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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Appropriations	Substitute Bill to HBs 536, 3446, 3632, 4430 & 5549	Reps. Olivarez, Primicias-Agabas, Go (M.), Abayon, and Kho	Requiring parents to plant two trees for every child born to them	The Committee, presided by the Senior Vice Chair, Rep. Maria Carmen Zamora (1 st District, Compostela Valley), approved the Substitute Bill to the five bills with amendments.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 1154 & 3132	Reps. Alejano and Revilla	Requiring all graduating elementary, high school and college students to plant at least 10 trees each as a prerequisite for graduation	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 1154 and 3132 with amendments.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 2207, 68, 876, 1274 & 1529	Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, Reps. Salceda, Sarmiento (E.), Biazon, and Gonzales (A.P.)	Instituting reforms in real property valuation and assessment in the Philippines, reorganizing the Bureau of Local Government Finance, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to the five bills.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 3153 & 5787	Reps. Alejano and Bataoil	Transferring the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) and National Police Training Institute (NPTI) from the Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC) to the Philippine National Police (PNP), amending for the purpose Sections 24, 35, 66 and 67 of RA 6975, otherwise known as the Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990, as amended	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 3153 and 5787 with amendments.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 4259, 4319 & 3565	Reps. Rodriguez (M.), Lobregat, and Baguilat	Regulating the practice of environmental engineering in the Philippines, and providing funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to the three bills.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 4749, 5330, 5812, 6403, 6480 & 6546	Reps. Alejano, Nieto, Tan (A.), Villafuerte, Antonio, and Vargas	Regulating the practice of speech language pathology in the Philippines, providing funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to the six bills.
	Substitute Bill to HB 4843	Rep. Batocabe	Strengthening the Games and Amusements Board	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 4843 with amendments.
	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 of Central Luzon and providing funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to the four bills with amendments.
	Substitute Bills to HBs	Reps. Tejada, Uy (J.),	Creating additional branches of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) and Municipal	The Committee approved the nine substitute bills.

<i>Continuation... Appropriations</i>	2105, 2878 6313, 6318, 6485 & 6486, 6698 6894, 6977, and 7325	Biazon, Relampagos, Mercado, Nogralles, (K.A.), and Alvarez (P.), and Minority Leader Suarez	Trial Court (MTC) in certain parts of the country, amending for the purpose Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980, as amended and appropriating funds therefor	
Basic Education and Culture	HB 669, in consolidation with HBs 2261 & 3377	Reps. Yap (V.), Enverga, and Deputy Speaker Villarica	Establishing Philippine High School for Sports and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair, Rep. Cristal Bagatsing (5 th District, Manila), approved HB 669, in consolidation with HBs 2261 and 3377.
	HB 1022	Rep. Bataoil	Declaring "Baybayin" as the national writing system of the Philippines, providing for its promotion, protection, preservation and conservation	The Committee approved HB 1022 with amendment.
	HB 398	Rep. Belmonte (J.C.)	Establishing a senior high school in Barangay Tandang Sora, Quezon City, Metro Manila to be known as Tandang Sora Senior High School, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the 10 bills with amendment and subject to the submission of the documents required by the Department of Education (DepEd) for the establishment of schools. It likewise approved the corresponding Committee Reports.
	HBs 790, 2415, 5947, 5948 & 8187	Reps. Ungab, Dimaporo (M.K.), Robes, and Cosalan	Establishing national high schools in certain parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	
	HBs 6105 & 8164	Reps. Ungab and Mangaoang	Establishing elementary schools in Davao City and in Paracelis, Mountain Province and appropriating funds therefor	
	HBs 6382 & 8096	Rep. Gonzales (A.P.) and Deputy Speaker Escudero	Establishing integrated schools in the City of Mandaluyong and in Sorsogon City and appropriating funds therefor	
	HBs 956, 1246, 5371, 6417, 7394, 8054, 8149 & 8212	Reps. Villafuerte, Sandoval, Villanueva, Treñas, Mangaoang, and Fariñas	Separating/converting national high schools into independent national high schools in certain parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the eight bills with amendment and subject to the submission of the documents required by the DepEd for the separation/conversion of national high schools. It likewise approved the corresponding Committee Reports.
	HB 959	Rep. Villafuerte	Converting the Capucnasan High School in the Province of Camarines Sur into a national high school to be known as Capucnasan National High School and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the two bills with amendment and subject to the submission of the documents required by the DepEd for the conversion of schools. It likewise approved the corresponding Committee Reports.
	HB 6343	Rep. Amatong	Converting Camp Ofelia Elementary School in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte into an integrated school to be known as the Lintangan Integrated School and appropriating funds therefor	
	HR 1719	Rep. Tinio	Investigation into the legality of the agreements exempting the UK-based Pearson Education, Ltd. and Ayala	

