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ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Public Accounts	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Michael Defensor (Party-List, ANAKALUSUGAN), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18th Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee has jurisdiction over "all matters directly and principally relating to the examination and scrutiny of audit reports on the performance of all government agencies to determine their adherence to or compliance with the plans and programs authorized through appropriations approved by the legislature."</p> <p>Rep. Defensor said that the initiation of any inquiry may be made through the following: 1) a <i>motu proprio</i> action; 2) upon the order of the House of Representatives through the referral of a privilege speech or a referral of a resolution to the Committee; 3) a referral of a petition filed or information given by any person, not a member of the House of Representatives, requesting the inquiry.</p>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Public Works and Highways	Consolidated Bill on HBs 193, 232, 1320, 1358, 1829, 2172, 2272, 2481, 2514, 2586, 2725, 2879, 2887, 2895, 2981, 2997, 3172, 3347, 3350, 3380, 3512, 3656, 3987, 4026, 4097, 4098, 4114, 4251, 4329, 4447, 4654, 4807, 4830, 4897, 4944, 5049 & 5141	Reps. Suansing (E.), Vargas, Vergara, Herrera-Dy, Rodriguez, Salo, Tan (A.), Defensor (L.), Deputy Speaker Romero, Reps. Nogales (J.J.), Aumentado, Nieto, Ramirez-Sato, Deputy Speaker Gonzales (A.), Reps. Salceda, Tolentino, Deloso-Montalla, Arroyo (J.M.), Sacdalan, Aragones, Deputy Speaker Savellano, Reps. Tupas, Biazon, Haresco, Villarica, Tambunting, Olivarez, Deputy Speakers Hernandez and Villafuerte, Reps. Velasco, Lim,	Establishing the national framework for water resource management and creating the Department of Water Resources and the Water Regulatory Commission, defining its mandate, powers and functions, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Joint Committee, co-presided by Rep. Mario Vittorio "Marvey" Mariño (5th District, Batangas), Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Ramon Guico III (5th District, Pangasinan) of the Committee on Public Works and Highways, approved the consolidated bill and the corresponding Committee Report, as amended.</p> <p>Under the bill, the proposed Department of Water Resources is mandated to serve as "the primary agency responsible for the comprehensive and integrated planning, policy formulation and management of ownership, appropriation, utilization, exploitation, development, and protection of water resources in the Philippines to ensure the optimal use thereof for domestic and municipal water supply, sanitation, irrigation, hydropower, industry, navigation, flood management, recreation and fisheries or aquaculture."</p> <p>Rep. Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN) recommended that the phrase "fisheries or aquaculture" be deleted from the provision on the mandate of the Department of Water Resources (Section 5 of the bill) to avoid impinging on the jurisdiction of the proposed Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, subject of another bill.</p>

Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ Public Works and Highways		Siao, and Suarez (D.)		<p>In addition, the Committee agreed to include in the bill the definition of the term "missionary water," which shall refer to water supply or services in areas that have no existing water supply and services due to geographic limitations or absence of economic and market viability (Section 3).</p> <p>Meanwhile, Director Angel Enriquez of the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), Department of Agriculture (DA), suggested that only the functions of the Water Management Unit of the BSWM be transferred to the proposed Department of Water Resources instead of the whole bureau (Section 13d).</p>
Local Government	HB 199	Rep. Garcia (J.)	Providing for the reapportionment of the Province of Bataan into three legislative districts	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Noel Villanueva (3 rd District, Tarlac), approved HB 199 with amendments.
	HB 830	Deputy Speaker Gonzales (A.)	Declaring June 15 of every year as a special nonworking holiday in the Province of Pampanga and Angeles City to be known as the Mt. Pinatubo Memorial Day	The Committee approved HB 830.
	HB 3074	Rep. Baronda	Reapportioning the lone legislative district and the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Iloilo	The Committee approved HB 3074.
	HB 3105	Rep. Tolentino	Amending RA 10775 and declaring June 21 of every year as a special nonworking holiday in Tagaytay City, Province of Cavite in commemoration of its founding day to be known as "Charter Day of Tagaytay City" or "Araw ng Lungsod ng Tagaytay"	The Committee approved HB 3105.
