

# Committee Daily Bulletin

17<sup>th</sup> Congress  
Second Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. II No. 85  
February 19, 2018

COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Basic Education and Culture jt. w/ Higher and Technical Education	HB 4890	Rep. Batocabe	Establishing a human trafficking prevention education program for the youth and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Ramon "Red" Durano IV (5th District, Cebu), Chair of the Committee on Basic Education and Culture, and Rep. Ann Hofer (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Zamboanga Sibugay), Chair of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, approved HB 4890 and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Department of Education (DepEd) Undersecretary Tonisito Umali supports the bill, saying that it will institutionalize what the DepEd has already been doing in support of the campaign against human trafficking. He also recommended the inclusion of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in the Inter-Agency Council Against Human Trafficking (IACAT), which will facilitate the implementation of the program.</p> <p>Association of Local Colleges and Universities (ALCU) Executive Director Dalisay Brawner and Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA) Legal Counsel Joseph Noel Estrada also manifested their support for the proposed law and volunteered to be part of the IACAT.</p> <p>Cynthia Hernandez, supervising education program specialist at the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), recommended that higher education institutions should formulate strategies for the proper implementation of the human trafficking prevention education program.</p>
	HB 5121	Rep. Lanete	Regulating the conduct of educational field trips, imposing penalties for violation thereof	<p>The Joint Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on the bill.</p> <p>The DepEd Undersecretary suggested that the bill must further define educational field trips as those related and relevant to the curriculum subjects.</p> <p>Hernandez said that CHED recently issued Memorandum Order 63, series of 2017, which provides for the policies and guidelines on local off-campus activities, including field trips.</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Basic Education and Culture jt. w/ Higher and Technical Education</p>				<p>Davao del Sur Rep. Mercedes "Didi" Cagas suggested a higher penalty under Section 7 of the bill to ensure that schools would comply with the guidelines set by the DepEd and CHED on the matter.</p> <p>Reps. Evelina Escudero (1<sup>st</sup> District, Sorsogon) and France Castro (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS) also proposed amendments to the bill.</p> <p>On the other hand, the COCOPEA manifested that the bill should strike a balance between regulatory measures and students' learning opportunities.</p>
	<p>HBs 5832 &amp; 6109</p>	<p>Reps. Campos and Nieto</p>	<p>Providing free education to senior citizens</p>	<p>The Joint Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate and harmonize the two bills.</p> <p>Rep. Castro said that the proposed law, particularly HB 5832, must adhere to the existing Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 in terms of coverage. The bill provides that those who can avail themselves of the free education program for senior citizens are those aged 70 years and above. Under existing laws, senior citizens refer to those aged 60 and above.</p> <p>Corazon Cortez, president of the Valenzuela Senior Citizens Association, suggested that the proposed law should also cover senior citizens enrolled in private educational institutions, especially those taking up courses not offered by public educational institutions.</p>
	<p>HB 6000</p>	<p>Rep. Belaro</p>	<p>Promoting outcome-based education (OBE) in the Philippines</p>	<p>The Joint Committee will deliberate further on the bill.</p> <p>Rep. Hofer and Rep. Escudero said that the bill should define the term "outcome-based education."</p>
<p>Energy</p>	<p>HB 779</p>	<p>Rep. Abayon</p>	<p>Granting all qualified farmers and fishermen discount on petroleum products</p>	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Rep. Carlos Roman Uybarreta (Party-List, 1-CARE), will deliberate further on HB 779 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Harlin Neil Abayon III (Party-List, AANGAT TAYO), author of HB 779, explained that his bill seeks to grant a P2.00 discount for every liter of petroleum products sold to qualified farmers and fishermen in pursuit of farming and fishing activities.</p> <p>Rep. Lianda Bolilia (4th District, Batangas) requested the presence of officials from the Department of Agriculture (DA) in the next meeting of the Committee to solicit their comments on the bill.</p> <p>Rep. Uybarreta asked the various stakeholders present in the meeting to submit their position paper on the bill.</p>

