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# Committee Daily Bulletin

## ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (Special Committee)	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Esmael Mangudadatu (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Maguindanao), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee has jurisdiction "over all matters directly and principally relating to negotiations and other policy and program initiatives in pursuit of the peace process and national reconciliation; the cessation of hostilities generated by internal armed conflicts, and the welfare of rebel-returnees."</p>

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Banks and Financial Intermediaries	HB 6174	Rep. Cua	Further strengthening the Anti-Money Laundering Law, amending for the purpose RA 9160, otherwise known as the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001, as amended	<p>The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Junie Cua, will deliberate further on HB 6174 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Cua, who is also the author of HB 6174, underscored the need to amend and strengthen the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001 to expand the powers of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) and to comply with the requirements of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to avoid being sanctioned.</p> <p>The FATF is an international policy-making body that sets standards and promotes effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing, and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system. (<i>Source: FATF website</i>)</p> <p>AMLC Executive Director Mel George Racela apprised the Committee about the FATF Third Round of Mutual Evaluation (ME) on the Philippines. The FATF identified strategic deficiencies in terms of technical compliance by the Philippines' Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing System with the FATF's requirements which may place the country under the FATF's "grey list."</p> <p>Racela explained that once the country is placed on the grey list, there will be additional restrictions on international banking transactions involving Philippine nationals thereby increasing the cost of doing business; delaying the processing of transactions; and blocking the country's road to an 'A' credit rating.</p> <p>Among the deficiencies identified in the FATF ME report were:</p>

Continuation... Banks and Financial Intermediaries				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Absence of a framework for the implementation of targeted financial sanctions for proliferation financing (FATF defines proliferation financing as the act of providing funds or financial services which are used for the manufacture, acquisition, export, transshipment, transfer, or stockpiling of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, and related materials);</li> <li>• AMLC, as an investigator, does not have ample investigative powers; and</li> <li>• No prohibition of injunction against the freeze and forfeiture power of the AMLC.</li> </ul> <p>Representatives from the Department of Finance, Department of Trade and Industry, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Professional Regulatory Commission, and the Bankers Association of the Philippines manifested their support for the bill.</p> <p>The stakeholders were requested to submit their official position paper on the proposed law.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Deputy Speaker Henry Oaminal (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Misamis Occidental) asked to be enlightened about the newspaper report that several dozen Chinese visitors hand-carried more than \$160 million (P8.19 billion) in cash between December 2019 and February 2020. The Deputy Speaker said that it was likely that the money would be laundered in the Philippines.</p> <p>Racela said that the AMLC was already instructed by Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez to look into this issue.</p> <p>The Committee will conduct a separate inquiry into the matter in another meeting.</p>
Civil Service and Professional Regulation	HBs 1103 & 1443	Reps. Tan (A.) and Campos	Providing for a new Physician's Act, repealing for the purpose RA 2382 or the Medical Act of 1959, as amended	<p>The Committee, chaired by Iligan City Rep. Frederick Siao, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate and fine-tune HBs 1103 and 1443.</p> <p>Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4<sup>th</sup> District, Quezon) was designated as head of the TWG.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Siao recalled that similar bills were filed in previous Congresses but did not progress into becoming a law.</p> <p>Rep. Tan, author of HB 1103, said that dramatic advances in science and technology have revolutionized the diagnosis, management, and treatment of diseases. She said the rapid growth of modern medicine compels the need to upgrade and update the curriculum of the study and practice of medicine. Hence, the need to amend RA 2382 to cope with the demands of the changing times.</p> <p>The Philippine Medical Association (PMA) President, Dr. Jose Santiago Jr., expressed</p>

