

# Committee Daily Bulletin

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

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Government Enterprises and Privatization	Substitute Bill to HBs 59, 136, 361, 1608, 1671, 1780, 3127, 4641 & 7983	Reps. Tinio, Batocabe, Zamora (M.C.), Cagas, Revilla, Catamco, Primicias-Agabas, Panotes, and Silverio	Lowering the optional retirement age of government workers from 60 years to 56 years, amending for the purpose section 13-A of RA 8291, otherwise known as "The Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997"	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Rep. Mario Vittorio "Marvey" Mariño (5<sup>th</sup> District, Batangas), approved the substitute bill.</p> <p>Rep. Antonio Tinio (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS), author of HB 59 and chair of the technical working group (TWG) tasked to study the proposed law, discussed the salient features of the substitute bill.</p> <p>GSIS Actuarial and Risk Management Group head Severina Resurreccion maintained the position that the proposed law will adversely affect the actuarial life of the GSIS' social insurance fund (SIF).</p> <p>The Committee requested GSIS to submit a study on the effect of the proposed law on the SIF if only 25%, 50%, and 75% of the qualified government employees will opt to retire at the age of 56. The GSIS study will be used by the Committee as reference in the plenary deliberations on the bill.</p>
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Transportation	Substitute Bill to HBs 5092 & 6275	Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo and Rep. Fuentebella	Creating the Commission on Transport Security, defining its powers and functions, and appropriating funds therefor	The Joint Committee, co-presided by Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY), Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Edgar Sarmiento (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Samar), Vice Chair of the Committee on Transportation, approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 5092 and 6275 subject to style, and the corresponding Committee Report.
Legislative Franchises	HB 2262	Rep. Cueva	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Cadiz Radio and Television Network, Inc., under RA 8111	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Franz "Chicoy" Alvarez (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Palawan), approved HB 2262 with amendments.
	HB 4555	Rep. Dimaporo (M.K.)	Granting the Lanao del Norte Electric Cooperative a franchise to construct, operate and maintain a distribution system for the conveyance of electric power to the end-users in all the municipalities of the Province of Lanao del Norte	The Committee approved HB 4555.
	HB 7287	Rep. Ferrer	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Ultimate Entertainment, Inc., under RA 8102	The Committee approved HB 7287.

Continuation... Legislative Franchises	HB 7980	Former Rep. Nogralles (K.A.)	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to R.T. Broadcast Specialist Phil. Inc., under RA 8126	The Committee approved HB 7980 with amendments and subject to the submission of a document indicating the major stockholders' concurrence to renew the franchise.
Natural Resources	HB 7183	Rep. Acosta	Declaring the Seven Line Reef in the Province of Palawan as a protected seascape pursuant to RA 7586, otherwise known as the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992 and providing funds for its management	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rodrigo Abellanosa (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Cebu City), approved the bill subject to compliance with the requirements for the establishment of protected areas.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Frederick "Erick" Abueg (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Palawan), one of the authors of HB 7183, underscored the need to protect the area that has become a "prized local fishing ground" for illegal fishing activities.</p> <p>Francisco Feliciano, senior forester, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) - Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and Beata Batadlan, division chief, Land Classification Division, National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), expressed support for the bill.</p>
	HB 7792	Rep. Mercado	Mandating the inclusion of Napantao in the Municipality of San Francisco, Province of Southern Leyte in the NIPAS pursuant to RA 7586	<p>The Committee approved the bill subject to compliance with the requirements for the establishment of protected areas.</p> <p>Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Surigao del Sur) sponsored HB 7792 and read the explanatory note to the bill on behalf of the author, Southern Leyte Rep. Roger "Oging" Mercado.</p> <p>DENR's Regional Conservation and Development Division Chief Eugenia Bautista expressed support for the bill, citing the importance of protecting Napantao from illegal fishing and collection of corals.</p>
	HB 8116	Rep. Kho	Declaring the Tugbo Watershed Forest Reserve (TWFR) situated in the City of Masbate and in the Municipality of Mobo, Province of Masbate as protected area pursuant to RA 7586 to be known as the Tugbo National Biotic Area (TBNA), appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved the bill subject to compliance with the requirements for the establishment of protected areas.</p> <p>Rep. Elisa "Olga" Kho (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Masbate), author of HB 8116, said that declaring the TWFR as a protected area will preserve and conserve the watershed from further threats of human activity, considering that it is a primary source of water for the people of the City of Masbate and the Municipality of Mobo.</p> <p>Masbate's Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) Officer-in-Charge Jean Imperial and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) TWFR Superintendent Juan Belardo conveyed their support for the bill.</p>
	HB 8262	Rep. Cosalan	Declaring the Upper Agno River Basin Protected Landscape in the Municipalities of Bokod and Kabayan; and some portions of the Municipalities of Atok, Buguias,	The Committee approved the bill subject to compliance with the requirements for the establishment of protected areas.