	HBs 22, 165, 439, 536, 670, 690, 763, 1366, 1787, 2700, 3159, 3985, 4096, 4271, 4395, 4575 & 5003	Deputy Speaker Escudero, Reps. Belmonte, Revilla, Paduano, Salo, Quimbo, Biazon, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Espino, Panotes, Tan-Tambut, Co (A.), Defensor (M.), Suarez (A.), Calixto, Rodriguez, and Deputy Speaker Oaminal	Granting additional incentives and benefits to barangay health workers (BHWs), amending for the purpose RA 7883	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on the bills.</p> <p>Rep. Angelica Natasha Co (Party-List, BHW), author of HB 3985, was designated as TWG Chair.</p> <p>Barangay Health Worker Confederation (BHCW) National President Zenaida Pulido and other BHW presidents from different regions, asked the Committee to address the needs of BHWs such as a barangay hall/office, proper compensation, retirement benefit, and security of tenure.</p> <p>Maria Teresa Santiago of the Bureau of Local Health Systems Development (BLHSD) of the Department of Health (DOH) said that BHWs are their partners in implementing essential health programs in their respective communities. Their role is considered integral in the development of local health systems and the improvement of health outcomes in communities.</p>
	HBs 44, 2081, 4890 & 5026	Reps. Benitez, Sy-Alvarado, and Olivarez	Providing for a Magna Carta for BHWs	
	HB 602	Rep. Acop	Ordaining the BHWs' Incentive and Development Act (BIDA) of 2019	
	HBs 874, 1494, 1557,	Reps. Tiangco, Tan (A.),	Mandating the appointment of BHWs in barangays, and providing for their duties	

Continuation... Local Government	3276, 3291, 3355, 3487, 3511 & 3801	Baronda, Romualdez (Y.), Vargas, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Aragonés, and Rodríguez	and responsibilities, compensation and benefits	<p>The DOH expressed its support for the bill and asked that the requests of BHW will be incorporated in the proposed law.</p> <p>Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Actuarial Risk Management Division Manager Oliver Flores expressed concern over the grant of social security benefits to BHWs as proposed in some bills.</p> <p>Flores informed the body that the compulsory membership of barangay health workers in GSIS would require tremendous additional financial obligations on the part of the government since it will provide the employer's contribution. In order to be entitled for pension, a minimum of 15 years of creditable service and a minimum pensionable age of 60 years should be met by the BHWs.</p> <p>Rep. Rufus Rodríguez (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City) suggested that the budget can come from the national government. However, Rep. Michael Defensor (Party-List, ANAKALUSUGAN) countered that it can come from the budget of the local government.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA) suggested that the proposals should be studied carefully particularly on the benefits and the security of tenure of BHWs. He also suggested to invite in the next meeting the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to give their comments on the issue of security of tenure and funding requirements, respectively.</p>
	HB 1304	Deputy Speaker Villafuerte	Improving and promoting quality delivery of health services in barangays, enacting the BHWs and Services Reform Act	
	HB 394	Rep. Ferrer (L.)	Dividing and creating new barangays in the City of General Trias, Province of Cavite	The Committee deferred its consideration of HB 394.
Public Order and Safety	Substitute Bill to HBs 931, 1166, 2469, 2546, 3102, 3275, 3404, 3498, 4707 & 4887	Rep. Cabochan, Deputy Speaker Romero, Rep. Almario, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Romualdez (Y.M.), Salceda, Sy-Alvarado, Tambunting, and Tan (A.S.)	Strengthening and modernizing the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and providing funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Narciso Bravo Jr. (1st District, Masbate), approved the substitute bill, subject to style and amendment. The bill will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for review of its funding provision.</p> <p>The BFP presented the Bureau's three-year modernization program which includes the procurement of 691 fire trucks, with 1,000-gallon capacity, to replace the 30-year old units of fire trucks. The BFP's modernization program has a budgetary requirement of P10 billion.</p>
Science and Technology	HBs 127, 2241, 4184, 4389, 4605 & 4963	Deputy Speaker Fernandez, Reps. Salceda, Balindong, Go (E.C.), Aumentado, and Tutor	Establishing Philippine Science High School (PSHS) campuses in certain parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Erico Aristotle Aumentado (2nd District, Bohol), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the six bills.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Francis Gerald Aguinaldo Abaya (1st District, Cavite), was designated head of the TWG.</p>

Continuation... Science and Technology				<p>Philippine Science High School (PSHS) System Executive Director Lilia Habacon informed the Committee that the PSHS Charter provides for the establishment of only one science high school per region. However, the PSHS is amenable to increasing the number of PSHS campuses to two per region as long as the corresponding changes are made to its Charter and that the addition of new schools be done gradually.</p> <p>Habacon explained that aside from the huge funding needed for the establishment of a PSHS campus, there should also be a commensurate number of student-applicants that should pass the entrance examinations. According to Habacon, on the average, only about 4% of the student-applicants are able to meet the school's requirements and are admitted into the System.</p> <p>Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), author of HB 2241, said that there is a need to look into ways to reduce the cost of establishing and maintaining a PSHS. He also recommended that the PSHS System shift towards a model that is more inclusive and supportive of the national development goals.</p> <p>Department of Budget and Management's (DBM) Chief of the Organization, Position Classification, and Compensation Bureau Iluminada Aloat interposed no objections to the proposed law.</p>
