

# Committee Daily Bulletin

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Ethics and Privileges	HR 2212	Rep. Bertiz	Inquiry into the incident that transpired on September 29, 2018 at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 2, Pasay City involving Rep. Bertiz and an airport security personnel	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Delphine Gan Lee (Party-List, AGRI), decided to hold an executive session to undertake preliminary discussions on the subject of the resolution.</p> <p>Rep. Lee said that she needs to consult with the Members on the proper course of action noting that there is no provision in the Committee Rules of Procedure authorizing the Committee to initiate an inquiry into the incident without receiving any prior complaint and on the basis of a resolution filed by Rep. Aniceto "John" Bertiz III (Party-List, ACTS OFW) himself, who was one of the parties involved in the incident.</p>
Government Enterprises and Privatization	Substitute Bill to HBs 7139, 7380, 7381 & 7651	Reps. Silverio, Roman, Sy-Alvarado, and Garcia (J.E.)	Creating the Regional Investment and Infrastructure Coordinating Hub (RICH) of Central Luzon and providing funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan (1<sup>st</sup> District, North Cotabato), approved the substitute bill subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>The Secretariat was instructed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report and to submit the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Appropriations for consideration and approval of its tax and appropriations provisions, respectively.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Sacdalan informed the Committee that the Senate version of the bill was already approved on Third Reading. He expressed the hope that the counterpart bill in the House of Representatives will also be approved very soon.</p> <p>Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Bataan), author of HB 7651, suggested that the two members of the provincial coordinating council who will come from the private sector will no longer be appointed by the President, but by the majority vote of the RICH Board upon recommendation by the provincial governor.</p> <p>Rep. Geraldine Roman (1<sup>st</sup> District, Bataan), author of HB 7380, proposed that the reclassification and conversion of agricultural lands be approved in accordance with the</p>

Continuation... Government Enterprises and Privatization				comprehensive land use plans of concerned local government units (LGUs) and the Master Plan approved by the RICH, provided that the real need for the land conversion or reclassification is clearly established.
Human Rights	<i>Motu Proprio</i> Inquiry		Inquiry into the alleged deplorable state of custodial facilities of the Philippine National Police (PNP), that is characterized by overcrowding of persons under police custody (PUPCs) and inhumane conditions, in possible violation of basic human rights of PUPCs as well as the United Nations standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners (UNSMRTP)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Zambales), will continue its inquiry relative to the alleged deplorable state of the PNP's custodial facilities in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Deloso-Montalla said that the conduct of the inquiry was prompted by a letter sent by PNP Human Rights Affairs Office (HRAO) Chief Dennis Siervo raising concerns on the serious consequences of congested detention facilities in Metro Manila. She added that the congestion in detention facilities makes it imperative to look into the slow-paced transfer of convicted detainees to prison facilities where they will serve their sentence; health problems of PUPCs including the spread of communicable diseases; and the safety and security of women and children in conflict with the law in these facilities.</p> <p>Siervo reported that the overcrowding of PNP custodial facilities is primarily due to the continued stay of a large number of PUPCs who should have already been transferred to jail facilities but could not be done because of the delay in the issuance of commitment orders by the courts. He said that a commitment order is a requirement for the transfer of a prisoner to the corresponding prison facility for confinement and service of sentence.</p> <p>National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Chief Guillermo Eleazar explained that it takes an average of three weeks before a court issues a commitment order.</p> <p>Associate Prosecution Attorney Dennis Aga of the National Prosecution Service-Department of Justice (NPS-DOJ) explained that some processes being observed by the courts may be the cause of delay in the issuance of commitment orders, such as the raffling of cases which is being done only twice a week. Aga also mentioned the lack of DOJ prosecutors to handle a huge number of cases.</p> <p>Supreme Court's Office of the Court Administrator Judicial Supervisor Arturo Noblejas admitted that the five to 10-day issuance of commitment order - from the filing of information, to the raffling of cases, until the time the judge issues a commitment order - is not ideal. Thus, the Supreme Court established an e-raffle system wherein cases are encoded and electronically raffled on the</p>

