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BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 8629 & SB 1531	Rep. Olivarez and Sen. Legarda	Institutionalizing energy efficiency and conservation, enhancing the efficient use of energy, granting incentives to energy efficiency and conservation projects	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee, co-chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco and Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, chairpersons of the Committee on Energy of both Houses, approved with amendments the reconciled version of HB 8629 and SB 1531.</p> <p>Other conferees present during the bicameral conference committee meeting were the following: On the part of the House, Reps. Carlos Roman Uybarreta (Party-List 1-CARE), Mark Aeron Sambar (Party-List PBA), Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2nd District, Bataan), Eric Olivarez (1st District, Parañaque City), Reynaldo Umali (2nd District, Oriental Mindoro), and Orestes Salon (Party-List, AGRI); on the part of the Senate, Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy Sombillo Binay.</p>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Civil Service and Professional Regulation	HBs 3884 & 6836	Deputy Speaker Escudero and Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Further amending RA 544, as amended, or the Civil Engineering Law (by strengthening and continually upgrading the practice of civil engineering to make it attuned to national development needs and the challenges brought about by globalization and cross-border practices and environmental requirements)	The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair, San Jose del Monte City Rep. Florida "Rida" Robes, agreed to consolidate the three bills taking into consideration the recommendations of the resource persons.
	HB 7547	Rep. Gonzales (A.D.)	Regulating the practice of Civil Engineering and repealing for the purpose RA 544, as amended	
Public Works and Highways	HB 2779	Rep. Dimaporo (A.)	Providing for the construction of a national highway from the junction of the Iligan - Aurora National Highway in Barangay Santa Cruz, Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte to Iligan-Aurora National Highway in Poblacion, Aurora, Zamboanga del Sur to be known as the Iligan-Aurora National Highway By-Pass Road and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Bayani Fernando (1st District, Marikina City), approved HB 2779 with amendments.</p> <p>Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte), co-author of HB 2779, requested that the Committee incorporate in the bill the amendments suggested during the previous meeting.</p>

Continuation... Public Works and Highways	HB 4165	Rep. Dimaporo (A.)	Providing for the construction of a national highway from the Lanao del Norte interior circumferential road in the Municipality of Tagoloan, Lanao del Norte to the Municipality of Talakag, Province of Bukidnon, with a crossroad at Barangay Panalawan in the Municipality of Tagoloan and connecting roads to the national highway in Iligan City through Barangay Pugaan, Iligan City and to the national highway in Marawi City through the Municipality of Kapal, Lanao del Sur, to be known as the Muslim-Christian Unity Crossroad and Highways, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 4165 with amendments.
	HB 6014	Rep. Go (M.)	Establishing the Barangay Road Development (BRD) Program under the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)	<p>The Committee approved HB 6014 with amendments.</p> <p>Former DPWH Undersecretary Teodoro Encarnacion suggested that the proposed funding for the BRD Program be increased from 10% to 20% of the annual capital outlay of the DPWH. According to Encarnacion, this would reduce the length of time needed to complete the program from 30 years to 15 years.</p> <p>Rep. Fernando suggested that the warranty of roads under the program be increased from 5 to 10 years.</p> <p>The BRD Program aims to connect barangays to business centers resulting in more business opportunities and higher socio-economic benefits in these areas.</p>
	HB 6192	Rep. Go (M.)	Providing for the full rehabilitation and maintenance of Kennon Road under the DPWH	The Committee approved HB 6192.
	HB 8763	Rep. Fernando	Regulating the use of roads for safe, fast and economic transport	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 8763 in its next meeting.</p> <p>HB 8763 defines the basic policies, standards, and rules for proper, disciplined, safe, and productive use of all roads, in order to efficiently move people and goods and create inclusive socio-economic gains for the country.</p> <p>Metro Manila Development Authority's (MMDA) Legal and Legislative Affairs Director Crisanto Saruca Jr. suggested that the actual amounts to be imposed on violators of the proposed law should already be specified in the Penal Provision of the bill.</p> <p>However, Office of the Ombudsman's Graft Investigation Officer Karen Batu maintained that the range of penalties that will be imposed on violators be included instead in the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the law, as agreed upon by the stakeholders in their previous discussions.</p>

Continuation... Public Works and Highways				<p>Rep. Fernando prefers that the penalties be spelled out in the bill instead of in the IRR to avoid the possibility of the bill being watered down.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill before the next meeting.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Special Committee on Senior Citizens (Technical Working Group)	HBs 8208, 8274, 8559, & 8768	Reps. Go (M.), Calixto-Rubiano, Zamora, and Villafuerte	Amending RA 10868, or the law honoring and granting additional benefits, and privileges to Filipino centenarians (by advancing the grant of the centenarians' cash gift of P100,000, in portions of the amount, upon reaching the ages of 80, 85, 90, 95 and 100 years; and by providing for an automatic annual adjustment of the centenarians' gift)	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay (Party-List, Senior Citizens), agreed to come up with a substitute bill and thereafter submit it to the mother Committee for consideration and approval.</p> <p>Rep. Magsaysay said that the proposed law seeks to grant cash incentives to Filipino senior citizens on a staggered basis starting at age 80 up to the age of 100, instead of the one-time cash gift of P100,000.00 being given to centenarians or those who have reached the age of 100.</p> <p>Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Bureau B Supervising Chief Jesusa King recommended that the TWG conduct a more in-depth study of the proposed law considering its huge implications on government funds. She also suggested that the official stand of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Department of Finance (DOF) be solicited on the matter.</p> <p>Likewise, DOF Special Studies Division Chief Aurora Luz Villaviray opposed the bills stressing that billions of pesos is needed to finance the proposed law.</p> <p>On the other hand, representatives from the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, Senior Citizens League of the Philippines, and Coalition of Senior Citizens in the Philippines expressed support for the bills.</p>