	HBs 1100, 1464, 3885 & 4572	Reps. Salo, Yu, Umali, and Rodriguez	Converting provincial science and technology centers into provincial science and technology offices in every province, amending for the purpose RA 6959, or the law establishing provincial centers for science and technology in all provinces of the Philippines, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to fine-tune the bills.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Domingo Rivera (Party-List, CIBAC), was designated head of the TWG.</p> <p>Aloat informed the Committee that the DBM will submit its position paper on the proposed law at a later date.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Overseas Workers Affairs (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 272, 328, 1568, 2318, 3282, 3990, 4685, 4749, 5142 & 5430	Rep. Aglipay, Deputy Speaker Arenas, Reps. Angara, Gonzalez (C.), Yap (E.), Agabas, Mendoza, Espino, Lusotan, and Kho (W.)	Instituting the Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Committee Secretary Christopher Lomibao, will deliberate further on the substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>HB 5685, filed and approved by the House of Representatives in the 17th Congress, was used by the TWG as its working draft in the crafting of the substitute bill.</p> <p>The TWG discussed several provisions of the draft substitute bill and agreed on the</p>

Continuation... Overseas Workers Affairs (Technical Working Group)				<p>following points, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seafarers who are victims of violations of this Act shall have the right to a fair and speedy disposition of the case, including the expeditious settlement of any money claims, subject to existing laws, rules and regulations; • A new chapter on gender sensitivity will be added in the bill which would provide women seafarers enhanced access to educational advancement and training and to women empowerment courses in maritime schools and training centers, as well as require ships registered in the Philippines to accommodate women cadets for their shipboard training; • In the event of a maritime accident, seafarers shall be entitled to all the rights under the <i>2006 Guidelines on Fair Treatment of Seafarers in the Event of a Maritime Accident</i> by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO); • The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) shall be tasked to ensure that the guidelines for the flag state on fair treatment of seafarers in the event of a maritime accident be observed, while the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) shall be the agency tasked in ensuring that the said guidelines be observed for the port state/coastal state; • No waiver of liabilities shall be allowed in case of forfeiture of benefits due to the seafarer's insufficient compliance with the required medical certificate or fit to work certification; • Financial assistance for alternative sustainable livelihood programs shall be made available to seafarers. The Land bank of the Philippines (LBP), Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation (SBGFC), and People's Credit and Finance Corporation (PCFC) shall set up a special credit window for this purpose; • The Philippine Seafarer One-Stop Processing Center (PSOC) during its initial operation shall create pilot PSOCs in areas identified with the highest number of seafarers. • The PCG shall be included among the agencies tasked to formulate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the law.
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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Agrarian Reform	<p>Briefing on the accomplishments and plans and programs of the following government agencies relative to the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) • Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) • Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) • Land Registration Authority (LRA) 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Ifugao Rep. Solomon Chungalao, listened to the briefing by the concerned government agencies on their accomplishments and plans and programs relative to the implementation of the CARP.</p> <p>At the outset, PARC Undersecretary Luis Meinrado Pañgulayan said that PARC is the highest policy-making and coordinating body for CARP, mandated to formulate and implement the policies, rules and regulations of CARP-related activities.</p> <p>Pañgulayan described the CARP as a rural development strategy that is being implemented through the collaboration of the different government line agencies or the CARP implementing agencies (CIA) such as the Departments of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Agriculture (DA), Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Trade and Industry (DTI), Labor and Employment (DOLE), and Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Land Registration Authority (LRA), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), and the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP).</p> <p>Pañgulayan said that under the initial plan, CARP was to be completed within a period of 10 years from the passage of RA 6657 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law in 1988. However, upon CARP's expiration in 1998, laws have been passed to extend its life, such as RA 8532 which extended the land distribution under CARP until 2008 and RA 9700, otherwise known as the CARP Extension with Reform Law, which further extended the acquisition and distribution of all agricultural lands until June 2014. The authority of the DAR, the lead implementing agency, to issue the Notice of Coverage would have ended by the same period.