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ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Public Information	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18th Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Rep. Salo stated that the Committee will make every effort to address the issue on the proliferation of "fake news" which falls under the Committee's jurisdiction.</p> <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee has jurisdiction over "all matters directly and principally relating to the production and dissemination of information to the public through all forms of mass communications and media such as print and broadcast media, movie and television, video, advertising, cable television and the internet, including the regulation thereof, and the rights and responsibilities of persons and entities engaged therein."</p>

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Conference Committee	HB 1026 and Senate Bill 1074	Rep. Salceda and Sen. Pacquiao	Amending Sections 141, 142, 143, 144, 147, 150, 152, 263, 265, and 288-A, and adding a new section 290-A to RA 8424, as amended, otherwise known as the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 (by increasing excise tax on alcohol, heated tobacco, and vapor products)	<p>The Conference Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay) and Sen. Pia Cayetano, respective chairpersons of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Senate, approved the Conference Committee Report on HB 1026 and SB 1074. All the conferees signed the Report.</p> <p>Aside from Rep. Salceda, the following conferees from the House of Representatives were present during the conference committee meeting: Deputy Speakers Raneo "Ranie" Abu (2nd District, Batangas), Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1st District, Ilocos Sur), and Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte Jr. (2nd District, Camarines Sur), Reps. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija), Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), Alyssa Sheena Tan (4th District, Isabela), Michael John Duavit (1st District, Rizal), Jose Antonio "Kuya Jonathan" Sy-Alvarado (1st District, Bulacan), and Teodorico Haresco Jr. (2nd District, Aklan).</p> <p>On the part of the Senate, other conferees who were present, aside from Sen. Cayetano, were: Senate President Pro-Tempore Ralph Recto, Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri, Minority Leader Franklin Drilon, Senators Imee Marcos, Francis "Toi" Tolentino, Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, and Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel.</p>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Banks and Financial Intermediaries	HB 5681	Rep. Cua	Mandating banking institutions to strengthen the financing system for agricultural, fisheries and rural development in the Philippines	<p>The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Junie Cua, approved HB 5681 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Cua, who called for the immediate enactment of his bill into law, said that one of the provisions of HB 5681 is the creation of a special fund called the Agribusiness Management Capacity and Institution-Building Fund. The fund aims to finance agricultural and fishery related capacity and institution building programs of rural cooperatives and other duly registered organizations of rural agricultural and fishery households for the improvement of their viability and productivity.</p> <p>Under the bill, banks are encouraged to contribute to this special fund as a mode of alternative compliance with the mandatory requirement for agricultural financing under RA 10000 or the Agri-Agra Reform Credit Act of 2009.</p> <p>Rep. Cua added that the bill also intends to boost the assistance to farmers in terms of support services and access to credit, and to organize farmers and fisherfolk into cooperatives or associations that are professionally managed to make them profitable and viable.</p> <p>Resource persons from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP), and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) all expressed their support for the bill during the meeting.</p> <p>On the query of the Committee Vice Chair, Navotas City Rep. John Reynald Tiangco, on the reason for the decreased number of rural banks in the country, BSP Managing Director Pia Bernadette Roman-Tayag explained that many rural banks had stopped operating because they have become unviable mainly due to mismanagement.</p>
Climate Change (Special Committee)	HR 418	Rep. Chatto	Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives for climate justice, strengthened implementation of climate change and environmental sustainability laws in the country and for developed countries to deliver on their commitments	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Edgar Chatto (1st District, Bohol), will continue its deliberations relative to the issues raised in HR 418.</p> <p>Rep. Chatto, who is also the main author of HR 418, said that the resolution aims to mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation in all government programs and projects with the end in view of identifying possible policy reforms that would strengthen this goal.</p> <p>The resource persons present informed the Committee of the programs that their respective agencies are undertaking relative to climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p> <p>Department of Agriculture's (DA) System-Wide Climate Change Office (SWCCO) Director U-Nichols</p>