Continuation... Civil Service and Professional Regulation				support for the proposed law, saying that it is necessary to update the present educational curriculum to cover developments in the field of medicine.
Government Enterprises and Privatization	House Joint Resolutions (HJR) 1, 2 & 6	Reps. Zarate, Albano, and Go (M.)	Urging the Social Security System (SSS) to release the 2 <sup>nd</sup> tranche of increase in the monthly pension of members not later than January 1, 2020	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Eric Olivarez (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Parañaque City), adopted HJR 1, 2 and 6 subject to the submission of position paper from the SSS.  The Secretariat was directed to come up with a substitute resolution for the three house joint resolutions.
	HB 83	Rep. Garbin	Increasing the minimum monthly pension of private sector pensioners by amending Section 12 of RA 11199, otherwise known as the Social Security Act of 2018	The Committee will deliberate further on the three bills in its next meeting.  Rep. Antonio "Tonypet" Albano (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Isabela), sponsored the three bills in behalf of the authors, and manifested that the explanatory notes attached to the bills be considered as the authors' sponsorship speeches.
	HB 1551	Rep. Garbin	Mandating a P2,000 across-the-board increase in the monthly pension of SSS member-pensioners and rationalizing the powers, duties and accountabilities of the Social Security Commission (SSC), further amending for the purpose RA 1161, as amended by RA 8282, otherwise known as the Social Security Act of 1997	
	HB 2393	Rep. Velasco	Increasing the pensions under the SSS, amending for the purpose Section 12 of RA 1161, as amended	
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Natural Resources	HB 4487	Rep. Chungalao	Creating and establishing an Ifugao Rice Terraces Commission for the restoration, preservation, and maintenance of the Ifugao Rice Terraces, the only living social and cultural heritage inscribed in the World Heritage List in 1995 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and appropriating funds therefor	The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Mario Vittorio "Marvey" Mariño (5 <sup>th</sup> District, Batangas), Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Kalinga Rep. Allen Jesse Mangaoang, Vice Chair of the Committee on Natural Resources, approved HB 4487 subject to style and amendment. Thereafter, the Committee Report was also approved.  The bill will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for review of its funding provision.  Ifugao Rep. Solomon Chungalao, author of HB 4487, said that with the continuing deterioration of the Ifugao Rice Terraces, the proposed Commission is mandated to formulate a 10-year master plan for the restoration, preservation, maintenance and development of the terraces. The Commission shall likewise call upon the assistance of the local government units (LGUs) and other government agencies for the proper execution and implementation of its plans and programs for the Ifugao Rice Terraces.  Ifugao Governor Jerry Dalipog spoke of the four components essential to the restoration and preservation of the terraces: restoration of the physical structure of the rice terraces; reforestation of the watershed; establishment of an irrigation system; and appropriate linkage to the culture of the Ifugao people. He also emphasized that sufficient funding is necessary in order for all these to take place.

Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ Natural Resources				<p>Rep. Alfel Bascug (1<sup>st</sup> District, Agusan del Sur) suggested involving agencies such as the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, National Historical Commission of the Philippines, and the National Museum of the Philippines to assist the Commission in the proper monitoring and implementation of its programs.</p> <p>The LGU of Ifugao, Department of Tourism, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Department of Public Works and Highways, and UNESCO Philippines expressed their support for the bill.</p>
Labor and Employment	HB 309	Rep. Salceda	Instituting a 35-hour working week scheme as an alternative work arrangement for employees in the private sector	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN), approved HB 309.</p> <p>HB 309 provides that an employer in the private sector may, upon request of its employees or on a voluntary basis, implement a 35-hour working week arrangement for its employees upon such terms and conditions agreed upon by the two parties.</p> <p>Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Albay), author of HB 309, informed the body that the proposed law was a joint effort of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) and the government-owned and controlled corporation (GOCC) sector.</p> <p>He also emphasized that reducing the maximum weekly work hours (from 40 to 35 per week) will not reduce labor standards but will actually boost worker productivity or output. He cited some productive economies - Belgium, Netherlands, and Germany - that have successfully adopted the reduced work hours.</p> <p>Rep. Salceda also assured that workers who will adopt this scheme will still be entitled to overtime pay on work rendered beyond eight hours per day.</p> <p>Reps. Pineda, France Castro (Party-List, ACT-TEACHERS), and Ferdinand Gaite (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA) lauded the intent of the bill and expressed support for its passage.</p>
	HB 1670	Deputy Speaker Villafuerte	Amending Article 83 of PD 442, otherwise known as the Labor Code of the Philippines, as amended (by removing the limit of normal work hours to a more flexible work duration)	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the three bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, author of HB 1904, said that a bill with similar subject matter was approved on Third Reading by the House of Representatives during the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress.</p>
	HB 1904	Rep. Go (M.)	Increasing the normal work hours per day under a compressed work week scheme, amending Articles 83, 87 and 91 of PD 442, as amended	<p>Rep. Raymond Democrito Mendoza (Party-List, TUCP) said that whatever work arrangement will be established, the bill should always guarantee the rights of workers in accordance with labor laws, including their right to overtime pay for work performed beyond eight hours per day.</p>
	HB 5471	Deputy Speaker Villanueva	Allowing the adoption of alternative work arrangements, amending for the purpose PD 442, as amended	

