



# Committee Daily Bulletin

18<sup>th</sup> Congress  
First Regular Session

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## ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
People's Participation	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by San Jose del Monte City Rep. Florida "Rida" Robes, held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress was adopted. The Committee also created three Subcommittees, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subcommittee on Politics and Governance;</li> <li>• Subcommittee on Government and People's/Non-government Organizations (PO/NGO) Partnership; and</li> <li>• Subcommittee on Oversight.</li> </ul> <p>The Members were requested to signify their intention to become a member of any of the subcommittees of their choice.</p> <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee has jurisdiction over "all matters directly and principally relating to the role, rights and responsibilities of people's organizations, non-government and civic organizations, and other similar groups, and the establishment of mechanisms for consultation with and participation of the people in governance and in legislation including the establishment and maintenance of a databank on all such organizations."</p>

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Ecology	HB 33	Rep. Biazon	Mandating the labelling of plastic products according to the type of plastic resin used in such products, providing penalties for violations thereof	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Glona Labadlabad (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Zamboanga del Norte), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to discuss the 32 bills further.
	HBs 103, 574, 635, 1754, 2484, 2811, 3140, 4339, 4435, 4644 & 5383	Reps. Fortun, Gasataya, Deputy Speakers Legarda and Villafuerte, Reps. Suansing (E.), Rodriguez, Espino, Barba, Teves (J.), Fariñas (R.C.), and Noel	Regulating the production, importation, sale, provision, use, recovery, collection, recycling, and disposal of plastic products	<p>Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco was designated as head of the TWG.</p> <p>Rep. Labadlabad said that the proposed measures seek to regulate, phase-out, or recover disposable or throw-away plastic products and materials. She emphasized the need to find solutions to the huge volume of waste materials that are non-biodegradable and non-recyclable.</p> <p>Majority of the Members agreed to request President Duterte to consider the proposed law as one of his priority legislative agenda, which will speed up the passage of this measure.</p>
	HBs 139, 546, 2396, 3536 & 5489	Reps. Roman, Biazon, Velasco, Castelo, and Abellanos	Phasing out and prohibiting the manufacture, importation, sale, and use of single-use plastic products, promoting recycling, and providing funds therefor	Undersecretary Benny Antiporda of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) proposed the following:
	HBs 499, 3338 & 3537	Reps. Barbers, Herrera-Dy, and Castelo	Banning the production and usage of single-use plastic products nationwide, and providing penalties for violations thereof	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empower the barangays to apprehend people or entities that are violating laws on segregation of waste materials and to impose</li> </ul>

Continuation... Ecology	HB 708	Rep. Biazon	Prohibiting the release of balloons in the air	<p>penalties on violators like fine or community service;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gradually shift from using plastic products to products made of biodegradable materials;</li> <li>Impose environmental tax on producers and users of residual packages; and</li> <li>Provide tax credit or incentive to individuals and organizations using environment-friendly materials.</li> </ul> <p>On the query of Rep. Robert Ace Barbers (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Surigao del Norte), Antiporda replied that people will be encouraged to properly segregate and dispose of waste materials if laws on waste management are properly implemented. Towards this end, Antiporda suggested that the DENR be granted police power to better enforce environmental laws.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills.</p>
	HBs 1837 & 4827	Reps. Rodriguez and Nieto	Mandating the use of recyclable or biodegradable materials for the packaging of consumer products	
	HB 2969	Rep. Defensor (L.)	Prohibiting the use of plastics, other non-biodegradable materials, and hazardous substances in advertising goods, services, or events, including election propaganda, and providing penalties therefor	
	HB 3723	Rep. Tambunting	Institutionalizing the creation of the Plastic Bag Recycling Act of 2019	
	HB 3725	Rep. Tambunting	Prohibiting the use of disposable polystyrene food container, disposable non-recyclable plastic food container, and disposable non-recyclable content paper container	
	HB 4724	Rep. Tutor	Prohibiting the use and bringing in of single-use plastics by individuals and commercial establishments inside tourist sites/destinations	
	HBs 5048 & 5312	Rep. Siao	Establishing the incentivized solid waste redemption and recovery systems, appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 5411	Rep. Biazon	Mandating all retailers of consumer products to provide a packaging waste collection system at source	
	HR 213	Rep. Barba	Urging the prohibition of single-use plastics in all government offices	
	HR 261	Rep. Pacquiao (A.)	Directing the House of Representatives to adopt an institutional policy disallowing the use of disposable plastic water bottles	
Health	HBs 421, 716, 1776, 3633, 5210 & 4744	Reps. Rodriguez, Lara, Eriguel, Suntay, Vargas, and Deputy Speaker Oaminal	Increasing the bed capacity of hospitals in certain parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4 <sup>th</sup> District, Quezon), approved the six bills subject to style and amendment.
	HBs 492, 2289 & 2432	Reps. Deloso-Montalla, Dimaporo (M.K.), and Mangaoang	Converting provincial hospitals into regional hospitals/medical centers and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the three bills subject to style and amendment.
	HB 2225	Rep. Crisologo	Renaming Quezon City General Hospital to Quezon City General Hospital and Medical Center, amending for this purpose RAs 537 and 6548	The Committee approved the bill.
	HB 4144	Rep. Alfonso	Establishing a 30-bed district satellite hospital of the Cagayan Valley Medical Center in Barangay Pinili, Municipality of Abulug, Province of Cagayan Valley, to be known as the Cagayan Valley Medical	The Committee approved the bill subject to style and amendment.