</p> <p>DTI-Region IV-B Regional Director Joel Valera said DTI's participation in the CARP was formalized with the establishment of the Small and Medium Industrial Technology Transfer Development Program (SMITDP) in July 1989. Its main role is to promote and develop micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the countryside.</p> <p>He said the challenge for the DTI-CARP is to improve the quality of life of Filipino farmers by increasing their annual aggregate household income.</p> <p>DOLE's Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns (BWSC) Director Ma. Karina Trayvilla informed the Committee that DOLE implements the Self-Reliant Organization-Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (SRO-CARP) Project as its participation in the implementation of the CARP. Trayvilla said funds for the SRO-CARP come from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).</p> <p>The SRO-CARP Project provides appropriate capacity building measures such as organizational and land management, agribusiness, and enterprise development to enhance the core competencies of agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations (ARBOs) towards organizational maturity.</p> <p>LRA Deputy Administrator Robert Nomar Leyretana said that the LRA's CARP-related function is limited to the registering of land titles.</p> <p>Leyretana averred that starting 2008, the LRA embarked on a massive computerization program that virtually eliminated the</p>

Continuation... Agrarian Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) 	<p>danger of registered titles being lost or damaged, and thus rendering the tedious relief of petition for reconstitution unavailable.</p> <p>DENR Engineer Henry Pacis, chief of the Land Policy and Planning Division-Land Management Bureau (LPPD-LMB), reported that the DENR finished the processing and issuance of patents covering 2,538,219 hectares. He added that as of September 2019, the DENR inspected, verified and approved the survey of 6,411,804 lots covering 7,746,321 hectares with a 91% rate of accomplishment.</p> <p>With respect to agroforestry development, Pacis said the DENR developed an area of 57,582 hectares that benefited about 144,324 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs).</p> <p>Meanwhile, Chief Budget and Management Specialist Gemma Ilagan of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) reported that since July 1987 up to 2018, a total of P320.08 billion was already released to the CIAs for the implementation of programs and projects under CARP.</p>
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DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Energy	<p>Discussion on the salient features and implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA 11285, otherwise known as the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act, by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philippine Energy Efficiency Alliance, Inc. (PE2) 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, listened to the presentations of the Philippine Energy Efficiency Alliance, Inc. (PE2) and European Union-Access to Sustainable Energy Programme (EU-ASEP) on the salient features and status of implementation of RA 11285.</p> <p>At the outset, PE2 President Alexander Ablaza informed the Committee that the Department of Energy (DOE) is finalizing the IRR of RA 11285 which is expected to be released on or before November 24 of this year.</p> <p>Ablaza presented the salient features of the law, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expands the roles and responsibilities of national government agencies and local government units in the implementation of the law; Creates an Inter-Agency Energy Efficiency and Conservation Committee to evaluate and approve government energy efficiency projects; Establishes a certification system for "designated establishments" that will integrate an energy management system policy into their operations; (As defined in the law, "a designated establishment" refers to a private or public entity in the commercial, industrial, transport, power, agriculture, public works, and other sectors identified by the DOE as energy intensive industries based on their annual energy consumption.) Mandates minimum energy performance (MEP) and energy efficiency labeling for energy-consuming products to remove inefficient products and guide consumers; Involves the active participation of end-users or consumers to promote the development and utilization of new and alternative energy efficient technologies and systems; Provides incentives to establishments that will implement or are implementing energy efficiency projects; and Imposes fines and penalties for violation of the provisions of this Act. <p>Rep. David "Jay-Jay" Suarez (2nd District, Quezon), including some Members of the Committee, did not agree to the proposed imposition</p>

Continuation... Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Union – Access to Sustainable Energy Programme (EU-ASEP) 	<p>of penalties on end-users or consumers, saying that some of the inefficiencies arise from the production, transmission and distribution of electricity.</p> <p>RA 11285 or the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act was enacted into law on April 12, 2019 to institutionalize energy efficiency and conservation, enhance the efficient use of energy and grant incentives to energy efficiency and conservation projects.</p> <p>The PE2, composed of private and public sector energy efficiency market stakeholder entities, is a non-stock, non-profit civil society organization. Formed in April 2016, the PE2 aims to organize, encourage, and promote advocacies, initiatives, studies, projects, programs, policy-directions, financing strategies, best ethical practices and sources in energy efficiency, energy conservation and renewable energy. (Source: PE2 website)</p> <p>EU-ASEP Team Leader Douglas Liner briefly discussed the two-day conference organized by EU-ASEP with Asian Development Bank (ADB) relative to RA 11285, focusing on providing technical assistance on energy efficiency and on rural electrification.</p> <p>Through ASEP, EU provided a grant of over P3 billion to the Philippines to promote energy efficiency and to meet the country's rural electrification targets through renewable energy.</p>