Continuation... Climate Change (Special Committee)				<p>Manalo said that the effects of climate change are felt hardest by the poor, especially the farmers. With this in mind, the DA has developed the Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) program, which identifies and promotes climate resilient agriculture (CRA) technologies and approaches.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, Manalo said that farmers can increase their income by engaging in agricultural diversification wherein farmers may shift to other agricultural products or venture into entrepreneurial activities related to agriculture.</p> <p>Philippine Rice Research Institute (PRRI) Supervising Science Research Specialist Jasper Tallada said that the Institute aims to enhance agricultural resiliency to disasters and climate risks and to produce safe and nutritious rice.</p> <p>DA's Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) representative Eduardo Alberto said that aside from undertaking research, the BSWM implements projects that address the effects of climate change in agriculture, such as soil conservation, water management, and cloud seeding.</p> <p>Climate Change Commission (CCC) Commissioner Emmanuel de Guzman discussed the CCC's plans and programs towards a sustainable agriculture. He cited the importance of innovative and transformative interventions and initiatives in agriculture, undertaking more research on preserving and protecting biodiversity, and constructing rainwater harvesting facilities in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).</p>
Disaster Management	HR 377	Rep. Torres-Gomez	Inquiry on the utilization of all disbursed funds as well as on the status of the recovery, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of Marawi City	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez (4th District, Leyte), will deliberate further on the issues raised in HRs 377 and 470 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Romeo Momo Sr. (Party-List, CWS), presided over the meeting to allow Rep. Torres-Gomez to sponsor her resolution.</p> <p>Rep. Torres-Gomez, author of HR 377, underscored the need to look into how the funds for the rehabilitation of Marawi City were disbursed to determine whether the much-needed services for the victims of the Marawi siege were efficiently delivered.</p> <p>The armed conflict between the government and armed groups tagged as terrorists affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) started in May 2017 and lasted for several months.</p> <p>Similarly, Rep. Amihilda Sangcopan (Party-List, AMIN), co-author of HR 470, called for the urgent provision of shelter facilities to the people affected by the siege who remain displaced despite the huge funds provided for the recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation of Marawi.</p> <p>Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM) chair, Secretary Eduardo del Rosario, reported that the total budget for the Marawi rehabilitation and reconstruction program is P60 billion. Del Rosario added that for</p>
	HR 470	Deputy Speaker Hataman	Conduct of a study review to determine the present state of Bangon Marawi Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Recovery Program as mandated by Administrative Order No. 03, as amended, creating an inter-agency task force for the recovery, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of the City of Marawi and other affected localities	

Continuation... Disaster Management				<p>2018, a Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) for P6.42 billion was issued out of the year's P10 billion allocation; while for 2019, a SARO for P662.9 million was issued out of the P3.5 billion fund allocation. The program is expected to be completed by December 2021, Del Rosario further said.</p> <p>Several Members expressed dismay at the slow-paced implementation of the Marawi rehabilitation program considering that it has been two years since the Task Force was created in 2017.</p> <p>Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte) inquired about the status of land titling of properties in Marawi. Del Rosario said that the TFBM is coordinating with concerned agencies to ensure that land titles will be issued to the rightful owners.</p> <p>Asked about the reason why the internally displaced people (IDPs) are still not allowed to enter the most affected areas (MAA) in Marawi, Del Rosario said that it is to ensure public safety because the place is not yet totally cleared of debris and mines or explosives, and it is also to prevent infiltration of groups with possible ill motives.</p> <p>The TFBM was requested to submit to the Committee the Comprehensive Recovery and Rehabilitation Program (CRRP) for Marawi and all other reports and documents required by the Members.</p> <p>The Committee required the attendance of the key officials of TFBM in its next meeting to shed light on the issues and concerns of the members of the Committee.</p>
	HBs 3418, 3543 & 3922	Rep. Adiong, Deputy Speaker Hataman, and Rep. Balindong	Providing for monetary compensation for the loss or destruction of residential and commercial properties during the siege in the City of Marawi, Province of Lanao del Sur, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to discuss the bills further.</p> <p>Rep. Dimaporo was designated to head the TWG.</p>
People's Participation	Substitute Bill to HBs 99 & 1974	Rep. Acosta-Alba and Deputy Speaker Villanueva	Institutionalizing industry cluster-based programs and projects through inter-local cooperation and people's participation	<p>The Committee, chaired by San Jose del Monte City Rep. Florida "Rida" Robes, approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 99 and 1974, subject to style.</p> <p>The Secretariat was tasked to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 1643, 2003, 2036, 2856, 3474, 3852, 4967 & 5200	Reps. Vargas, Sy-Alvarado, Nieto, Herrera-Dy, Agabas, and Noel	Encouraging volunteerism during emergencies by protecting volunteers from liability	<p>The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to the eight bills, subject to style.</p> <p>The Secretariat was tasked to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p>
	HB 3475	Rep. Bustos	Declaring December of every year as the National Volunteer Month in the entire country, amending for the purpose RA 9418, otherwise known as the Volunteer Act of 2007	<p>The Committee approved HB 3475 in principle.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to draft the Substitute Bill to HB 3475 for consideration of the Committee in its next meeting.</p>