Continuation... Health			Center - Abulug Extension Satellite Hospital, and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 4403	Rep. Bautista-Bandigan	Establishing a medical center in Barangay Lacaron, Municipality of Malita, Province of Davao Occidental to be known as the Davao Occidental Medical Center, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the bill subject to style and amendment.
	HB 4404	Rep. Bautista-Bandigan	Renaming the Malita District Hospital in Poblacion, Municipality of Malita, Province of Davao Occidental into Malita Children and Women's Hospital	The Committee approved the bill subject to style and amendment.
	HB 5191	Deputy Speaker Gonzales (N.)	Establishing a tertiary training and general hospital of the National Center for Mental Health (NCMH) to be known as the Mandaluyong City General Hospital, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the bill with amendment.
	HBs 173, 295, 956, 3353, 3488, 3839, 3932 & 4828	Reps. Tan (A.), Yap (V.), Salo, Almario, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Cabochan, Vargas, and Nieto	Institutionalizing an emergency medical services system (EMSS), creating for the purpose the National EMSS Council, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate and fine-tune the eight bills.
	HB 8	Speaker Cayetano	Establishing the national health passport system and strengthening the primary healthcare system, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee deferred consideration of the bill upon the request of the DOH to study the bill further.  The Committee deferred consideration of the bills upon the request of the DOH to study the bills further.
	HBs 170, 296 & 4011	Reps. Tan (A.) Yap (V.), and Villarica	Modernizing the regulation of health facilities and services, and appropriating funds therefor, repealing for the purpose RA 4226, otherwise known as the Hospital Licensure Act	
	HB 4264	Rep. Roman	Standardizing the classification of hospitals in the Philippines, amending for the purpose RA 4226	
	HB 5021	Deputy Speaker Romero	Amending RA 4226, providing for stiffer penalties and sanctions	
	HB 2478	Rep. Suarez (D.)	Converting the Quezon Medical Center Hospital from secondary to tertiary level hospital and regional training center under the full administrative and technical supervision of the Department of Health (DOH), increasing its bed capacity from 200 to 700 beds	The Committee deferred consideration of HB 2478 upon the request of the DOH to study the bill further.
	HB 1617	Rep. Suarez (A.)	Converting the Quezon Medical Center in Lucena City, Quezon Province to a regional hospital to be known as Quezon Regional Hospital and to increase its bed capacity to 300 and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee deferred consideration of HB 1617 upon the request of the DOH to study the bill further.
	HB 1104	Rep. Tan (A.)	Establishing a 500-bed capacity Regional Training and Teaching Hospital in the City of Lucena, Province of Quezon and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee deferred consideration of HB 1104 upon the request of the DOH to study the bill further.