Continuation... Natural Resources			Itogon, La Trinidad, and Tublay, all in the Province of Benguet; portions of Bauko, Mt. Province; portions of Tinoc, Ifugao; and Kayapa, Nueva Vizcaya as protected area under the category of protected landscapes, providing for its management	Benguet Rep. Ronald Cosalan, author of HB 8262, underscored the importance of protecting and conserving the Upper Agno River Basin owing to its cultural, biological, hydrological and ecological contributions, and support to the four major dams in Luzon, namely, Ambuklao, Binga, San Roque, and Magat Dam.
	HB 6987	Deputy Speaker Arenas	Reclassifying the Mangabul Reservation in the Municipality of Bayambang, Province of Pangasinan into alienable and disposable land of the public domain for the purpose of redistributing the same to the bona fide and long-term farmers/occupants thereof	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune HB 6987.</p> <p>Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Pangasinan), who sponsored the bill on behalf of the author, Deputy Speaker Rose Marie "Baby" Arenas (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Pangasinan) manifested that the explanatory note to the bill be registered as his sponsorship speech.</p> <p>Dagupan City's CENRO Chief Arlyn Katherine Buduhan recommended to retain 1,371 hectares of the subject timber land as forest land, with the remaining 681 hectares to be reclassified as alienable and disposable land. Buduhan explained that the 1,371 hectares used to be marshlands and therefore hazardous and not safe for habitation.</p>
	HB 7225	Rep. Relampagos	Declaring the Loon Upthrust located in the Municipalities of Loon and Maribojoc, Province of Bohol as alienable and disposable land	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to discuss further HB 7225.</p> <p>Rep. Kho sponsored the bill and read its explanatory note on behalf of the author, Rep. Rene Relampagos (1<sup>st</sup> District, Bohol).</p> <p>Loon Mayor Levi Peter Relampagos expressed support for the bill, saying that this will spur economic development in the area after the devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake that hit Bohol on October 15, 2013.</p> <p>However, Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Legal Division Chief Josephine Sescon said that the upthrust (or uplifted flat reef) in the Municipalities of Loon and Maribojoc is not suitable for permanent habitation and infrastructure development. Sescon explained that the subject area is within the critical zone and is highly susceptible to hazards, such as flooding, erosion, landslides, tsunami, liquefaction, and sinking.</p>
Women and Gender Equality	HB 5453	Rep. Zarate	Mandating the observance of 29 November of every year as "Women Human Rights Defenders Day"	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy (Party-List, BAGONG HENERASYON), approved HB 5453.
	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 5213, 5781 & 5956	Reps. Rocamora, Villarin, and Antonio	Defining gender-based street, public spaces and online sexual harassment, providing protective measures and prescribing penalties therefor	<p>The Committee will continue its discussion on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting, to focus on creating a clear and acceptable definition for the term "gender," as used in the bill.</p> <p>Resource persons present during the meeting presented their respective proposals on the substitute bill.</p>