Continuation... Basic Education and Culture			Foundation's Affordable Private Education Center (APEC) schools from the regulations governing private schools	<p>Based on HR 1719, authored by ACT Teachers Party-List Reps. Antonio Tinio and France Castro, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed in 2013 between the APEC schools' proponents and the Department of Education (DepEd) enabled the operation of said schools.</p> <p>APEC schools are low-cost private schools catering to low-income students in Grades 7 to 12, established using capital from the Pearson Affordable Learning Fund (PALF) and the Pearson-Ayala edu-business joint venture.</p> <p>HR 1719 further stated that through the MOU and the MOA, the DepEd allowed APEC schools to be run and evaluated based on the parameters set by the proponents themselves, effectively exempting the schools from government regulation and compromising the standards set under the 2010 Revised Manual of Regulations for Private Schools in Basic Education.</p> <p>Rep. Julieta Cortuna (Party-List, A TEACHER) questioned the legality of exempting the APEC schools from complying with basic education standards and other rules and regulations of the DepEd.</p> <p>DepEd Undersecretary for Legal Affairs Josephine Maribojoc explained that the APEC schools are operating through a permit issued by DepEd. She also claimed that under the said Manual of Regulations, the DepEd Secretary has the power to exempt a private school from complying with certain standards and requirements under certain conditions.</p> <p>Rep. Tinio averred that while other private schools had to undergo the tedious process of acquiring a permit to operate, APEC schools are given preferential treatment by DepEd by issuing a permit even if they do not fully comply with the standards set under the 2010 Manual.</p> <p>Reps. Tinio and Castro requested DepEd to submit a list of APEC schools in the National Capital Region (NCR) and in Region IV-A.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to conduct an ocular inspection of the different APEC schools to know if they are compliant with DepEd standards and requirements.</p>
Games and Amusements	HB 7528	Rep. Panganiban	Prohibiting the live streaming and broadcasting of cockfighting for purposes of betting and gambling and providing penalties for violations thereof	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Gus Tambunting (2 nd District, Parañaque City), approved HB 7528.
	HR 1637	Minority Leader Suarez	Investigation into the compliance of online gaming operators with Philippine tax laws	The Committee will continue its discussion on the issues raised in HR 1637 in its next meeting.

Continuation... Games and Amusements				<p>Minority Leader Danilo Suarez (3rd District, Quezon), author of HR 1637, sees the potential of offshore online gaming as a huge and steady source of government revenues. With the rising growth of offshore gaming, he asked how this industry operates and whether it is properly regulated and taxed.</p> <p>Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) Senior Manager for Offshore Gaming Victor Padilla Jr. informed the Committee that there are currently 54 PAGCOR-licensed offshore gaming operators.</p> <p>Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Revenue Officer Ricardo Suba Jr. reported that revenue collections from offshore gaming is estimated to reach P6 billion for 2018 which is P2 billion higher than last year's collection.</p> <p>Replying to the query whether these offshore gaming operators are being taxed correctly, Suba said that 39 out of the 54 licensed operators are not registered with the BIR and therefore remain untaxed. According to Padilla, these operators contend that they should not be taxed because their clients and establishments are not located in the Philippines.</p> <p>The BIR, however, believes otherwise as the licenses of these operators were issued by PAGCOR, an agency of the government of the Philippines.</p> <p>Several lawmakers agreed and asked PAGCOR to revoke the licenses of offshore gaming operators who refuse to pay the proper taxes.</p> <p>PAGCOR was requested to submit the following documents to the Committee: copy of permits to operate issued by PAGCOR to local and offshore gaming operators; tax collections from offshore gaming operators from 2016 to the present; and copy of agreements/contracts between the local gaming agents or service providers and the offshore gaming operators.</p> <p>In the next meeting, the Committee will invite the heads of PAGCOR and BIR to present their views on the issues at hand, as well as representatives from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Bureau of Immigration (BI) to provide information on the status and documentation of foreign workers hired for the online gaming industry.</p>
National Defense and Security	HR 2188	Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo	Disbanding and/or deactivating all local government unit (LGU)-sponsored paramilitary personnel under the Special CAFGU Active Auxiliary Company (SCAAC) within the area of Mindanao effective at the start of filing of Certificate	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Amado Espino Jr. (5 th District, Pangasinan), adopted HRs 2188 and 2206 with amendments, and thereafter approved the corresponding Committee Report.