Housing and Urban Development	HB 159	Rep. Belmonte	Strengthening the right of government to expropriate lands for socialized housing, amending for the purpose Sections 9, 10, and 11 of RA 7279, otherwise known as the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair, Rep. Alfonso Umali Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Oriental Mindoro), approved HB 159 subject to style.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p>
Information and Communications Technology	HB 359	Rep. Yap (V.)	Amending RA 10175, otherwise known as the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012 [by mandating the Philippine National Police (PNP), the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) to create their own cybercrime divisions to ensure the strict implementation of this Act]	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair, Rep. Micaela Violago (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Nueva Ecija), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the two bills.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon was designated as TWG Chair.</p>
	HB 1707	Deputy Speaker Villafuerte	Amending RA 10175 (by repealing/amending certain sections of this Act in order to safeguard the many inalienable rights enshrined in the Constitution and protect the freedom of expression of the Filipino people)	<p>The Departments of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Justice (DOJ), and National Defense (DND), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Philippine National Police (PNP), National Security Council (NSC), National Privacy Commission (NPC), and the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) expressed their support for the bills.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers for the TWG's reference in its deliberations on the bill.</p>
	HB 1188	Deputy Speaker Romero	Amending RA 10173, otherwise known as the Data Privacy Act of 2012, to adopt a more systematic, comprehensive, and effective protection program, to foster the imposition of all existing policies and guidelines, increasing its penalties and sanctions	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to consolidate the two bills.</p> <p>Navotas City Rep. John Reynald Tiangco was designated as TWG Chair.</p>
	HB 5612	Rep. Yap	Amending RA 10173, otherwise known as the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (by strengthening the implementation of this law and aligning it with international standards)	<p>The Committee requested the NPC, NTC, Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP), and the Consumers Union of the Philippines (CUP) to submit their respective position papers on the bills.</p>
Labor and Employment	Substitute Bill to HBs 852, 2123 & 4847	Reps. Aglipay, Chipeco, and Tambunting	Regulating the practice of employers in posting notices of termination of employment of former employees in newspapers, social media, and other public information venues	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HBs 852, 2123 and 4847.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 1338 & 3463	Rep. Go (M.) and Deputy Speaker Villafuerte	Increasing the service incentive leave of employees, amending for the purpose Article 95 of PD 442, as amended, otherwise known as the Labor Code of the Philippines	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HBs 1338 and 3463.
	HB 278	Rep. Aglipay	Expanding the prohibited acts of discrimination against women on account of sex, amending for the purpose Articles 135 and 137 of PD 442, as amended	The Committee approved the Committee Reports on HBs 278, 3147 and 2378.
	HB 3147	Rep. Romulo	Mandating all barangays to create a registry of skilled workers	
	HB 2378	Rep. Robes	Declaring the City of San Jose del Monte in the Province of Bulacan as Human Resource Capital	

Continuation... Labor and Employment	HBs 4514 & 5472	Rep. Nograles (J.J.) and Deputy Speaker Villanueva	Strengthening the regulation of employment of foreign nationals, amending for the purpose Articles 40, 41, and 42 of Title II, Book 1 of PD 442, as amended	The Committee deferred the approval of HBs 4514 and 5472 pending the submission of position paper from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).  Rep. Jericho Jonas Nograles (Party-List, PBA), author of HB 4514, said that a similar bill was approved on Third Reading by the House during the 17 <sup>th</sup> Congress.
Natural Resources	Substitute Bill to HBs 98 & 4540	Rep. Acosta- Alba and Deputy Speaker Santos- Recto	Providing for the delineation of the specific forest limits of the public domain	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. (4 <sup>th</sup> District, Cavite), approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 98 and 4540 subject to style.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 106, 1474, 3061 & 4891	Reps. Fortun, Yu, Babasa, and Deloso-Montalla	Providing for the sustainable management of forests and forest lands	The Committee approved the substitute bill subject to style.  Rep. Lawrence "Law" Fortun (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Agusan del Norte) presented the features of the substitute bill that was crafted by the technical working group (TWG), which he headed.
	HB 3138	Rep. Amatong	Declaring certain portions of the public domain, specifically Lots numbered 247, 248, and 948, PLS-6, N-299, located in Barangay Kipit, Municipality of Labason, Province of Zamboanga del Norte, as agricultural land reserved for school site of the Kipit Agro-Fishery High School	The Committee approved HB 3138 subject to the submission of the position paper of the Municipality of Labason.
	HBs 140, 3950 & 4164	Reps. Roman, Alvarez (F.), and Rodriguez	Reclassifying certain parcels of land of the public domain located in certain parts of the country as agricultural land open to disposition	The Committee will deliberate further on the three bills in its next meeting.  Commenting on HB 140, Forest Management Bureau (FMB) OIC-Assistant Director Edna Nuestro pointed out that the reclassification to alienable and disposable land of Roosevelt Protected Landscape is under the jurisdiction of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).  Nuestro interposed no objection to HB 3950 for as long as the bill takes into account the country's forest boundary assessment and delineation prepared by DENR.  Alubijid, Misamis Oriental Mayor Emmanuel Jamis expressed support for HB 4164 which reclassifies as agricultural a parcel of land of the public domain located in Lourdes, Alubijid, Misamis Oriental for use by the University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines.
	HBs 4088 & 4784	Deputy Speaker Arenas and Rep. Gato	Reclassifying certain parcels of land of the public domain located in certain parts of the country as alienable and disposable land	The Committee will deliberate further on HBs 4088 and 4784 in its next meeting.  Deputy Speaker Rose Marie "Baby" Arenas (3 <sup>rd</sup> District, Pangasinan), author of HB 4088, said that her bill aims to settle the long- standing agrarian unrest in Mangabul Reservation in Barangay San Gabriel 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Bayambang, Pangasinan by reclassifying it into alienable and disposable land.

