

# Committee Daily Bulletin

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## BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 8169	Former Rep. Nograles (K.A.)	Appropriating funds for the operation of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines from January 1 to December 31, 2019	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (1<sup>st</sup> District, Camarines Sur), Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations, and Sen. Loren Legarda, Chair of the Senate Committee on Finance, will continue its discussion on HB 8169 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Aside from Rep. Andaya, the following conferees from the House of Representatives attended the meeting: Deputy Speaker Prospero Pichay Jr. (1<sup>st</sup> District, Surigao del Sur), Minority Leader Danilo Suarez (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Quezon), and Reps. Edcel Lagman (1<sup>st</sup> District, Albay), Anthony Bravo, Ph.D. (Party-List, COOP NATCCO), Florida "Rida" Robes (San Jose del Monte City), Alfredo Garbin Jr. (Party-List, AKO BICOL), "Kuya" Jose Antonio Sy-Alvarado (1<sup>st</sup> District, Bulacan), Corazon Nuñez-Malanyaon (1<sup>st</sup> District, Davao Oriental), Johnny Ty Pimentel (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Surigao del Sur), Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP), Joey Sarte Salceda (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Albay), Xavier Jesus Romualdo (Camiguin), Vicente "Ching" Veloso (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Leyte), and Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Negros Occidental).</p> <p>On the part of the Senate, aside from Senator Legarda, other conferees who were present during the bicameral conference committee meeting were Senate President Pro-Tempore Ralph Recto, Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon, and Senators Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, Cynthia Villar, and Maria Lourdes "Nancy" Sombillo Binay.</p>

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Basic Education and Culture	Substitute Bill to HBs 5097, 5113 & 8651	Rep. Tupas, Deputy Speaker Abu, and Rep.	Mandating the institutionalization, development, training, organization and administration of basic Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) in Grades 11 and	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ramon "Red" Durano VI (5 <sup>th</sup> District, Cebu), approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 5097, 5113 and 8651.

