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COMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Trade and Industry	Substitute Bill to HBs 2882, 3057, 6609 & 7803	Reps. Villafuerte, Yap (V.), Nieto, and Garcia (J. E.)	Providing benefits and programs to strengthen, promote, and develop the Philippine startup ecosystem	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ferjanel Biron, M.D. (4th District, Iloilo), approved the Substitute Bill to the four measures.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Manuel Zubiri (3rd District, Bukidnon), Chair of the technical working group (TWG) that crafted the substitute bill, presented the bill's features and the highlights of the TWG's discussion on the matter.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 6310 & 8190	Deputy Speaker Yap and Rep. Gatchalian	Strengthening and modernizing the Warehouse Receipts Law of the Philippines in order to provide a legal framework that shall facilitate trade and commerce	<p>The Committee approved the substitute bill in principle and subject to style.</p> <p>The substitute bill will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for review of its funding provision.</p> <p>Rep. Wes Gatchalian (1st District, Valenzuela City), author of HB 8190, underscored the importance of establishing a Warehousing Accreditation Council that will accredit warehouses and ensure their continuing compliance with the law.</p> <p>Senior Financial Sector Specialist Gay Santos of the International Finance Corporation, World Bank (World Bank-IFC) explained the difference between the proposed measure and the old law on warehouse receipts. He mentioned that the proposed measure aims to digitize the warehouse receipts to address problems of fraud, align the law with international best practices, and establish a council for accreditation, among others.</p> <p>Expressing support for the bill were representatives from the Departments of Agriculture (DA), Trade and Industry (DTI), and Finance (DOF), the National Food Authority (NFA), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Foundation for Economic Freedom (FEF), World Bank Group, and Abad Alcantara and Associates (AAA) law office.</p>

PUBLIC HEARING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Rules	HR 2104	Majority Leader Andaya	Inquiry into the legal basis and possible effects of the shift from an obligation-based to a cash-based	The Committee, chaired by Majority Leader Rolando Andaya Jr. (1 st District, Camarines Sur), held its second public hearing on issues relative to HR 2104 and

Continuation... Rules			budgeting system as proposed in the fiscal year 2019 national budget	Privilege Speech 430 at the South Wing Annex Building of the House of Representatives.
	Privilege Speech 430	Majority Leader Andaya	On the assertion of the House of Representatives' power over the budget	<p>Majority Leader Andaya made a recap of what transpired during the Committee's first public hearing last January 3 in Naga City, highlighting the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P75 billion was inserted by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) in the Department of Public Works and Highways' (DPWH) budget for 2019; • Out of the P75 billion "insertion," P14.5 billion was allocated for flood control projects; • Selection of and fund allocation for specific flood control projects did not pass through the legal process; • A sizeable share of flood control funds went to areas that are not flood prone based on scientific studies and hazard maps; and • Contractors with an "AAA" category are being used as "dummies" by "favored" contractors to bag several huge infrastructure projects in the Bicol Region. <p>To prove that Aremar Construction Corp. (Aremar) uses Triple A contractors, such as the CT Leoncio Construction and Trading, as dummies, Majority Leader Andaya presented five Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) deposit slips reflecting a total deposit of P81 million in Aremar's account made by various contractors.</p> <p>The alleged connection of Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno to Aremar was evidenced by the fact that one of its incorporators – Romeo "Jojo" Sicat Jr. – is Diokno's son-in-law. Sicat is the son of Sorsogon Vice Governor Ester Hamor from her previous marriage.</p> <p>Casiguran, Sorsogon Mayor Jose Edwin Hamor, husband of the Sorsogon Vice Governor and stepfather of Sicat, is the founder of Aremar. Mayor Hamor, however, said that he already divested his shares in the corporation to his children. He explained further that he only added Sicat as incorporator to "appease" his wife.</p> <p>As to the Committee's request with the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) for the submission of a copy of Aremar's bank records and transactions, AMLC Executive Director Mel Georgie Racela explained that AMLC is not a custodian of bank records, thus could not comply with the Committee's request. Nevertheless, he assured the Committee that AMLC would be able to extend proper assistance once a case has been filed against Aremar.</p>

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Subcommittee on Marawi Rehabilitation (Disaster Management)	Briefing by the following agencies, which are members of the Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM), on the status of the government's rehabilitation efforts in war-torn Marawi City:	The Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Makmod Mending Jr. (Party-List, AMIN), listened to the briefing conducted by concerned government agencies on the government's rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in Marawi City in the aftermath of the battle between the ISIS-backed