Continuation... Natural Resources				<p>Rep. Barzaga directed the DENR Region I Survey and Mapping Division to submit pertinent documents to the Committee and to make the necessary ground survey and validation of the area to expedite the passage of HB 4088.</p> <p>With regard to HB 4784, the FMB was requested to submit the technical description covering the land to be reclassified.</p>
	HB 589	Rep. Mangaoang	Reclassifying a certain parcel of land in Barangay Talalang in the Municipality of Balaban, Province of Kalinga as a mineral land open for declaration as a people's small-scale mining area	The Committee will deliberate further on HB 589 in its next meeting.
	HB 5276	Rep. Amatong	Separating a portion of land covered under Special Patent No. 51431 in the name of Labason Central School for the construction of a Philippine National Police office and Municipal Circuit Trial Court	The Committee will deliberate further on HB 5276 in its next meeting.
People's Participation	HR 273	Rep. Robes	Commending the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) for its valuable contribution to national development and congratulating the Agency on its 55th anniversary	<p>The Committee, chaired by San Jose del Monte City Rep. Florida "Rida" Robes, adopted HR 273. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Shirlyn Bañas-Nogales (1<sup>st</sup> District, South Cotabato) sat as the presiding officer to give way to the Chair to sponsor her resolution.</p> <p>According to Rep. Robes, the PNVSCA was created in 1964 as a committee that monitored the volunteering efforts of the government, people's organizations (PO), non-government organizations (NGOs), and other partners, to ensure that they are aligned with national priorities. In 1973, the PNVSCA was transformed into an attached agency of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) by virtue of Executive Order 635, which mandates the PNVSCA to promote and coordinate volunteer programs and services in the Philippines.</p> <p>For the past 55 years, the PNVSCA took the lead in adopting volunteerism as a tool for nation building. Thus, it is high time that the work of the PNVSCA is recognized, Rep. Robes said.</p> <p>NEDA Assistant Secretary Greg Pineda and Civil Service Commission's (CSC) Human Resource Specialist Magdalena del Rio, expressed their support for the measure.</p> <p>Ugnayan ng Pahinungod System Director Grace Aguiling-Dalisay informed the body that the Ugnayan ng Pahinungod, the volunteer service program of the University of the Philippines (UP), has been one of PNVSCA's service partners in the last decade.</p>