Continuation... Energy	HR 415	Rep. Zarate	Inquiry into the alleged predatory pricing of oil products in Mindanao	The Committee will deliberate further on the resolutions in its next meeting.
	HR 853	Rep. Go (M.)	Inquiry into the alleged disparity and overpricing of fuel prices in Northern Luzon	<p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, author of HR 853, pointed out that the difference in the prices of petroleum products in Baguio City as compared to Rosario, La Union remains at P5 for diesel and P10 to P11 for gasoline.</p> <p>Department of Energy (DOE) Assistant Secretary Leonido Pulido reported that the disparity in prices of petroleum products in Baguio City and Rosario, La Union is reasonable. Pulido also said that the DOE is currently drafting a circular that would require the unbundling of fuel prices by oil companies for the information of the public.</p> <p>On the previous request of Rep. Go to lower the prices of petroleum products in Baguio City, Petron Corporation Assistant Vice President for Corporate Affairs Charmaine Canillas said that Petron already reduced its prices by P3.00 per liter in December 2017 which was over and above the usual price rollback.</p> <p>Likewise, Chevron Philippines Assistant Manager for Policy, Government, and Public Affairs Joel Gaviola and Pilipinas Shell External Relations Officer Mark Nicdao said that their respective companies already implemented price rollbacks since December 2017.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Uybarreta if the local government units (LGUs) have ever apprehended people selling bottled petroleum products believed to have come from illegal sources such as smugglers or pilferers, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) lawyer Rose Shayne Duazo said that she has no knowledge about the matter but assured the Committee that she will discuss it with the DILG Secretary.</p> <p>The Committee requested the submission of the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From oil companies – data on price components of petroleum products, from the landed cost to pump prices; and</li> <li>• From the Bureau of Customs (BOC) – data on the importation of petroleum products.</li> </ul>
Government Reorganization jt./w Population and Family Relations	HBs 802 & 7018	Reps. Batocabe and Vargas	Abolishing the National Coordinating and Monitoring Board and creating the National Commission for Senior Citizens (NCSS), amending for the purpose RA 7432, as amended, or the law granting benefits and special privileges to senior citizens	The Joint Committee, co-presided by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Ma. Lourdes Aggabao (4th District, Isabela), Vice Chair of the Committee on Population and Family Relations, will deliberate further on the three bills in its next meeting.
	HB 6251	Rep. Datol	Creating the National Senior Citizens Commission and placing the Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs under its control and supervision	Rep. Francisco Datol Jr. (Party-List, Senior Citizen), author of HB 6251, said that it is about time that a body be created, such as the NCSS, that will focus on addressing the needs of around

Continuation... Government Reorganization jt./w Population and Family Relations				<p>10.5 million senior citizens in the country. According to Rep. Datol, it is an acknowledgment of the valuable contribution of senior citizens to nation building.</p> <p>Resource persons from government agencies such as the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Social Security System (SSS), and various Offices for Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) nationwide; as well as private organizations like the Federation of Senior Citizens Associations of the Philippines (FSCAP) and Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP) expressed support for the bills.</p> <p>On the other hand, Atty. Avvy Crystabelle Alba of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) discouraged the establishment of the proposed NCSS, arguing that there are already existing government agencies that undertake programs catering to the needs of the senior citizens. She added that instead of creating a new office, the concerned government agencies and their programs should be strengthened.</p> <p>The House Members present manifested their support for the bills and suggested that an executive committee be formed to fast-track the passage of the proposed law.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers until next week.</p>
Legislative Franchises	Substitute Bill to HB 4906	Rep. Velasco	Extending for another 25 years the franchise granted to Delta Broadcasting System, Inc. to establish, maintain and operate radio and television broadcasting stations within the Philippines under RA 7723	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Franz "Chicoy" Alvarez (1st District, Palawan), approved the Substitute Bill to HB 4906 and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HB 6385	Rep. Go (M.)	Renewing the franchise granted to Philippine Communications Satellite Corporation (PHILCOMSAT) to construct, install, maintain and operate in the Philippines ground satellite terminal stations for telecommunication with satellite facilities and delivery to common carriers	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 6385 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Resource persons from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) expressed support for the renewal of franchise of PHILCOMSAT given the company's compliance with all NTC requirements and its good standing, with no derogatory record, with the SEC.</p> <p>PHILCOMSAT was requested to submit its 10-year development plan to the Committee.</p>
	HB 6774	Rep. Romualdo	Amending the franchise granted to Apo Associated Radio Electronics and Communications Company, Inc. (APOCOMM) under RA 8994 to construct, install, establish, operate, and maintain radio telephone and radiotelegraph coastal stations, aeronautical and public fixed and public based land-mobile stations for the reception and transmission of radio communications within the Philippines	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 6774 in its next meeting.</p> <p>NTC Deputy Commissioner Edgardo Cabarios expressed support for the renewal and amendment of the legislative franchise of APOCOMM having complied with the reportorial requirements and paid the required regulatory fees. Cabarios cited the limited scope of the company's franchise which may be causing its financial woes.</p>