Continuation... Basic Education and Culture		Violago	12 in public and private educational institutions, amending for the purpose RA 7077, otherwise known as the "Citizen Armed Force or Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act", appropriating funds therefor	
Foreign Affairs	HR 2351	Rep. Belmonte (F.)	Recognizing and fully supporting the efforts of President Moon Jae-In of the Republic of Korea to bring peace, reconciliation, prosperity and stability in the Korean Peninsula	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Feliciano Belmonte Jr. (4 <sup>th</sup> District, Quezon City), adopted HR 2351 with amendments and thereafter approved the corresponding Committee Report.
	HR 2374	Rep. Belmonte (F.)	Designating the year 2019 as the Year of Mutual Exchanges between the Philippines and the Republic of Korea in celebration of the 70 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of their diplomatic relations	The Committee adopted HR 2374 and thereafter approved the corresponding Committee Report.
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Basic Education and Culture	Substitute Bill to HBs 4884, 6113, 6260 & 8408	Rep. Sy-Alvarado, Deputy Speaker Escudero, Reps. De Venecia, and Alejano	Establishing the Department of Culture, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Joint Committee, co-presided by Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY), Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Ramon "Red" Durano VI (5<sup>th</sup> District, Cebu), Chair of the Committee on Basic Education and Culture, approved the substitute bill to the four bills and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>The bill will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for review of its funding provision.</p> <p>Rep. Velarde said that the creation of a separate Department of Culture will allow a more focused attention to the prevention and promotion of the cultural, historical and artistic heritage of the country. Likewise, Rep. Durano said the proposed Department of Culture will be able to respond to the rapid development of creative industries in the country and will also unify the fragmented offices and institutions involved in arts and culture.</p> <p>Rep. Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN) presented to the Committee the output of the technical working group (TWG) that was tasked to study the bills and which he chaired.</p>
Housing and Urban Development	Substitute Bill to HB 1848	Rep. Gonzales (A.P.)	Declaring certain portions of the Welfareville property located in the City of Mandaluyong open for disposition to bona fide residents without public bidding	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3 <sup>rd</sup> District, Negros Occidental), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 1848.
	HR 2067	Rep. Benitez	Inquiry into the implementation of 1) Proclamation No. 96 series of 2001, declaring Parola Estate under the administration of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) situated in Tondo, City of Manila, open for disposition to the actual occupants; 2) Proclamation No. 518 series of 1990, excluding from the operation of Proclamation No. 423 dated July 12, 1957, which established the military reservation	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 2067.</p> <p>Today's deliberation focused on the implementation of Proclamation No. 96 series of 2001, declaring Parola Estate under the administration of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) situated in Tondo, City of Manila, open for disposition to the actual occupants.</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Housing and Urban Development</p>			<p>known as "Fort William Mckinley" (now Fort Andres Bonifacio), Barangays Cembo, South Cembo, West Rembo, East Rembo, Comembo, Pembo and Pitogo, situated in Makati and declaring the same open for disposition; and 3) Proclamation No. 825 series of 1996, amending Proclamation No. 843, series of 1971, known as reserving the Tala Estate for various government uses as well as for housing and urban development to reclassify the use of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) lot at the Tala Estate to include socialized housing</p>	<p>Rep. Benitez apprised the Committee that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) had already issued in April 2009 Special Patent Number 3741 covering the Parola Estate. He explained that the delay in the implementation of the Proclamation is due to the overlapping boundaries of the property owned by the PPA and that of the Philippine National Railways (PNR). The matter, he said, has been reported to and discussed with the DENR for the issuance of an amended Special Patent.</p> <p>DENR National Capital Region's land management officer Florencio Chavez said that the Land Registration Authority (LRA) put on hold the registration of the Special Patent because of this overlapping issue. He explained that all the PNR has to do is to issue a waiver over the overlapped property in order to implement the Proclamation.</p> <p>National Housing Authority's (NHA) Tondo Foreshore Estate Management Project OIC-Chief Luz Evangelista and Manila City Government's city urban settlement officer Danilo Isiderio reported that the Project Inter-Agency Committee (PIAC) agreed to file a resolution urging the PNR to waive its claim over the property.</p> <p>PNR Legal Division Chief Anne Rachel Miguel said that the PNR cannot immediately take action on the request because of its plan to revive its rail freight services which may make use of the property in question. She, however, assured the Committee that the matter will be part of the PNR's agenda in its board meeting in February.</p> <p>House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Pampanga) recommended that the Committee draft a Committee Resolution urging the PNR to issue a waiver over the subject property.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to conduct a public hearing on the third week of February to further discuss with concerned stakeholders the status of implementation of Proclamation No. 96.</p>
	<p><i>Motu Proprio Inquiry</i></p>		<p>Inquiry into the status of implementation of Executive Order 108, series of 2002 declaring a portion of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) property located in Parola, Tondo and Binondo in Manila as social housing site and providing for the disposition thereof to qualified occupants and beneficiaries</p>	<p>The Committee will continue to discuss the status of implementation of Executive Order 108, series of 2002 in another meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Benitez stressed the need to convene the Executive Committee prescribed under Section 2 of EO 108 in order to initiate the implementation of the executive order.</p> <p>GSIS' Legal Service Group Assistant Chief Jennifer Jimeno-Atienza explained that GSIS is amenable to dispose of the subject property as long as it will be paid accordingly.</p>