Continuation... Women and Gender Equality				<p>Democratic Socialist Women of the Philippines (DSWP) Executive Director Elizabeth Angsioco advised that in cases of online sexual harassment, the victim's consent or the absence of it should not matter, since the burden of proving that there was no consent might fall on the victim.</p> <p>Committee Members and resource persons present in the meeting agreed with Angsioco's contention except for the representative from the Philippine National Police (PNP). Senior Superintendent Ildebrando Usana, deputy chief of PNP's Supervisory Office for Security and Investigation Agencies (SOSIA), said that the suggestion to remove reference to "consent" may not be aligned with the definition of sexual harassment under the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995 (RA 7877), wherein the element of consent is required for the accused to get off the hook.</p>
	HB 372	Rep. Brosas	Creating a National Women's Museum	<p>The Committee will continue its discussion on HB 372 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Representatives from the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), as well as civil society groups such as the DSWP, GABRIELA Women's Party, and Karapatan, expressed their full support for the bill.</p> <p>Meanwhile, National Museum Director Jeremy Barns informed the Committee that the museum has very limited resources to accommodate the establishment of a national women's museum.</p> <p>Rep. Herrera-Dy instructed the PCW to look into the possibility and legality of using a portion of every government agency's gender and development (GAD) fund to finance the construction of the proposed museum, citing reports from the Commission on Audit (COA) that GAD funds are largely unspent.</p>
	HBs 4413 & 8364	Reps. Zarate and Nieto	Declaring May 17 of every year as the National Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia	<p>The Committee directed the Secretariat to prepare the draft substitute bill to HBs 4413 and 8364.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the two bills.</p>

AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Tourism	Briefing by the following government agencies on their major accomplishments, and plans and programs for the years 2018 and 2019:	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Corazon Nuñez-Malanyaon (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Davao Oriental), listened to the briefing of the DOT, TIEZA, and TPB on their major accomplishments, and plans and programs for the years 2018 and 2019.





<p>Continuation... Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and Construction of footbridges in Metro Manila</li> </ul>	<p>PUBS not covered by the order, including Batangas (Nasugbu, Calatagan, and Balayan) and long-haul Cavite routes, shall end their trip at the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX).</p> <p>Rep. Romeo Acop (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Antipolo City) questioned the issuance of DO 2018-025, saying that it gave undue advantage to bus operators whose franchises were converted to city operation, to the prejudice of other bus operators. Rep. Acop requested for a list of bus operators covered by the DO.</p> <p>Metro Manila Development Authority's (MMDA) Plans Design and Traffic Signal Operations Division head Federico Castillo said that the MMDA, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and the local government units in Metro Manila have their respective budget allocations for the design, construction, and maintenance of footbridges in Metro Manila.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento called the attention of MMDA with regard to the overly elevated footbridge located in EDSA Kamuning, Quezon City, which according to him, was designed and constructed without consideration to the elderly, pregnant women, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) who may use the footbridge.</p> <p>Castillo explained that the footbridge in EDSA Kamuning was built higher than usual because of the request made by the MRT-3 management to provide a height clearance of three to four meters between the footbridge and the MRT-3 structure so as to avoid the electrical lines of MRT-3 trains.</p>
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FORUM		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p>Metro Manila Development</p>	<p>"Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Congress"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Role of government agencies</li> </ul>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Quezon City), organized and conducted the "Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Congress" held at the Speaker Nograles Hall, South Wing Annex, House of Representatives as part of the Committee's week-long activities aimed at increasing awareness of risks associated with disasters and risk reduction measures.</p> <p>Government agencies and selected private sector representatives presented their respective disaster preparedness and mitigation plans before an audience consisting of House Members, House Secretariat/Congressional officials and staff, and people from various local government units (LGUs).</p> <p>House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Pampanga) graced the event with her presence.</p> <p>Rep. Castelo emphasized the importance of disaster preparedness especially that Metro Manila is among the areas that will be greatly affected by a mega earthquake called the "Big One," a 7.2 magnitude earthquake caused by the movement of the 100-kilometer West Valley Fault.</p> <p>Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Undersecretary for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Renato Solidum Jr., who is also the concurrent head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), warned of the potential impact in Metro Manila of the Big One: an estimated 500,000 units of residential buildings (38%) will be</p>