Continuation... Legislative Franchises				<p>Rep. Anthony Bravo, PhD. (Party-List, COOP NATCCO) asked APOCOMM how it can convince Congress to approve the extension of its franchise when it has been reportedly losing millions of pesos in its operations since 2013.</p> <p>APOCOMM Assistant Corporate Secretary Evelyn Gonzales admitted that the company is indeed operating at a loss for several years which is why it is seeking the renewal and expansion of its franchise in order to recover financially.</p> <p>Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur) remarked that it would be best if the family of Manuel Gonzales, the majority owner of the company, will pour more funds into the company as it is on the basis of the financial and technical capacity of applicants that franchises are granted.</p> <p>Reps. Bravo and Pimentel questioned Section 9 of the bill authorizing the sale and transfer of the controlling interest in the capital stock of APOCOMM to a certain Jason Cheng.</p> <p>APOCOMM legal counsel Dennis Habawel clarified that as contained in the memorandum of agreement (MOA) between APOCOMM and Cheng, the latter will acquire only 70% of the capital stock and infuse the much needed capital while the remaining 30% will be retained by APOCOMM.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit to the Committee their respective position papers on the bill, while APOCOMM was requested to submit a report on its operations, development plan, and strategy to cut losses and increase its profitability, and a copy of its MOA with Cheng.</p> <p>In the next meeting, Cheng will be invited to give his comments on the issue.</p>
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.), 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>On the discussion of the Bangsamoro educational system, Rep. Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City) and Department of Education (DepEd) Undersecretary Tonisito Umali both agree that the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region Government (BARG) will not exercise exclusive power over its educational system.</p> <p>Likewise, Rep. Acharon pointed out that since</p>

<p>Continuation... Local Government jt. w/ Muslim Affairs and Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity</p>				<p>BARG is part of the Philippine Republic, the educational system of the Bangsamoro shall be in accordance with the education policies of the National Government.</p> <p>On the other hand, Napoleon Imperial, acting deputy executive director of the Commission on Higher (CHED), said that based on CHED's previous discussions with the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC), the CHED agreed that BARG will have exclusive power over its own educational system.</p> <p>BTC Commissioner Omar Yasser Sema explained that in drafting the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL), the framers considered the way of life of the Bangsamoro people, which he said is imbued with their religious belief. He contended that public schools do not teach religion but Muslims are required to learn the language of the Quran.</p> <p>Rep. Lobregat countered that under Section 3 (3), Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the State allows the teaching of religion in public elementary and high schools within the regular class hours to children upon the request of their parents or guardians.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Atty. Ma. Lourdes Bantegui-Rodriguez, Legal Division head of the Land Registration Authority (LRA), said that while the LRA agrees that the National Government and the BARG shall have concurrent powers on land registration in the Bangsamoro geographical area, she said that decisions of the Register of Deeds shall be in accordance with Presidential Decree 1529 or the Property Registration Decree.</p> <p>Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Undersecretary Joji Aragon expressed her support for the bill, saying that the proposed BBL provides fundamental labor principles and rights which are also enshrined in the Philippine Constitution and in the Labor Code of the Philippines.</p> <p>National Youth Commission (NYC) Commissioner James Ceasar Ventura conveyed his support for the creation of the Commission on Youth Affairs in the BARG.</p> <p>The CHED was requested to submit the list of state universities and colleges (SUCs) in the ARMM vis-à-vis their performance in professional licensure examinations.</p> <p>Likewise, the resource persons present were requested to submit their respective position papers on the draft substitute bill.</p>
--	--	--	--	---

