvy Danofrata of the Department of Finance's (DOF) Information and Liaison Office expressed reservations on the proposed law, believing that the tax imposed on small-scale miners for the sale of gold is a way of compensating the government for the extraction of mineral deposits owned by the state. She also raised her concern that the proposed law, when enacted, may be a precedent to other similar extraction activities.</p> <p>Representatives from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), National Tax Research Center (NTRC), and Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) all agreed with the DOF.</p> <p>Rep. Lianda Bolilia (4th District, Batangas) asked about the measures undertaken by the BSP to stop the smuggling of gold out of the country.</p> <p>Sicat lamented that the BSP has no enforcement powers to curb this illegal activity.</p> <p>Danofrata also commented that small-scale miners prefer to sell their gold to traders since BSP has a required volume on purchasing gold. On the contrary, Sicat stated that BSP already lifted the volume requirement in the purchase of gold.</p> <p>Stressing the importance of his bill, Rep. Cosalan said that small-scale miners in his district directly sell gold to middlemen since they could sell it to the latter at a higher price without paying the corresponding taxes.</p> <p>The DOF was required to report to the Committee its findings and actions taken on the reported smuggling of gold to foreign countries amounting to as much as US\$4.2 billion.</p> <p>Likewise, the NTRC was required to make a study on the effect to the economy of exempting the sale of gold to BSP by small-scale miners from excise and income taxes.</p>

Continuation... Ways and Means	HBs 3655, 3832, 4011, 4133 & 7105	Rep. Romero, Minority Leader Suarez, Rep. Limkaichong, Deputy Speaker Singson, and Speaker Alvarez	Granting tax amnesty on all unpaid internal revenue tax liabilities	<p>The Committee authorized its Chair, Rep. Cua, to form a small group that will prepare the substitute bill on the proposed general tax amnesty law.</p> <p>Jose Luis Ferrer, SGV & Co. Tax Leader, expressed support for the passage of the proposed law, saying that it will help the government collect taxes from delinquent taxpayers. He, however, suggested to qualify the bases for tax amnesty to be fair to those who are paying their taxes regularly.</p> <p>Ferrer went on to say that the proposed law should also cover tax liabilities that have been filed in the court of Tax Appeals or the Supreme Court which have not yet been decided with finality.</p> <p>Responding to the query of Deputy Speaker Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), Ferrer said that the provision which will allow the BIR to access bank accounts and Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN) of taxpayers can later be used to verify if payments have been made.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Garin stressed that any information from the bank accounts and SALN should only be used for determining the tax payments made.</p> <p>Rep. Cua, co-author of HB 7105, said that the fundamental intention of the proposed law is to come up with a proper mechanism for the government to acquire maximum gains from the efficient collection of taxes.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their comments and suggestions for the consideration of the TWG.</p>
	HB 4412	Rep. Gatchalian	Enhancing revenue administration and collection by granting an amnesty on all accrued penalties and charges of businesses which ceased to operate without clearance from the national government	

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Public Works and Highways (Technical Working Group)	HB 5088	Rep. Gonzales (A.D.)	Providing for the creation of the Central Luzon River Control System Commission (CLRCS) covering the Provinces of Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, and Zambales and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The joint technical working group (TWG), co-chaired by Rep. Aniceto "John" Bertiz III (Party-List, ACTS-OFW) of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales Jr. (3rd District, Pampanga), Vice Chair of the Committee on Public Works and Highways, will deliberate further on HB 5088 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Gonzales, author of HB 5088, expressed that his bill seeks to create a permanent office that will be in charge of flood control projects in Region 3. Said office will be under the control and supervision of the Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).</p>

Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ Public Works and Highways (Technical Working Group)				<p>Project Manager Rogelio Ang of DPWH Unified Project Management Office (UPMO) noticed that while the bill's title provides for the creation of a Commission, its succeeding provisions focus primarily on the functions and operations of the Commission's Project Management Office (PMO), without stating the role and functions of the Commission itself.</p> <p>The same observation was aired by Atty. Avvy Alba of the Organization, Position Classification and Compensation Bureau (OPCCB), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), stating further that a commission is a policy-making and regulatory body and not a project implementer.</p> <p>Likewise, Rep. Bertiz stated that the creation of a new commission may cause duplication or redundancy of functions as well as implications on the national budget and the government's goal of right-sizing the bureaucracy.</p> <p>The TWG will conduct an inspection of the existing river control system in Region 3.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill for consideration by the TWG.</p>
Population and Family Relations (Technical Working Group)	HB 116	Rep. Lagman	Instituting absolute divorce in the Philippines	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Edcel Lagman (1st District, Albay), agreed to create a small group to draft the Substitute Bill to the four bills with HB 116 as the working draft.</p> <p>Rep. Lagman announced that the substitute bill is targeted to be presented to the Plenary in time for the celebration of the International Women's Day which is on March 08, 2018.</p> <p>The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) presented its recommendations particularly on Section 2 of HB 2380 (Petition for Legal Separation or Divorce).</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills for consideration by the TWG.</p>
	HB 1062	Rep. Barbers	Amending Title I, Chapter 3, of E.O. 209, otherwise known as the Family Code of the Philippines, prescribing additional ground for annulment	
	HB 2380	Rep. De Jesus	Introducing divorce in the Philippines, amending for the purpose Articles 26, 55 to 66 and repealing Article 36 under Title II of E.O. 209, as amended	
	HB 6027	Rep. Baguilat	Providing for grounds for the dissolution of a marriage	
Trade and Industry (Technical Working Group)	HBs 528, 877, 1324, 2917 & 5970	Reps. Batocabe, Sarmiento (E.M.), Pimentel, Escudero, and Roque (H.)	Amending Batas Pambansa Blg. 68 or the Corporation Code of the Philippines, by incorporating international best practices and new concepts to address the needs of the Philippine corporate setting and to keep up with the realities of the times and the fast-changing technological developments	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, will deliberate further on the five bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Romualdo proposed to divide the TWG into two groups. One group will handle the proposed amendments to the existing provisions of the Corporation Code of the Philippines, to be headed by Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chairperson Teresita Herbosa. Another group will handle</p>

<p>Continuation... Trade and Industry (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>the proposed new provisions, to be headed by Atty. Anthony Abad, international trade law lecturer at the Ateneo Law School. The outputs of the two groups will be harmonized to come up with a draft substitute bill, Rep. Romualdo added.</p> <p>Herbosa informed the TWG of a similar bill in the Senate (SB 1280) which is being discussed in the Plenary.</p> <p>Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Assistant Governor Restituto Cruz and Insurance Commission (IC) Legal Liaison Officer Denis Cabucos apprised the TWG that their respective positions and recommendations have been incorporated into the Senate bill.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Romualdo pertaining to the proposal of SEC to reduce the current 50-year term of a corporation to just 25 years, Herbosa explained that it will be a good way to determine whether a company is still operating or not.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Commission on Human Rights' (CHR) Deputy Division Chief Klarise Espinosa proposed amendments to certain provisions of the bills in line with the United Nations' guiding principles on human rights.</p> <p>Herbosa said the SEC will study the proposals of CHR.</p> <p>Division Chief Alice Opeña of the Bureau of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development (BMSMED), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), expressed reservation on the proposed "perpetual existence" (no maximum term) of a corporation and the "one-person corporation." (The Philippine Corporation Code does not allow a single individual to establish a one-man corporation. If an entrepreneur wants to venture into a business of his own, he can only set up a single proprietorship.)</p> <p>Opeña also suggested to remove the required paid-in capital for MSMEs and to allow an online application and processing of permits issued by various government agencies and local government units (LGUs). Herbosa agreed with these suggestions.</p> <p>The Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) will submit their respective position papers upon completion of their review of the bills.</p>
<p>Transportation (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 263, 168, 174, 582,</p>	<p>Reps. Villafuerte, Velasco-Catera, Nograles (K.A.), Deputy Speaker</p>	<p>Promoting sustainable and alternative modes of transportation and other mobility options to improve air quality, increase efficiency, reduce road congestion, and contribute to a healthier Filipino society</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte (2nd District, Camarines Sur), approved the draft Substitute Bill subject to style and amendment.</p>