Continuation... People's Participation				PNVSCA Executive Director Corazon Macaraig expressed her appreciation for the commendation and assured the Committee that the PNVSCA will continue to promote volunteerism in the country. She also promised to submit to the Committee the list of international and local organizations that are conducting volunteer works in the Philippines.
Tourism	HBs 141, 142, 458, 465, 622, 632, 888, 962, 963, 964, 1074, 1076, 1127, 1128, 1129 & 1135	Reps. Roman, Kho (E.), Marquez, Deputy Speaker Legarda, Reps. Cuaresma, Hofer, Velasco, Tupas, and Cabredo	Declaring various parts of the country as eco-tourism zones/sites, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair, Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez (4<sup>th</sup> District, Leyte), approved the 18 bills subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Torres-Gomez advised the bills' authors to prepare the following documents needed to ensure the immediate passage of the bills at the Senate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sanggunian Resolution of concerned local government unit (LGU) stating its support for the proposed eco-tourism zone/site; and</li> <li>• Technical description of the tourism site's metes and bounds.</li> </ul> <p>Noting the support expressed by the Department of Tourism (DOT) for all the bills, Rep. Alfredo Garbin Jr. (Party-List, AKO BICOL) recommended that the tourism zones/sites covered by these bills be included in the National Tourism Development Plan (NDTP) to ensure their implementation.</p> <p>Representatives from the DOT agreed to undertake the necessary steps to possibly include the proposed eco-tourism sites in the NDTP, as suggested by Rep. Garbin.</p>
	HBs 215 & 728	Deputy Speaker Puno and Rep. Dalog	Declaring the Province of Rizal and the Municipality of Barlig in Mountain Province as tourism development areas, respectively, and appropriating funds therefor	
	HBs 292, 293, 671, 672, 673, 677, 773, 918, 1075 & 1131	Reps. Suansing (E.), Abueg-Zaldivar, Violago, Collantes, Deputy Speaker Gonzales (A.), Reps. Velasco, and Cabredo	Declaring certain parts of the country as pilgrimage sites/tourist destinations providing for their development and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved the 10 bills subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1<sup>st</sup> District, Nueva Ecija), author of HB 292, informed the body that her bill is the same as the one already approved by the House on Third Reading during the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress.</p>
	HB 910	Rep. Baronda	Amending Sections 1 and 2 of RA 10555 or the law declaring the Jaro Cathedral, Molo Church, Iloilo City Central Business District, Fort San Pedro, Jaro Plaza Complex, Molo Plaza Complex, and Plaza Libertad Complex, all located in the City of Iloilo, as cultural heritage tourism zones, to include Arevalo Plaza	The Committee approved HB 910 subject to style and amendment.
	HBs 900 & 3070	Reps. Mariño and Umali (A.)	Declaring the Verde Island Passage as a maritime protected area and an ecotourism zone	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on the two bills.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers for the TWG's reference in its deliberations on the bills.</p>

**TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING**

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Games and Amusement (Technical Working Group)	HBs 1524 & 3867	Reps. Garbin and Bernos	Strengthening the Games and Amusements Board (GAB)	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. (4<sup>th</sup> District, Cavite), will deliberate further on the bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>In today's meeting, the TWG focused its discussion on two issues: 1) Whether or not a new law creating GAB is needed or will the passage of a law strengthening GAB be sufficient; and 2) Whether the GAB or the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) has jurisdiction over online betting in cockfighting games, more popularly known as "electronic Sabong" or "eSabong."</p> <p>In relation to the first issue, Rep. Barzaga opined that GAB has to be created first by way of a legislative act before its powers and functions can be strengthened and its organizational structure revised. He explained that GAB was created only by virtue of an executive order (EO 120). It lacks the legal basis to even guarantee the security of tenure of its officers and staff, and any sitting president may abolish the office anytime, Rep. Barzaga averred.</p> <p>Rep. Alfredo Garbin Jr. (Party-List, AKO BICOL), author of HB 1524, however, argued that under the principles of administrative law, EOs are part of the laws of the land. Therefore, he said, a law may be passed to strengthen GAB instead of "creating" it.</p> <p>On the jurisdiction over eSabong, PAGCOR lawyer Lawrence Solis expressed the agency's position that it is under PAGCOR's jurisdiction. He explained that there is no existing law or regulation on online gambling specifically pertaining to cockfighting, thus, eSabong could be categorized under the catch-all provision of Section 1 of PAGCOR's Charter (PD 1869) which provides the centralization and integration of all games of chance with no existing franchise or permit.</p> <p>GAB's legal division chief Ermer Benites maintained that eSabong is GAB's responsibility, explaining that PAGCOR's authority only applies to games of chance not covered by any other regulatory agency. Benites stressed that the promulgation and enforcement of rules and regulations on cockfighting in the country, and the issuance of licenses to international derbies are functions vested in the GAB pursuant to EO 149, series of 1993.</p> <p>The resource persons present in the meeting were requested to submit to the Committee their position papers on the bills.</p>
	HB 1570	Rep. Zamora (M.)	Strengthening the role of GAB in the operation of cockfighting in the Philippines, amending PD 449, otherwise known as the Cockfighting Law of 1974	
	HBs 2625 & 4588	Reps. Lagon and Teves (A.)	Regulating cockfighting	
	HB 4246	Deputy Speaker Garcia	Further amending PD 449, as amended, and PD 1802-A in order to rationalize and strengthen the regulation of cockfighting by local government units (LGUs)	



AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Ways and Means	Briefing by the Bureau of Customs (BOC) on its revenue collection performance, priority programs, and implementation of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chairperson, Rep. Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), listened to the briefing conducted by the BOC on matters concerning the CMTA, priority programs, and revenue collection data from 2016 to 2019.</p> <p>BOC Assistant Commissioner Vincent Philip Maronilla, also the head of BOC's Post Clearance Audit Group (PCAG), reported on the status of issuance of customs administrative orders (CAOs) to carry out the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the CMTA. He said that at present, a total of 26 CAOs were already signed, while 10 CAOs are still under review by the Department of Finance (DOF).</p> <p>Maronilla discussed the BOC's proposed amendments to the CMTA which include provisions on dispute settlement and protest, compulsory acquisition and forfeiture of funds, restricted goods, disposition of goods, and Customs control over customs bonded warehouses (CBWs) and customs facilities and warehouses (CFWs).</p> <p>The Assistant Commissioner also apprised the Committee of the BOC's 10-point priority programs for 2019 which are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancement of the BOC's information technology system;</li> <li>• Filling up of vacant plantilla positions;</li> <li>• Grant of incentives to BOC employees;</li> <li>• Restructuring of the organization;</li> <li>• Enhancement of BOC facilities;</li> <li>• Enhancement of cargo clearance and examination capabilities;</li> <li>• Enhancement of intelligence and enforcement capabilities;</li> <li>• Codification and harmonization of IRRs, CAOs and other issuances;</li> <li>• Creation of a Quality Management System and Integrity System; and</li> <li>• Pursuit of Customs-related legislative measures.</li> </ul> <p>Maronilla reported that the BOC's revenue collection from 2016 to 2018 registered a steady growth. However, revenue collection slowed down this year due to various issues like port congestion, changes in foreign and domestic policies, and decrease in the arrival of dutiable commodities.</p> <p>On the accomplishments of the PCAG, Maronilla reported that, as of November 2019, the BOC has collected P2.13 billion through its Prior Disclosure Program (PDP), a huge leap from the P245.97 million collected in 2018. Under the PDP, the Customs commissioner is authorized to accept prior disclosure by importers of errors and omissions in goods declaration resulting in deficiency in duties and taxes on past importations (CAO No. 01-2019 re: Post Clearance Audit and Prior Disclosure Program)</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1<sup>st</sup> District, Ilocos Sur) chided the BOC for not taking steps to implement Congress' recommendations to curb corruption in the Bureau as conveyed during the committee hearings with then BOC chief Nicanor Faeldon.</p> <p>BOC Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero disclosed that the BOC has already filed a total of 146 corruption-related cases against brokers, importers and BOC personnel. These cases are currently awaiting the decision of the Ombudsman, Guerrero added. Nevertheless, the BOC Commissioner promised to revisit the recommendations of Congress on the matter.</p>