<p>Continuation... Human Rights</p>				<p>same day, which is now being pilot tested in selected courts.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) Directorate for Operations Baby Noel Montalvo explained that the congestion in BJMP's detention facilities is due to the increased number of arrested individuals whose cases are still waiting for the court's decision; the inability of the prisoners to pay the bail; and the lack of or unavailability of lawyers from the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) who may represent indigent prisoners.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1<sup>st</sup> District, Nueva Ecija), BJMP Repair and Maintenance Division Chief Jimlani Sampang said that the BJMP has allocated a total of P6.2 billion from 2017 to 2019 for the expansion/upgrading of its detention facilities.</p> <p>Rep. Lawrence "Law" Fortun (1<sup>st</sup> District, Agusan del Norte) recommended that the PNP adopt a standard size for custodial facilities in police stations after hearing from PNP officials that police stations are primarily meant to house their personnel with only a small portion allotted for detention facilities.</p> <p>On the state of health of PUPCs, PNP Health Service Director Antonietta Langcaun reported that her office seeks the assistance of the Department of Health (DOH) in monitoring and attending to the PUPCs health problems. Likewise, the PNP relies on donations from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and other local institutions for the medicines and other medical supplies needed by the PUPCs.</p> <p>Rep. Fortun emphasized the need to establish an institutionalized health program for prisoners in detention facilities.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit documents requested by the Members.</p>
<p>Labor and Employment</p>	<p>HBs 402, 3815 &amp; 8095</p>	<p>Reps. Abellanos, Billones, and Salo</p>	<p>Requiring all employers to pay their employees a 14<sup>th</sup> month salary</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Randolph Ting (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Cagayan), will deliberate further on the three bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Rodrigo Abellanos (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Cebu City) and Rep. Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN), respective authors of HBs 402 and 8095, explained that their bills aim to alleviate the plight of most Filipino workers and their families in the face of rising prices of commodities by granting them a 14<sup>th</sup> month pay. They also said that the proposed additional pay will serve as an incentive for workers to be more productive.</p> <p>Deputy Executive Director Patricia Hornilla of the National Wages and Productivity</p>

<p>Continuation... Labor and Employment</p>				<p>Commission (NWPC), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), expressed the support of DOLE for the bill. Homilla also mentioned that there are 70 private establishments already providing 14<sup>th</sup> month pay to their employees.</p> <p>Likewise, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), through Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development (BSMED) Director Jerry Clavesillas, also supports the proposed law, but has some recommendations that he will submit later to the Committee.</p> <p>On the other hand, Employers Confederation of the Philippines' (ECOP) Legal Services Manager Robert Maronilla objects to the bills, arguing that the proposed labor law will only benefit the workers from the formal sector and not those from the informal sector which comprise almost 75% of the total employed labor as of 2016.</p> <p>In addition, Maronilla claimed, the formal sector which contributes 66-68% to the gross domestic product (GDP) of the country is dominated by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). It is ECOP's position that requiring MSMEs to pay their workers a non-productivity based 14<sup>th</sup> month pay will certainly affect their viability.</p> <p>In its next meeting, the Committee will invite representatives from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the Social Security System (SSS) to comment on Section 9 of HB 8095 which states that all SSS and GSIS pensioners shall also be entitled to 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> month benefits.</p>
	<p>HR 432</p>	<p>Rep. Ting</p>	<p>Inquiry into the conditions of working students hired on part-time employment</p>	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised relative to HR 432 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Ting, author of HR 432, said that there is a need to pass a law that would protect the rights of working students, in view of reports of various abuses and violations putting them at risk and giving them a hard time coping with the pressures of work and studies.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go requested the Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL)-Youth to identify specific abuses, exploitations and violations committed by employers against working students.</p> <p>The Committee requested the DOLE-Bureau of Working Conditions (BWC) to submit data related to the condition of working students to serve as reference in the conduct of this inquiry.</p>

**TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING**

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Energy (Technical Working Group)	HBs 4893 & 6668	Reps. Batocabe and Villafuerte	Establishing the Philippine Energy Research and Policy Development Institute, defining its objectives, powers and functions, providing funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Rogelio Neil Roque (4<sup>th</sup> District, Bukidnon), will deliberate further on HBs 4893 and 6668 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Policy and Planning Bureau Director Patrick Aquino conveyed the DOE's position that the creation of an institute for energy research is not necessary. He said the DOE may instead include in its annual budget an allocation specifically for energy research collaborations and partnerships with the academe.</p> <p>Department of Budget and Management's (DBM) Supervising Budget and Management Specialist Lumen Aloit also expressed the DBM's objection to the bill, saying that the creation of an institute would require additional budget and that there are existing government agencies which are capable to address the concerns raised by the bills' authors.</p> <p>On the other hand, the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman and the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) expressed their support for the bills.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills for consideration by the TWG.</p>

**JOINT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING**

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Legislative Oversight Committee on the Visiting Forces Agreement – House Panel	Briefing by the Presidential Commission on Visiting Forces on the visiting forces agreement	The House panel of the Legislative Oversight Committee on the Visiting Forces Agreement, co-chaired by Rep. Feliciano Belmonte Jr. (4 <sup>th</sup> District, Quezon City) of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Rep. Amado Espino Jr. (5 <sup>th</sup> District, Pangasinan) of the Committee on National Defense and Security, agreed that the briefing by the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces be held in an executive session.