Continuation... Housing and Urban Development				<p>To assess the value of the property and determine the amount to be paid to the GSIS, the Committee directed the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) to convene the Executive Committee.</p> <p>HUDCC Reform Group (ARG) Director Jeanette Cruz promised to comply with the directive of the Committee by the second week of February.</p>
	<i>Motu Proprio</i> Inquiry		<p>Inquiry into the impact of the Manila Bay cleanup to the residents of Isla Puting Bato in Tondo</p>	<p>The Committee will continue its discussion on the possible impact of the Manila Bay cleanup to the residents of Isla Puting Bato in another meeting.</p> <p>Evangelista reported that based on the NHA's January 2019 census and tagging validation, there are 1,533 structures and 2,086 households in the Isla Puting Bato which will be affected by the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay.</p> <p>Government agencies blame the worsening condition of Manila Bay to the dumping of garbage and household wastes into the sea mostly coming from informal settlers residing along the shoreline of Manila Bay, including those from Isla Puting Bato.</p> <p>PPA General Manager Jay Daniel Santiago said that the agency is willing to allow the government to use its five-hectare property near Isla Puting Bato as relocation area for the affected residents. He, however, stressed that the ownership of the subject property should still remain with the PPA.</p> <p>Santiago said the PPA will donate P1 billion for the housing project, which will require a total of P1.8 billion. Santiago requested the NHA to shoulder the remaining balance of the total housing project cost.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to enter into a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the PPA stipulating the latter's commitments. The PPA was then requested to draft the MOA and submit it to the Committee.</p>
People's Participation	Substitute Bill to HBs 8405 & 8773	Reps. Alejano and Villafuerte	<p>Providing a framework for citizen participation in the legislative process through the use of the internet</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Maria Valentina Plaza (1<sup>st</sup> District, Agusan del Sur), will deliberate further on the substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>The bill, which is also called the "Philippine Crowdsourcing Act," encourages the public to participate in the legislative process through the use of "online crowdsourcing." The term "crowdsourcing" is defined in the bill as a "concept that recognizes and allows individuals and the collective power of the people, with the use of the internet or other</p>

Continuation... People's Participation				<p>information and communication systems (ICS), to contribute to the formulation, improvement and creation of laws that benefit the State.”</p> <p>The Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO) is also mandated under the bill to create the platform for the crowdsourcing to be made available in its website.</p> <p>Resource persons from the following government and non-government agencies expressed support for the bill, with some of them presenting their comments and recommendations: PLLO, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Cabinet Secretariat, Publicus Asia, Inc., Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and the Pacific (ANSA-EAP), and Philippine Primark Properties, Inc.</p> <p>PLLO Secretary Adelino Sitoy expressed concern that the implementation of this proposed law may be hampered by manpower and budgetary constraints.</p> <p>Other issues raised by the resource persons related to the implementation of the proposed crowdsourcing were the following: the huge number of online signatures (at least 300,000 signatures) that must be verified before the PLLO forwards the measure proposed by the public to the Committee chairpersons of both Houses of Congress for further action; the question of which agency shall undertake the verification of signatures; and the timeframe for the processing of the public's proposals made through crowdsourcing.</p> <p>NEDA Director Thelma Manuel and Publicus Asia Founder/Chief Executive Officer Maria Lourdes Tiquia recommended the inclusion of a sunset provision in the bill.</p> <p>Rep. Plaza requested the resource persons to discuss among themselves the issues raised and come up with a common position to be submitted to the Committee.</p>
	HR 1173	Rep. Robes	Initiating the conduct of forum and the likes as learning approach in educating the citizens and in encouraging their participation towards the adoption of a regional self-governance through federalism	<p>The Committee listened to the report of Chief Project Officer Rey Benitez of the Center for Federalism and Constitutional Reform (CFCR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), on the government's efforts to promote federalism among the people.</p> <p>Benitez informed the Committee of the creation of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Federalism under the President's Memorandum Circular 52 signed on October</p>