Continuation... National Defense and Security			of Candidacy (COC) until after the lifting of election ban during the 2019 midterm elections and every elections thereafter	<p>The Committee favors the proposal to deactivate all LGU-sponsored paramilitary personnel under the SCAAC in Zamboanga del Norte and Cotabato City effective at the start of the filing of Certificate of Candidacy (COC) until the end of the 2019 midterm elections.</p> <p>Rep. Seth Frederick Jalosjos (1st District, Zamboanga del Norte), co-author of the two resolutions, explained that there is no need to deploy a SCAA force in his province because of the low security threat assessment in the area. He claimed that some incumbent politicians used the LGU-funded SCAAs to their advantage during the previous elections.</p> <p>Likewise, Rep. Bai Sandra Sema (1st District, Maguindanao) supported the deactivation of SCAAs in Cotabato City, explaining that the loyalty of SCAA members are with the LGUs which recruited them and provide the funding. She also said that security threat in the area is lesser in view of the ongoing peace process, particularly with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).</p> <p>Department of National Defense (DND) Assistant Secretary Angelito de Leon clarified that there are two kinds of CAFGUs: the SCAA I whose members are recruited, funded and controlled by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP); and the SCAA II, whose members are recruited upon the request of the LGUs concerned and which is funded by the LGUs but is under the control of the AFP.</p> <p>AFP Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations Isidro Purisima explained that the AFP approves requests for the activation of SCAAs by LGUs only after a thorough assessment and validation of the existence of a grave security threat in the locality. He gave assurance that the AFP is continuously improving its policies and mechanisms on the activation or deployment of SCAAs to deter abuses perpetrated by some politicians. He also disclosed that all applications for new SCAAs are currently on hold.</p> <p>Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City) suggested three options that the AFP may consider to address the issues raised by Rep. Jalosjos: deactivate the SCAA in Zamboanga del Norte; strengthen the AFP control over the SCAAs; or request the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) to take control of the entire province during the election period.</p>
	HR 2206	Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo	Disallowing the deployment of paramilitary personnel under the Special CAFGU Active Auxiliary (SCAA) Force within the area of Mindanao during the 2019 midterm elections	
Ways and Means	Substitute Bill to HBs 422 & 7994	Reps. Quimbo and Suansing (E.)	Establishing the fiscal regime for mining industry	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1 st District, Nueva Ecija), approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 422 and 7994 with amendments.

Continuation... Ways and Means				<p>The Committee agreed to reduce the royalty tax to be paid to the government by large-scale metallic and non-metallic mining contractors operating within mineral reservations from 5% to 3% of the gross output of minerals or mineral products extracted or produced, exclusive of all other taxes.</p> <p>It likewise agreed to delete Section 6 of the bill, which proposes the imposition of a surcharge to be paid by any contractor who engages in open pit mining.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Foreign Affairs (Technical Working Group)	HB 329	Rep. Romualdo	Providing for the issuance of passports and travel documents, as well as for the revocation thereof, defining and penalizing offenses relating to passports and travel documents, repealing RA 8239, otherwise known as the Philippine Passport Act of 1996	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2 nd District, Zambales), agreed to draft a substitute bill to the seven bills using HBs 329 and 3284 as the working drafts and incorporating therein the pertinent recommendations of the resource persons.
	HB 3015	Rep. Velarde	Amending certain provisions of RA 8239 (by recognizing any valid government-issued identification document with authentication feature as a supporting document to an application for passport)	The substitute bill will be submitted later to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.
	HB 3284	Deputy Speaker Villarica	Providing for a new passport law, repealing for the purpose RA 8239	<p>Among the agreements reached during the TWG meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt the definition of “consular offices” as proposed by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) based on Executive Order No. 45 issued in 2017; • Define the term “Emergency Passport” which shall refer to a passport issued in urgent cases and valid for one year to allow a Filipino citizen to return to the Philippines or travel to the nearest full-service Philippine government office abroad; • Change certain terms used in the bills referring to passport applicants who need assistance – from “illiterate” to “persons who do not know how to read and write;” from “physically disabled” to “persons with disability” -- as proposed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD); and • Adopt the provision on “Appeal” as proposed by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), to read as “Any person whose passport application is denied or whose passport is revoked shall have the right to appeal to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs whose decision may be reviewed by the appropriate court.”
	HB 4645	Rep. Go (C.)	Creating a passport processing and issuance center in every province, amending for the purpose RA 8239	
	HBs 4797 & 5075	Reps. Sarmiento (E.) and Robes	Establishing Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)-passport issuance offices in Calbayog City, Province of Samar and City of San Jose del Monte, Province of Bulacan, appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 5574	Rep. Antonino	Authorizing the DFA to issue official passport to barangay officials when on official trip abroad, amending for the purpose Section 7, paragraphs (b) and (c) of RA 8239	

<p>Continuation... Foreign Affairs (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>The TWG likewise agreed to exclude some provisions in the bills, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a DFA Passport Review Committee that shall look into complaints or derogatory information against a passport holder, since the Passport Integrity and Fraud Management Section of the DFA's Office of Consular Affairs (OCA) is already carrying out this function; and • Issuance of a travel document in lieu of a passport to a Filipino citizen who lost his passport while in transit to another country or to a Filipino citizen performing <i>Umrah</i> and <i>Hajj</i>. <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon requested the DFA and NBI to submit their proposed language of the provisions pertaining to "offenses and penalties" under the proposed law.</p> <p>Rep. Biazon also recommended that the discussion on the proposal to review (whether semi-annually or annually) the disbursement of the Passport Revolving Fund be elevated to the mother Committee. He likewise proposed to seek the opinion of the Department of Finance (DOF) with regard to the percentage of income from fees that will be retained by the DFA for purposes of improving its passport services.</p>
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