<p>Continuation... Metro Manila Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role of the communities</li> </ul>	<p>damaged, over 33,000 lives will be lost, and over 100,000 people will be seriously injured. Apart from the destruction of infrastructures, isolation of communities and provinces may also occur primarily as a result of damaged roads and bridges. The risk of tsunami coming from the Manila Bay is also likely to transpire.</p> <p>To ensure effective earthquake risk reduction in Metro Manila, the DOST recommends several measures which include the following: develop national governance and business systems that can withstand strong earthquakes; enhance community disaster management capacities; and promote research and technology development.</p> <p>Dr. Arnel Rivera, chief of the Response Division of the Health Emergency Management Bureau of the Department of Health (DOH-HEMB), informed the Committee that the DOH commits to provide uninterrupted health service delivery during emergencies and disasters; avert preventable morbidities, mortalities, and other health and nutrition effects secondary to emergencies and disasters; and ensure that there will be no outbreak secondary to emergencies and disasters.</p> <p>On the part of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro IV, director of OCD's Policy Development and Planning Service, presented the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (NDRRMP); while Director Susan Juangco of OCD's Capacity Building and Training Service presented the National Disaster Response Plan (NDRP) for Earthquake and Tsunami, and the Harmonized National Contingency Plan (HNCP) for the "Big One."</p> <p>The NDRP aims to ensure the timely, effective and coordinated response by the National Government including its instrumentalities by providing support and assistance to areas that will be affected by the Big One and other earthquake and tsunami-related incidents.</p> <p>Metro Manila Development Authority's (MMDA) Public Safety Division chief Aldo Mayor said that the MMDA implements the Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction Management (CBDRRM). The components of the CBDRRM include hazard identification and disaster risk education trainings; deployment of Disaster Response Emergency Tools Field Storage Units (DRETFSU) to make disaster equipment readily available to the community; formation of community rescue volunteers; and the promotion of inter-cooperation and linkages with all the stakeholders in the community.</p> <p>Climate Change Commission (CCC) Planning Officer Ayesha Sarapuddin said that the Philippines, as a signatory to the Paris Agreement, has committed to help reduce the global temperature to below two degrees celsius and even further down to 1.5 degrees celsius. The objective is to build the adaptive capacity of communities and increase the resilience of natural ecosystems to climate change. For mitigation measures, the strategy is to transition towards lower greenhouse gas emissions for sustainable development. (The Paris Agreement aims to combat climate change and adapt to its effects. It came into force on November 4, 2016.)</p> <p>At the community level, a barangay captain in Quezon City presented her barangay's established disaster-preparedness plan, confident that it will be put to good use in the event of any</p>
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<p>Continuation... Metro Manila Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role of the private sector</li> </ul>	<p>disaster, including the Big One. Barangay Captain Esperanza Castro Lee of Barangay Blue Ridge B, Quezon City shared that her barangay has acquired and set up its disaster-preparedness equipment and has conducted capacity building not only for its staff but also for each household through training courses on basic life support and basic first aid conducted by the Philippine Red Cross.</p> <p>Lee believes that with self-reliant families and the mobilization of people into street camps, the barangay can immediately start rescue and relief work in the event the government is not yet able to reach it after a disaster.</p> <p>Globe Telecom's Sectoral Relations Director Robert Aquino reported that Globe is compliant with the provisions of RA 10639, otherwise known as the Free Mobile Disaster Alerts Act. He said that in 2017, Globe transmitted 317 million SMS disaster alerts, while in September this year, it transmitted 300 million SMS alerts before and during the onslaught of Typhoon Ompong.</p> <p>Representatives from the National Resilience Council, San Miguel Corporation, and Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation said that they have been conducting earthquake drills and regular trainings as their contribution to the country's disaster preparedness activities. They all recognize the importance of coordination and synergy in efforts to prepare for disasters like the Big One.</p>
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