Continuation... Transportation (Technical Working Group)	1203, 1250, 2101, 2276, 2300, 2344, 2983, 2999, 3954, 4212, 4992, 5165, 5864 & 6302	Cayetano, Reps. Sarmiento (C.), Biazon, Calixto- Rubiano, Velasco, Castelo, Olivarez, Antonio, Vargas, Zarate, Roque (H.), and Lopez (M.L.)	The substitute bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.	The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers to be integrated in the final draft of the proposed measure.
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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Mindanao Affairs	Briefing by the Road Board on its plans and programs for Mindanao	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Maximo Rodriguez Jr. (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), listened to the briefing by Road Board Project Manager Ruby Romero on the Road Board's plans and programs for Mindanao.</p> <p>At the outset, Romero explained that the Road Board continues to operate because its operation has not yet been suspended and RA 8794 or the Motor Vehicle User's Charge (MVUC) Law has not yet been repealed or amended.</p> <p>Romero gave a brief background on the composition of the Road Board and how the MVUC Fund is collected and allocated.</p> <p>MVUC, otherwise known as the Road User's Tax, is imposed on owners of motor vehicles, whether for hire or for private use. It is earmarked solely for road maintenance including the improvement of drainage, installation of adequate and efficient road safety devices, and air pollution control.</p> <p>Romero explained that the MVUC is collected by the Land Transportation Office (LTO) upon registration of the vehicle. The LTO remits the amount collected to the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr), which deposits it in four special trust accounts: Special Road Support Fund, Special Local Road Fund, Special Road Safety Fund, and Special Vehicle Pollution Control Fund.</p> <p>Romero also reported that for Mindanao, the amounts allocated for 2018 under the Special Local Road Fund are as follows: Region IX, P49.98 million; Region X, P81.68 million; Region XI, P112.83 million; Region XII, P65.17 million; Region XIII, P45.19 million; and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), P30.59 million. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has already informed the local government units (LGUs) about the funding to allow them to prepare for the MVUC-funded projects in their jurisdiction.</p> <p>Several Committee Members said they should be informed of the projects to be implemented in their congressional districts funded under the Special Local Road Fund.</p> <p>Romero agreed with the observation that funds for the LGUs' local road projects out of the MVUC Fund is too small – only 5% of the MVUC Fund – compared to 80% which goes to the maintenance and repair of national roads. Romero said that there is a need to amend the law to increase the MVUC share of the LGUs.</p>

Continuation... Mindanao Affairs		The Road Board was requested to submit the status of MVUC-funded projects in Mindanao per congressional district from 2016-2017 and its budget allocation for 2018.
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OTHER MATTERS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Overseas Workers Affairs	Discussion on the plight of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) whose passports are confiscated by their foreign employers	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jesulito Manalo (Party-List, ANGKLA), discussed with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) the plight of OFWs whose passports are confiscated by their employers.</p> <p>Rep. Manalo asked the DFA if the practice of foreign employers of confiscating the passports of OFWs is legal.</p> <p>Atty. Raul Dado, executive director of the DFA-Office of Migrant Workers Affairs, said that the OFWs' passports are properties of the Philippine government, thus if these are confiscated from OFWs, lawyers in Philippine consulates abroad should immediately retrieve the passports from the foreign employers.</p> <p>If the employer refuses to release the passport, the Philippine Consulate or Embassy may issue a travel document to the OFW who may want to return to the Philippines. A case shall be filed against the foreign employer who refused to surrender the passport, Dado added.</p> <p>Rep. Manalo suggested that the POEA should stipulate in the OFW's contract with the foreign employer that confiscating the OFW's passport is a violation of the terms and conditions of the contract of employment.</p> <p>The DFA and POEA were requested to submit their suggestions on how best to address this issue.</p>