Metro Development	Manila Discussion on the effects of the NLEX-C5 (Segment 8.2) North Link Project on several barangays in Quezon City located along the project's alignment	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Manuel Luis Lopez (1st District, Manila), listened to the presentation of the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) Corporation relative to the NLEX-C5 (Segment 8.2) North Link Project affecting several barangays in Quezon City.</p> <p>NLEX Corporation Senior Vice President Romulo Quimbo said that the project, which will connect Segment 8.1 and the Republic Avenue to Luzon and Commonwealth Avenues in Quezon City, aims to decongest traffic in Metro Manila. It also has provisions for the resettlement and housing of the affected informal settler families (ISFs).</p> <p>Rep. Jose Christopher Belmonte (6th District, Quezon City) urged the concerned government agencies and the private sector to formulate a solution addressing the displacement of about 18,000 affected ISFs, 60% of whom come from his district.</p> <p>Geronima Angeles, National Housing Authority-National Capital Region (NHA-NCR) district manager, said that the agency is considering off-city relocation due to the absence of possible sites in the city. At present, NHA can offer 1,000 available units in Norzagaray and Pandi, Bulacan for some of the affected ISFs, Angeles added.</p> <p>Quimbo suggested that on-site housing project for affected ISFs be built along the stretch of the expressway using 30 meters from the 90-meter width of the proposed expressway, leaving only 60-meter width for the construction of the road itself.</p> <p>Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA) underscored the importance of consulting the ISFs themselves when discussing the relocation program intended for them to assure that their needs will be addressed. Rep. Zarate added that a uniform policy for the relocation of ISFs in Metro Manila be formulated.</p> <p>Luz Savilla, representing the ISFs from Barangays Bagbag and Sauyo, and Quezon City Deputy Assistant City Administrator Alberto Kimpo support an in-city relocation rather than an off-city relocation.</p> <p>Rep. Lopez asserted that an off-city relocation has never been successful and was proven to be ineffective in the past. He added that</p>

Continuation... Metro Manila Development		the welfare of the public should never be discounted in pursuit of infrastructure development.
	Update by the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) on their traffic plans for the Christmas season	<p>The Committee listened to the presentation of the MMDA and PNP on their traffic management plans in Metro Manila for the Christmas season.</p> <p>MMDA General Manager Jose Arturo Garcia informed the Committee of the various measures being pursued by the agency to decongest traffic in Metro Manila before and during the Christmas season, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation of mall operations from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and delivery of merchants from 11:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m., and the “no mall sale” policy during weekdays; • Increase in security personnel to ensure the safety and security of the mall-goers; and • Moratorium in all utility works such as digging and reblocking of roads except for urgent maintenance works. <p>Representatives from various mall operators in Metro Manila said that they have already complied with the mall hours prescribed by the MMDA. They also said that delivery of goods by the merchants have been adjusted accordingly and will resume normal operations by January 2020.</p> <p>On the other hand, Philippine National Police-Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG) Oliver Tanseco suggested that mall operators should provide an off-site parking area for mall-goers during the Christmas season to lessen traffic congestion along the roads near the malls. He also suggested that the operators coordinate with the local government units (LGUs) for deputization of traffic enforcers in the affected areas.</p> <p>PNP National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) officer-in-charge Debold Sinas reported that the PNP will launch its Paskuhan 2019 program to beef up security in the metropolis during the holiday season. He said that more uniformed personnel will be deployed along EDSA, especially in train stations, to prevent petty crimes and any untoward incidents from happening.</p> <p>Rep. Lopez called the attention of the PNP on the expected heavy traffic in Metro Manila due to the country’s hosting of the Southeast Asian Games from November 30 to December 11. Rep. Lopez said that a comprehensive public information drive should be undertaken to guide the public which alternative routes to take.</p> <p>Garcia answered that a traffic management plan relative to the upcoming SEA Games is already in place months ago. The delegates will be escorted by the PNP-HPG as they move to and from the venue of their sports event to ensure a safe and quick travel. He added that the MMDA requested the suspension of classes in schools within the vicinity of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex and all other places near the venue where the event will be held.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon urged the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) to solve the heavy traffic in South Luzon Expressway due to the Skyway Extension project and to submit its report on the matter to the Committee.</p>