PUBLIC HEARING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
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, Muslim Affairs, and the Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, respectively, held a series of public hearings in Mindanao to hear the sentiments of the people on the ground regarding the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL).</p> <p>The public hearings were held on February 15, 16 and 17, 2018 in Shariff Kabunsuan Complex in Cotabato City; Midsayap Municipal Gymnasium in Midsayap, Province of Cotabato; and in the Rizal Memorial Colleges Gymnasium in Davao City, respectively.</p> <p>Aside from the Chairpersons of the three Committees, the following House Members attended the public hearings (either in all three or in just one or two hearings): Deputy Speaker Bai Sandra Sema (1st District, Maguindanao); Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga); Mindanao Representatives Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II (1st District, Zamboanga Sibugay), Nancy Catamco (2nd District, North Cotabato), Ansaruddin A.M.A. Adiong (1st District, Lanao del Sur), Zajid Mangudadatu (2nd District, Maguindanao), Jesus Nonato Sacdalan (1st District, North Cotabato), and Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City); Party-List Representatives Raymond Democrito Mendoza (TUCP), Amihilda Sangcopan (AMIN), and Tom Villarin (AKBAYAN); and Rep. Henry Ong (2nd District, Leyte).</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 following allegations against Sereno:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-disclosure of her earnings as government counsel in an arbitration case against the Philippine International Air Terminals Co., Inc. (Piatco) in her Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN); and</li> <li>• Obstruction of justice by ordering the Muntinlupa City Regional Trial Court (RTC) judges not to issue warrants of arrest against Senator Leila de Lima.</li> </ul>

Continuation...  
Justice

Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso (3rd District, Leyte) stressed that Sereno's failure to comply with the requirement for the submission of SALN for the period 1986-2006 when she was applying for the chief justice position presupposes "evident bad faith." He added that Sereno's reason that she can no longer produce documents of 15 years and beyond, as indicated in her letter of explanation dated July 23, 2012 to the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC), constitutes "badges of fraud" given the fact that she also submitted only one SALN to the University of the Philippines (UP) when she was still a professor at the said university.

Citing several SALN-related cases decided on by the Supreme Court (SC), Rep. Veloso opined that the Chief Justice's appointment to the top post in the Judiciary may be declared void from the beginning.

Replying to the query of Rep. Eugene Michael de Vera (Party-List, ABS), Deputy Commissioner Arnel Guballa of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) said that the Bureau has recently conducted its investigation into Sereno's tax records, particularly her income from the case against Piatco. He, however, could not divulge any information about the investigation unless authorized by the Office of the President (OP). Guballa gave assurance that BIR will submit a copy of the report of the investigation as soon as the authorization is issued by the OP.

Nevertheless, Guballa admitted the existence of discrepancies in Sereno's income tax return (ITR) for the years 2004 and 2005.

On the allegation of obstruction of justice, Judges Amelia Fabros-Corpuz and Patria Manalastas-De Leon of Muntinlupa City RTC Branches 205 and 206, respectively, denied having been ordered or instructed nor having been influenced by anyone not to issue any warrant against De Lima. Corpuz is said to have issued the arrest warrant on June 19, 2017 and De Leon on November 16, 2017.

Rep. Veloso pointed out that while another judge, Juanita Guerrero of RTC Branch 204, issued a warrant of arrest against De Lima on February 23, 2017 or three days after receipt of the Information (complaint), undue delays happened with the two other courts. This, he said, is contrary to the "10-day rule," under the Rules of Court, for finding probable cause for the issuance of warrant of arrest.

Corpuz stressed that the delay in the issuance of the warrant was due to the numerous motions filed by the parties involved. But Rep. Veloso countered that the last pleading was filed on May 17, 2017 or over a month before Corpuz issued her arrest warrant.

On her part, De Leon explained that the delay in the issuance of a warrant was due to the pending issue at that time on whether or not the jurisdiction of the case should be with the RTC or the Sandiganbayan. She, however, said that as soon as the issue had been resolved in RTC's favor, she immediately issued the warrant of arrest, which is well within the 10-day rule.

After admitting that she made calls to the above mentioned judges, Deputy Court Administrator Jenny Lind Aldecoa-Delorino of the SC Office of the Court Administrator (OCA) denied having influenced the judges in their adjudicatory functions, particularly in the issuance of warrants of arrest.

She maintained that her calls were merely intended to extend administrative assistance to the courts which are under her administrative supervision especially if there are controversial or high-profile cases.