Continuation... People's Participation				<p>31 last year, with the mandate of harmonizing, consolidating and coordinating all ongoing efforts toward federalism and constitutional reforms.</p> <p>According to Benitez, the Task Force, chaired by the DILG Secretary, first met last November 19, 2018 during which the 10-member agencies were each assigned to launch an information campaign on specific parts of the draft Constitution, which was prepared by the consultative committee created by the President to review the 1987 Constitution.</p> <p>The IATF will consolidate the various inputs and comments on the draft constitution to be gathered during the information campaign activities in order to come up with a harmonized draft Federal Constitution which may be endorsed by the President to Congress during the State of the Nation Address (SONA) this July.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the DILG has already conducted a regional road show on federalism and is hopeful that it will also be cascaded to the provincial and municipal levels.</p> <p>Secretary Sitoy informed the Committee that a federalism summit will be held on February 7 and 8 to be spearheaded by the DILG. President Rodrigo Duterte is expected to attend the summit.</p>
Poverty Alleviation	Substitute Bill to HBs 5679 & 7620	Reps. Nieto and Rodriguez (M.)	Establishing a financial assistance program for poor litigants	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Raymond Democrito Mendoza (Party-List, TUCP), approved the Committee Report on the substitute bill subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Anthony Bravo, Ph.D. (Party-List, COOP NATCCO) recommended that the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the proposed law be promulgated within thirty 30 days after its effectivity, to which the Committee agreed.</p>
Tourism	Substitute Bill to HBs 4921 & 5882	Reps. Pichay and Gomez	Providing for increased funds for tourism development and manpower training program, amending for the purpose Sections 72 and 73 of RA 9593, otherwise known as "The Tourism Act of 2009"	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Corazon Nuñez-Malanyaon (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Davao Oriental), approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to HBs 4921 and 5882.
	HB 1404 in consolidation with HB 7518	Reps. Amante and Zubiri	Providing for the establishment of health facilities in key tourism destinations and providing funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 1404 in consolidation with HB 7518.
	HB 6646	Rep. Belaro	Providing for the placement of tourist markers in all tourist sites in the country and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 6646.
	HB 7964	Rep. Gasataya	Exempting senior citizens and persons with disabilities from travel tax	The Committee approved HB 7964.

Continuation... Tourism	HB 8074	Rep. Biazon	Requiring personnel of business establishments, members of organizations or associations and all other persons providing tourism services to undergo basic first aid training	The Committee approved HB 8074.
	HR 1775	Rep. Atienza	Mandating the Department of Tourism (DOT) to intensify tourism promotion by requiring all local commercial airlines to include in their official in-flight announcements the infomercials about the beauty and hospitality of the Philippine Islands and its people	The Committee adopted HR 1775.
	HR 1800	Rep. Almario	Urging the DOT, Department of Transportation (DOTr), and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to immediately explore, promote, and develop other tourist destinations nationwide	The Committee adopted HR 1800.
	HB 7096	Rep. Alejano	Defining and regulating the travel agents profession	The Committee deferred its consideration of HB 7096 in the absence of the bill's author.  Some of the resource persons who came to the meeting were allowed to present their comments on the bill such as the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), formerly the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA), which is designated under the bill as the lead implementing agency.  TIEZA Legal Services Division Manager Shangrila Quezon informed the body that TIEZA has no authority or power to regulate, license or accredit travel agencies in the country.
Women and Gender Equality	Substitute Bill to HBs 1182 & 8309	Deputy Speaker Cayetano and Rep. Nieto	Providing for pension benefits to comfort women, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy (Party-List, BAGONG HENERASYON), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HBs 1182 and 8309.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 2651, 2793 & 4543	Reps. Campos, Ferriol-Pascual, and Rodriguez (M.)	Establishing resource development and crisis assistance centers for women and children in every province and city of the country, amending for the purpose RA 8505, otherwise known as the Rape Victim Assistance and Protection Act of 1998	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HBs 2651, 2793 and 4593 with amendments.  The Committee agreed to delete the appropriation provision of the substitute bill because the funds appropriated under RA 8505, which have not been fully exhausted, can be used for the implementation of this proposed law.
	HB 3200	Rep. Villarín	Promoting women participation and equitable representation in and by political parties, giving incentives therefor, creating the Women in Political Parties Empowerment Fund	The Committee approved the bill subject to amendment.
	HB 5768	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Establishing maternal and infant health home visiting program	The Committee approved the bill.