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Transportation	HB 1215	Rep. Acharon	Regulating the business operation of motorcycles-for-hire	The Committee, presided by Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY), conducted a roundtable discussion on proposals to regulate the operation of

Continuation... Transportation	HBs 2530 & 6909	Reps. Uy (J.) and Del Mar	Regulating motorcycles-for-hire or <i>habal-habal</i> , thereby authorizing cities and municipalities to grant franchises for their operations, amending for the purpose Sections 447 and 458 of RA 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and Section 7 of RA 4136, otherwise known as the Land Transportation and Traffic Code	motorcycles-for-hire or those being used as public utility vehicles (PUVs). Reps. Ramon "Red" Durano VI (5 th District, Cebu), Raul del Mar (1 st District, Cebu City), and Rozzano Rufino Biazon (Muntinlupa City), respective authors of HBs 3941, 6909 and 8822, suggested the consolidation of the five bills.
	HB 3941	Rep. Durano	Devolving the regulatory and franchising powers over the operation of motorcycle-for-hire or <i>habal-habal</i> to cities and municipalities, amending for the purpose Section 447 and 458 of RA 7160, as amended	Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Chair Martin Delgra III explained that unless the operation of motorcycles-for-hire is legitimized through a law, the Board is duty bound to enforce RA 4136 which provides, among others, that private motorcycles shall not be used for hire or transport passengers for pay.
	HB 8822	Rep. Biazon	Allowing the use of motorcycles as public utility vehicles (PUVs), amending for this purpose RA 4136	Department of Transportation (DOTr) Assistant Secretary Mark de Leon informed the Committee that the DOTr and other concerned agencies will conduct a technical working group (TWG) meeting on January 18 to study the legalization and regulation of motorcycles as public utility vehicles. Likewise, Land Transportation Office (LTO) Chief Edgar Galvante apprised the body that the LTO already had an informal meeting with manufacturers and riders of motorcycles on the safety standards for motorcycles as public utility vehicles. The stakeholders present in the meeting were requested to submit data pertinent to the proposed measures.

AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Transportation	Briefing on the security issues at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), the status of projects funded or assisted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the rehabilitation of the Metro Rail Transit Line 3 (MRT-3)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, listened to the briefing conducted by concerned government agencies on the security issues at NAIA, rehabilitation of MRT-3, and JICA supported projects.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento asked the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) to explain the impact of the travel advisory issued by the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) directing airlines with flights between the Philippines and the US to alert their passengers on the deficiency of security measures at the NAIA inconsistent with the standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).</p> <p>MIAA General Manager Eddie Monreal said that this is the first time that NAIA has been involved in this type of advisory but assured the Committee that based on feedbacks and on his personal observation, there seems to be no severe effect on the flow of passengers coming into the country. He also disclosed that the US Transportation Security Administration (TSA), after an assessment of the NAIA airport security operations, gave a total of 16 recommendations to</p>

<p>Continuation... Transportation</p>		<p>address certain problems. Seven out of the 16 recommendations have already been complied with by the NAIA, Monreal added.</p> <p>Asked further by Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City) on the nature of the TSA's recommendations, Monreal said that these involve the installation of new equipment such as X-ray machines, walk-through metal detectors and alarm systems; conduct of new background check procedures for newly hired airport personnel; submission of new National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) clearances for all access pass holders; and a change in the security culture among long-time NAIA personnel.</p> <p>DOTr Undersecretary for Aviation and Airports Manuel Antonio Tamayo assured the Committee that the DOTr is on top of the situation and is doing everything necessary to address the issue. He also disclosed that DOTr Secretary Arthur Tugade met with US Ambassador Sung Kim, to express the commitment of the Philippine government to improve its aviation security system to bring it at par with ICAO security standards.</p> <p>With regard to MRT-3, DOTr Undersecretary for Railways Timothy Batan said that the MRT-3 project was awarded to Sumitomo Corporation last December 28, 2018 as the rehabilitation and maintenance provider with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries as technical partner. The project will be completed in 43 months at a contract cost of P16.39 billion. Batan likewise briefly discussed the status of the North-South Commuter Railway System and its component projects.</p> <p>Several lawmakers questioned the involvement of the Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM) in the procurement requirements of the DOTr, asking the latter why it could not undertake the procurement itself.</p> <p>Batan replied that in order to expedite the procurement process, the DOTr transfers the responsibility to the PS-DBM when the cost reaches the P250 million threshold.</p>
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