Continuation... Justice		<p>On the query of Rep. Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP), SC Court Administrator Midas Marquez claimed that calls made to court judges are not a standard operating procedure in the OCA. He, however, does not deny the fact that the deputy court administrators are given discretions in performing their administrative and supervisory functions over courts.</p> <p>The Committee will issue subpoena duces tecum to the BIR for the submission of a copy of its report on the investigation regarding Sereno's tax records.</p>
----------------------------	--	---

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Dangerous Drugs (Technical Working Group)	HBs 289, 587, 1868, 3406, 3616, 3627, 3733 & 4151	Reps. Romero, Bataoil, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Barbers, Acop, Pineda, Bagatsing, and Alejano	Authorizing wiretapping in cases involving violations of RA 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, amending RA 4200 or the law prohibiting and penalizing wiretapping and other related violations of the privacy of communication	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), will deliberate further on the bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>The TWG agreed, among others, that wiretapping may be allowed only in specific cases and not all the prohibited acts under the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.</p> <p>In reference to HB 587, the TWG agreed on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delete the proposed amendment to the second paragraph of Section 3 of RA 4200 which requires that the order issued by the court authorizing wiretapping shall specify, among others, "the mode, form, kind or type of electronic or other surveillance equipment or intercepting and tracking devices to be used;" and</li> <li>• Amend the proposed third paragraph of Section 3 of RA 4200 so that the authorization to conduct wiretapping may be extended or renewed for another 90 days, instead of 30 days, from the expiration of the original period granted by the court, subject to further extension or renewal due to compelling reasons as may be determined by the court.</li> </ul> <p>The TWG agreed to delete the last sentence of the first paragraph of Section 3 of RA 4200 which provides that a written court order authorizing wiretapping shall be issued when "there are no other means readily available for obtaining such evidence."</p> <p>On the right to privacy of a person who may be in communication with another person who is subject of a wiretapping order, Atty. Ma. Jamine dela Paz Bagasala of the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) suggested that law enforcers should be compelled to submit a report under oath on the process of obtaining and handling of</p>

<p>Continuation... Dangerous Drugs (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>the intercepted materials within 24 hours to ensure that these materials are not divulged unnecessarily to the detriment of the person in the other end of the line, who is not involved in the crime being investigated.</p> <p>The Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) were requested to harmonize their recommendations on HB 3627, particularly the proposed amendment to Section 2 of RA 4200, increasing the penalty of imprisonment to "not less than six years or more than 12 years" and imposing a fine of P1 million for violation of this law.</p>
<p>Health jt. w/ Trade and Industry (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>HBs 884, 885, 917, 925, 4129, 4713, 5204 &amp; HR 973</p>	<p>Reps. Tan (A.), Roque (H.), Abaya, Castelo, Fortun, Biazon, and Bravo (A.)</p>	<p>Strengthening the Inter Agency Committee-Tobacco (IAC-Tobacco) to ensure compliance with Article 5.3 of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) thereby amending for this purpose Sections 2, 4, 29, 31, 32, 36 and 39 of RA 9211, otherwise known as the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003</p>	<p>The joint technical working group (TWG), co-chaired by Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2nd District, Bataan) of the Committee on Health and Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo of the Committee on Trade and Industry, concluded its deliberation on the eight measures.</p> <p>The Secretarial was directed to prepare a draft substitute bill, incorporating therein the relevant recommendations of resource persons.</p> <p>At the outset, the resource persons reported on the status of implementation of RA 9211 (Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003).</p> <p>Medical Specialist Cristina Galang of the Disease Prevention and Control Bureau, Department of Health (DPCB-DOH), said that the DOH is implementing the Smoking Cessation Program nationwide through its health units and hospitals at the local and regional level. Several local government units (LGUs) issued ordinances to implement the program. Galang also mentioned the results of a global tobacco survey wherein the number of smokers in the country decreased significantly from 2009 to 2015, or from 17.3 million to 15.9 million smokers.</p> <p>On the part of the National Tobacco Administration (NTA), Regulation Department OIC Rohbert Ambros said that the NTA implemented alternative livelihood programs for tobacco farmers affected by the law's implementation, such as a shift to rice farming, hog raising, and cattle raising. However, Ambros disclosed that a lot of tobacco farmers are back to planting tobacco again at present.</p> <p>Several House Members believe that RA 9211 needs to be amended to suit present realities and because it was not fully implemented since its enactment in 2003.</p> <p>On the question of where the collections from penalties prescribed in the proposed law will go, Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon suggested that penalty collection from large establishments should go to the national government, and the rest to the local government units (LGUs).</p>