Continuation... Women and Gender Equality	HB 4080	Rep. Tambunting	Providing for women empowerment	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 4080 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Civil Service Commission's (CSC) Secretariat and Liaison Office head Dolores Bonifacio expressed reservation on Section 2 of the bill which mandates the CSC to ensure that appointive positions in the national and local government shall be reserved to qualified women based on the fraction and classification stated in the proposed law.</p> <p>Bonifacio clarified that the role of the CSC is to attest if the appointee meets the qualification standards of the position. She added that it is the President who has the power to appoint people to some of the positions enumerated in Section 2 such as Cabinet members, undersecretaries, assistant secretaries, ambassadors and judges.</p>
	HB 4685	Rep. Nieto	Granting one month non-cumulative leave with pay to women workers who undergo major surgical internal operation on their reproductive organs	The Committee will send the bill to the Archives because its subject matter is already covered by RA 9710 or the Magna Carta of Women.
	HB 8770	Rep. Villafuerte	Defining and penalizing street sexual harassment and public spaces harassment, expanding the definition of sexual harassment, and amending for this purpose RA 7877 or the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995	The Committee will send the bill to the Archives because a bill with similar subject matter was already approved on Third Reading by the House and Senate.

**TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING**

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Social Services (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HB 3028	Rep. Zarate	Granting indigent families 50% discount on funeral services and granting free funeral services to extremely poor families nationwide, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA), terminated its deliberation on the draft substitute bill.</p> <p>A final draft of the substitute bill, incorporating therein the relevant inputs and suggestions of the resource persons, will be submitted to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Among the agreements reached during the meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The definition of "extremely poor" will be patterned after the definition set by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA);</li> <li>• A basic funeral service package shall be provided free of charge to extremely poor families by funeral homes anywhere in the country up to a maximum of two per month per branch;</li> <li>• A 20% discount on funeral service shall be granted to indigent families; and</li> </ul>



Continuation... Social Services (Technical Working Group)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funeral homes granting discounts or free services to indigent or extremely poor beneficiaries may reimburse the cost of the discount or service from any regional office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) upon the approval of the Regional Director or convert the same as tax credits upon certification by the DSWD as to the veracity of the claim.</li> </ul>
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**JOINT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING**

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>SUBJECT MATTER</b>	<b>DISCUSSIONS</b>
Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on RA 9207 Implementation (National Government Center) - House Panel	Status of implementation of RA 9207 or the National Government Center (NGC) Housing and Land Utilization Act of 2003	<p>The House Panel of the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee, chaired by Rep. Rodrigo Abellanosa (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Cebu City), will continue its discussion on the status of implementation of RA 9207 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Abellanosa said that the focus of the meeting will be on the still “unacquired” lots in the NGC along Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City intended for socialized housing as provided for under RA 9207, and the budget requirement for the acquisition of the lots.</p> <p>Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Quezon City), who presided over this meeting, explained that the “unacquired lots” are part of the 422 hectares earmarked for socialized housing under RA 9207 that have not yet been acquired and distributed to qualified urban poor beneficiaries who are long time residents in the area. He also conveyed the instructions of Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Pampanga) to deliver the land titles to the beneficiaries before her term ends as Speaker. (RA 9207 was enacted in 2003, during the term of Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo as President of the country.)</p> <p>National Housing Authority (NHA) East Sector Division Manager Geronima Angeles apprised the Committee that three out of the 66 identified landowners in the NGC East and West sides have already agreed to the amount of compensation for their lands, P52.06 million covering an area of 11,847 sqm.</p> <p>Other resource persons present in the meeting were from the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), Land Registration Authority (LRA), Registry of Deeds (RD), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Land Management Bureau (LMB), and People’s Consultative Council – National Government Center (PCC-NGC).</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Castelo if the DPWH lumpsum fund for the payment of road right of way (ROW) may be utilized for the acquisition of lots at the NGC, Atty. Karen Javier of the DPWH Legal Service replied that it may be done subject to the approval of the DPWH Secretary. However, Javier added that the DPWH may request funding for the lot acquisition from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).</p> <p>Noting that no senior official from the DBM attended today’s meeting, the Committee decided to write the Department and ask for its explanation.</p>

AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Ecology	Briefing by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program (MBRP)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, listened to the briefing conducted by the DENR on the implementation of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program (MBRP), in accordance with RA 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004.</p> <p>DENR Assistant Secretary Daniel Darius Nicer reported that the MBRP is a three-year program which aims to cleanup, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay in collaboration with concerned government agencies, local government units (LGUs), the academe, and non-government organizations (NGOs). The program covers Region III, Region IV-A, and the National Capital Region (NCR), as the priority areas, with a P43 billion funding from the Office of the President (OP).</p> <p>On the query raised by Deputy Speaker Evelina Escudero (1<sup>st</sup> District, Sorsogon) whether the program is sustainable and can be carried over to the next administration, Nicer stated that the funding for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay will only be good for up to three years, thus a new law must be crafted for the allocation of fresh funds for the program.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Rose Marie "Baby" Arenas (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Pangasinan) stated that government agencies must ensure that laws on proper sewage and wastewater disposal should strictly be complied with by the hotels and other establishments operating near the waterways.</p> <p>Rep. Jesulito Manalo (Party-List, ANGKLA) underscored the need to educate the people about the importance of restoring Manila Bay's pristine condition.</p> <p>Nicer informed the Committee that the amount of P1 billion is needed to put up a wastewater treatment facility in Regions III and IV-A, citing the absence of a water company in these regions which can provide this facility.</p> <p>Environmental Management Bureau's (EMB) Solid Waste Management Division chief Eligio Ildelfonso mentioned that more establishments will soon be shut down for violating environmental laws, in addition to three business establishments already closed down, namely, Aristocrat restaurant in Malate, Manila; Gloria Maris Bayside; and SM Esplanade.</p> <p>The DENR was requested to submit data and reports required by the Members of the Committee.</p>
Transportation	<p>Briefing by concerned government transport agencies on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roll-on/Roll-off (RoRo)</li> </ul>	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Rep. Edgar Sarmiento (1<sup>st</sup> District, Samar), listened to the briefing conducted by government transportation agencies on the status of RoRo projects, expansion projects in some of the airports in the regions, and the proposed transfer of the Panay Railways, Inc. (PRI) to the Philippine Veterans Investment Corporation (PHIVIDEC).</p> <p>Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Administrator Narciso Vingson Jr. said that MARINA has identified 21 available RoRo routes that may be serviced by private port operators. Vingson informed the Committee that the notice of opening of these routes to private operators will be published within the day.</p>