Continuation... Ways and Means		<p>Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1<sup>st</sup> District, Nueva Ecija) raised several issues of corruption allegedly involving Port of Cebu district collector Charlito Mendoza and the so-called “magnificent five,” referring to personalities involved in corruption at the port. Mendoza denied the allegations of corruption and promised to provide the Committee the names of the “magnificent five.”</p> <p>Rep. Eric Go Yap (Party-List, ACT-CIS) expressed his concern over news reports that several foreigners are coming in and out of the country carrying large sums of money, suggesting that they might be involved in money laundering or terrorist financing. He asked the BOC to ascertain the legitimacy of the foreigners’ visits to the country, in coordination with immigration officials both here and in the foreigners’ countries of origin. BOC Intelligence Group Deputy Commissioner Raniel Ramiro said the BOC will act on the matter.</p> <p>The BOC was instructed to submit to the Committee the following data/information: list of overstaying containers in every port in the country; actions taken relative to the Commission on Audit (COA)’s audit findings; list of tax refund and tax credit certificates issued; and report on the country’s rice, high fructose corn syrup (HFCS), and sugar imports.</p>
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DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Poverty Alleviation	Presentation of the draft Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 11291, or the Magna Carta of the Poor by the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Dale “Along” Malapitan (1<sup>st</sup> District, Caloocan City), decided to create a small group to further iron out the provisions of the draft IRR.</p> <p>The small group will be composed of Rep. Raul del Mar (1<sup>st</sup> District, Cebu City), one of the authors of RA 11291, Fernando Cao, head of the Research Unit of NAPC, and the Committee Secretary.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP), also one of the authors, said that the draft IRR of RA 11291 is a realistic guide towards the proper implementation of the law. He added that the IRR stayed true to the provisions of the law.</p> <p>In behalf of NAPC and the 14 basic sectors it represent, Cao expressed his gratitude to the Committee for helping the Commission draft the IRR, and for coming up with a law that will help the marginalized and vulnerable sectors of society succeed in their struggle against poverty and deprivation.</p>

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Health	Roundtable discussion with stakeholders at the grassroots level on issues affecting the Philippine healthcare system	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair, Rep. Maricel Natividad-Nagaño (4<sup>th</sup> District, Nueva Ecija), conducted a roundtable discussion on issues affecting the Philippine healthcare system, particularly from the viewpoint of the grassroots, on November 27 at the House of Representatives.</p> <p>Rep. Natividad-Nagaño, in her welcome remarks, said that the roundtable discussion was conducted to hear from the grassroots themselves their experiences in accessing the country’s healthcare services and facilities and find solutions to address their problems effectively and efficiently.</p>

<p>Continuation... Health</p>		<p>Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA), the facilitator of the roundtable discussion, said that the results of the discussion will aid legislators in drafting a bill that will help reform the fragmented healthcare system in the country.</p> <p>Professor Edelina dela Paz of the Community Medicine Department, University of the Philippines (UP), apprised the Committee of the health situation at the community level. She said people's access to healthcare is affected by the lack of healthcare workers including doctors and nurses, high out-of-pocket payment shouldered by the patients, and lack of access to cheaper medicines.</p> <p>Dela Paz also said that the devolution of public health service delivery to the local government units (LGUs), pursuant to the Local Government Code, caused unintended consequences such as the fragmentation of health service delivery and financing, and variation in the quality and accessibility of health care. She urged the Committee to come up with a legislation that will truly provide a free, comprehensive, and progressive healthcare for all Filipinos.</p> <p>Health care practitioners present in the roundtable discussion related the difficulties they experience in their work, foremost of which is the very low pay they receive which is not at all commensurate to the kind and volume of work they perform. They clamored for an increase in their wages and also an increase in the budget of the Department of Health (DOH) to be able to purchase adequate medicines and medical equipment and supplies for the benefit of patients.</p> <p>From the patients' point of view, Alex Mendoza, president of the Quezon City Federation of Persons with Disability, and Enrico Cruz, a relative of a patient undergoing dialysis, shared their experiences in accessing government healthcare services.</p> <p>Cruz narrated the difficulties that a patient and patient's relatives encounter in getting medical assistance from government agencies such as the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). Likewise, Mendoza expressed his disappointment at the inadequate government programs assisting children with neurodevelopment diseases such as cerebral palsy and those with mental health disorders.</p> <p>Several Members support the renationalization of the health care delivery system to make it more effective and efficient, as well as to prevent it from being politicized at the local level.</p> <p>Rep. Zarate commented that the issues raised are not new and that the legislators are doing their best to address the gaps in the health sector by championing proposals to remove Value Added Tax (VAT) on medicines, stop the privatization of public hospitals, regularize contractual health workers, and promote and protect the welfare and safety of health workers.</p>
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