Continuation... Health jt. w/ Trade and Industry (Technical Working Group)				<p>On the other hand, Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA) representative Donilyn Villariz suggested that the collections should go to the national government, but allocating a portion to the LGUs as a form of incentive to implement the law.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the tobacco bills for consideration by the TWG.</p>
National Defense and Security (Technical Working Group)	<p>HBs 108,138, 344, 397, 454, 596, 805, 1132, 1137, 1142, 1149, 1255, 1261, 1263, 1374, 1379, 1485, 1587, 1648, 1704, 1763, 1812, 2146, 2555, 2608, 2661, 2722, 2784, 2804, 2854, 3083, 3093, 3094, 3402, 3614, 4152, 4427, 4521, 4648, 5027, 5593, 5673, 6075, 6729, 6855, 6924 &amp; 6944; HRs 439 &amp; 721 Privilege Speech 299</p>	<p>Reps. Alejano, Noel, Romualdez, Belmonte (J.C.), Gomez, Pichay, Batocabe, Biazon, Tan (A.), Vargas, Abayon, Fuentebella, Salceda, Zarate, Pineda, Castelo, Santos-Recto, Angara-Castillo, Rodriguez (I.), Gomez, Pimentel, Almario, Abayon, Yu, Leachon, Minority Leader Suarez, Reps. Matugas, Rodriguez (M.), Speaker Alvarez, and Rep. Bataoil</p>	<p>Developing further the capability and establishing expeditious transformation of the Department of National Defense and its bureaus, appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Committee Secretary Roger Rigor, agreed to draft a substitute bill to the 50 measures, incorporating therein the proposed draft bill of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Department of National Defense (DND).</p> <p>Col. Agustin Matavia, chief of the AFP Judge Advocate General Office (JAGO), said that the proposed draft bill of the AFP and DND takes into consideration the changes that may occur should the country transition to a federal form of government.</p>
Transportation (Technical Working Group)	HB 6455	Speaker Alvarez	<p>Providing for a speedy processing by the Land Transportation Office (LTO) of the registration of imported motor vehicles and providing penalties for violation thereof</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, will deliberate further on HB 6455 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento said that the main intent of the bill is to ensure a faster and easier registration process for imported motor vehicles for the benefit of the transacting public and the government as well.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento apprised the Committee about the National Single Window (NSW) for cargo clearance that was established under Executive Order 482 series of 2005, which facilitates the release of cargoes, including imported motor vehicles.</p> <p>Based on EO 482, NSW refers to "a system that enables a single submission of data and information that is synchronously processed, resulting in a single point of decision for the release of cargoes by Customs, based on decisions made by other Departments and</p>

<p>Continuation... Transportation (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>Agencies of government and communicated in a timely manner to Customs.” NSW will increase transparency in cargo processing, provide a more accurate, timely and cost- efficient exchange of information, reduce customs operational costs, and improve revenue collection.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Sarmiento whether the information on vehicle identification number (VIN) can be accessed through the NSW system, Atty. Willie Sarmiento of the Bureau of Customs’ (BOC) Legal Service Division said it is not yet included in the system.</p> <p>However, Severino Esplana, former chief of the BOC’s Bureau of Import Services (BIS) Division-Section V, explained that VIN should be provided upon the entry of imported motor vehicles into the country to help check if the vehicles come from legal sources or are not carnapped.</p> <p>Atty. Sarmiento concurred with the statement of Esplana, adding that the VIN and chassis number of imported motor vehicle are required by the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol).</p> <p>Police Senior Superintendent Ulysses Caton, deputy director for Administration of the Philippine National Police-Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG), said that PNP clearance is required only for the registration of second-hand motor vehicles and not for brand new units.</p> <p>Meanwhile, LTO Assistant Secretary Edgar Galvante suggested that importers should check if their imported motor vehicles are compliant with the provisions of the Clean Air Act at the point of origin to avoid problems later. He disclosed that inspection of imported vehicles for compliance with the said law is done only when they arrive in the country.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to invite the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) - Fair Trade Enforcement Bureau (formerly Bureau of Import Services) to explain the rules and procedure on car importation and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to explain the process of the issuance of certificate of conformity (COC) for new motor vehicles.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill.</p>
---	--	--	--	--