<p>Continuation... Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Airports in Iloilo, Bacolod, Laguindingan, and Cebu</li> <li>Panay Railways, Inc. (PRI)</li> </ul>	<p>House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Pampanga) expressed disappointment upon learning that MARINA has not yet disseminated the list of available RoRo routes. The Speaker added that even during the Congressional break, the Committee will continue performing its oversight function of ensuring a rational and integrated development of the maritime industry as embodied in the Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP) for 2019-2028.</p> <p>During Vingson's presentation of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) master plan for the RoRo system, he mentioned that the plan's coverage includes four RoRo routes, namely: Tubigon, Bohol to Naga, Cebu; Clarin, Bohol to Mandaue, Cebu; Lucena, Quezon to Buyabot, Marinduque; and, Cadiz, Negros to Bantayan, Cebu. He said that only the Tubigon, Bohol to Naga, Cebu remains unimplemented for lack of a port in Naga.</p> <p>Agreeing to the recommendation of Rep. Jesulito Manalo (Party-List, ANGKLA) to establish connectivity between the country's nautical highways and national road networks, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry's (PCCI) Transportation Infrastructure and Logistics Committee Chair Enrico Basilio highlighted the importance of private sector participation in this undertaking. Basilio called for the full implementation of Executive Order 170-A, series of 2003, signed by former President now Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, which encourages the participation of and investment by the private sector in the development of the RoRo system.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG), to be chaired by Rep. Manuel Zubiri (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Bukidnon), to address the issue of exorbitant shipping charges resulting in higher prices of goods.</p> <p>Department of Transportation (DOTr) Undersecretary Manuel Antonio Tamayo informed the Committee that the proposed expansion of the Iloilo International Airport (IIA) and Laguindingan International Airport (LIA) in Misamis Oriental for 2019 may not push through considering that the budget approved by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for the expansion projects falls short of what is required.</p> <p>Tamayo explained that the expansion of the IIA will require P852 million but the approved 2019 budget for the said project is only P55 million. Likewise, the expansion of the LIA requires a budget of P1.3 billion but the approved 2019 budget is only P90 million.</p> <p>Deputy Director General Donald Mendoza of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) mentioned that CAAP is currently evaluating an unsolicited proposal from the private sector for the capacity expansion of the IIA, LIA, and Bacolod-Silay International Airport (BSIA).</p> <p>Meanwhile, Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority (MCIAA) General Manager Steve Dicdican reported on the ongoing expansion project at the Mactan-Cebu International Airport (MCIA) implemented through the public-private partnership (PPP) scheme. Dicdican emphasized that the expansion project will allow the airport to service an average of 11.5 million passengers per year from its original five million passenger-capacity.</p> <p>On the proposal to revive the PRI and transfer it to PHIVIDEC, DOTr Rail and Toll Roads Undersecretary Timothy John Batan</p>
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<p>Continuation... Transportation</p>		<p>presented a backgrounder to clarify matters. Batan said that the PRI was abolished in 2016, upon the recommendation of the Governance Commission for Government Owned and Controlled Corporations (GCG), through Presidential Memorandum Order (PMO) No. 87s. of 2016. A technical working group was created for the transfer or dissolution of PRI's assets and payment of its liabilities. Batan added that the DOTr, then the DOTC, was not involved in the abolition of PRI and subsequent actions.</p> <p>However, PHIVIDECA Industrial Authority Administrator Franklin Quijano argued that PRI's operation was effectively "reestablished" based on the pronouncement made by President Rodrigo Duterte in his 2017 State of the Nation Address (SONA). Quijano sought the help of the Committee to look into the matter immediately.</p> <p>In response to the query of Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo why PRI has not yet been reestablished, GCG Director Gene Carl Tupas said that there are still certain matters that the Commission needs to clarify with the Office of the President (OP). The House Speaker, however, stressed that there is no need for any clarification when the President's statement is in fact unequivocal.</p> <p>Batan committed to make representation with the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) on how to proceed with the revival of PRI.</p>
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DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p>Metro Manila Development</p>	<p>Planned mandatory use of radio frequency identification (RFID) for motorists passing through the South Metro Manila Skyway (Skyway)</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Quezon City), discussed with the Skyway Operations and Maintenance Corporation (SOMCO) and concerned government agencies the planned mandatory use of RFID as a mode of payment for motorists passing through the Skyway.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Castelo underscored the need to discuss thoroughly the plan of private tollway operator SOMCO to assign the Skyway's Bicutan and Sucat exits exclusively for RFID users, leaving out those who use cash as payment.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon brought to the attention of the Committee the clamor of his constituents to stop this plan as it will deny those who opt to pay in cash access to the Skyway. He also said that the plan would inconvenience non-RFID users who would have to pass through other alternate but farther routes, and these alternate routes would bear the impact of increased volume of traffic.</p> <p>Rep. Gus Tambunting (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Parañaque City) expressed the same sentiments aired by Rep. Biazon, stressing that the welfare of the general public should be taken into consideration before implementing the proposed exclusive use of RFID on the Skyway. (The Bicutan and Sucat exits are vital routes to motorists living in the South, which includes the Cities of Muntinlupa, Parañaque, and Taguig.)</p> <p>SOMCO President and Chief Executive Officer Manuel Bonoan explained that the rationale behind the proposed RFID use was to ease traffic build-up at the Skyway's toll plazas that accept</p>

<p>Continuation... Metro Development</p> <p>Manila</p>		<p>cash payments. Nevertheless, he said the proposal is not yet final as it will still be submitted to the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) for review and approval. He also agreed to take down the signage erected at the toll plazas announcing the planned mandatory use of the RFID payment system until such time that a decision on the matter has been reached.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Biazon, Bonoan said that about 49% of motorists passing through the Skyway are now using the RFID system. He said the RFID stickers and card are given free of charge but users need to pre-load the RFID card with a certain amount that can cover the toll fee, which is consumable and has no expiration.</p> <p>Rep. Jesulito Manalo (Party-List, ANGKLA), along with the other Members of the Committee, called on the TRB to conduct dialogues and consultations with affected sectors to address their concerns with regard to the use of the RFID system and to find ways to better serve the general public.</p>
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