Continuation... Labor and Employment				<p>Resource persons from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and its attached agencies, the National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC), and the Board of Investments expressed their support for the bills.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills.</p>
National Defense and Security	HBs 2251, 3975, 6025 & 6077	Rep. Cabochan, Deputy Speakers Villafuerte and Villanueva, and Rep. Tupas	Strengthening the employment rights for members of the Citizen Armed Forces or the Reserve Force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Raul "Boboy" Tupas (5<sup>th</sup> District, Iloilo), approved HB 6077, in consolidation with HBs 2251, 3975, and 6025. Thereafter, the Committee Report was also approved.</p> <p>Rep. Manuel Cabochan III (Party-List, MAGDALO), author of HB 2251, and Iligan City Rep. Frederick Siao, in behalf of the author of HB 3975, Deputy Speaker Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Camarines Sur), presented the merits of the bills.</p> <p>All four bills seek to protect the reservists from any form of discrimination resulting from rendering military service by ensuring their reinstatement to their civilian careers, back to their original or equivalent position, without loss of seniority rights and diminution of pay. Likewise, the period of military service by reservists shall not be considered as a break in their civilian employment for retirement benefit purposes. Furthermore, the bills provide that reservists who sustained injuries during their military service shall still be allowed to return to their civilian jobs so long as their essential function can still be performed despite the injury.</p> <p>Rep. Tupas informed the Committee that a similar bill was discussed thoroughly in the previous Congress and was approved on Second Reading.</p> <p>On the Social Security System (SSS) contributions of reservists coming from the private sector who are called to duty, Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso III (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Leyte) recommended that the government must pay for these contributions.</p> <p>AFP Chief of Staff Felimon Santos Jr. expressed his support for the bill and said that the suggestion of Rep. Veloso will be duly considered in the preparation of the AFP's proposed budget for 2021.</p> <p>Also expressing their support for the bills were the following agencies: Department of National Defense, Department of Labor and Employment, Civil Service Commission, UP Vanguard, and the Coalition for Security Towards Peace.</p>
	HB 206	Rep. Garcia (J.E.)	Providing for the development of a national defense industry through the strengthening and revitalizing of the Self-	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate and deliberate further on the bills.

Continuation... National Defense and Security			Reliant Defense Posture (SRDP) Program, incentivizing in-country enterprises, rationalizing defense acquisition, and creating the Office of the Undersecretary for Defense Technology Research and Industry Development under the Department of National Defense (DND), and providing funds therefor	Rep. Cabochan was designated as TWG Chair.  According to Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Bataan), author of HB 206, his bill seeks to introduce policy reforms that will strengthen the DND's capabilities and to provide incentives to the private sector to encourage them to invest in the defense industry.
	HB 2246	Rep. Cabochan	Establishing a Philippine SRDP, repealing for the purpose PD 415 or the law authorizing the Secretary of National Defense to enter into defense contracts to implement projects under the SRDPs	Rep. Cabochan, author of HB 2246, said that under his proposed measure, Presidential Decree No. 415 shall be repealed and reinstituted as a Republic Act. The DND Secretary shall also be responsible for formulating and adopting a National SRDP Roadmap, and the Defense Research and Development Agency shall be established as the primary defense research and development arm of the DND.  DND Assistant Secretary for Logistics and Acquisition Jesus Rey Avilla expressed support for the bills, citing the importance of being a self-reliant sovereign state in terms of defense and security.  The DND recommended that it be given exemptions in some of the provisions of the government procurement law especially in the bidding and procurement of military equipment.  Other issues that were tackled pertain to the funding, tax, and incentives provisions of the proposed law.  The Department of Trade and Industry, Philippine Institute for Development Studies, Ateneo School of Government, UP Vanguard, Coalition for Security Towards Peace, United Defense Manufacturing Corporation, and Armscor Global Defense Inc. expressed their support for the bills.  The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills.
Tourism	HBs 1341, 1772, 2095-2098, 2292-2296, 2371-2373, 2420 & 2651	Reps. Go (M.), Olivarez, Espino, Dimaporo (M.K.), Deloso-Montalla, Abueg-Zaldivar, and Bernos	Declaring parks, shrines, falls, caves, lakes, or mountains in certain parts of the country as ecotourism zones, tourist destinations or heritage parks	The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair, Rep. Edgar Chatto (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Bohol), approved the 16 bills.
	HBs 1944, 1989, 2105, 2284, 2680, 3648, 3917, 3918, 4080 & 4200	Reps. Fortun, Siao, Aumentado, Dimaporo (M.K.), Enverga, Cagas, De Venecia, and Deputy Speaker Savellano	Declaring provinces, cities, municipalities, or barangays in certain parts of the country as tourism zones/destinations	The Committee approved the 10 bills.

Continuation... Tourism	HB 2696	Rep. Panotes	Declaring the Province of Camarines Norte as the surfing capital of the Bicol Region	The Committee approved HB 2696.
	HB 2792	Rep. Rodriguez	Declaring the Dao Tree located within a pocket secondary forest in the Integrated Forest Management Agreement (IFMA) area of the E. Pelaez Ranch in Bayombong, Barangay Cugman, Cagayan de Oro City as the Cagayan de Oro Heritage Tree and a tourist attraction	The Committee approved HB 2792.
	HB 3974	Deputy Speaker Villafuerte	Declaring the Province of Camarines Sur as the wakeboarding capital of the Philippines	The Committee approved HB 3974.
Veterans Affairs and Welfare	HB 1671	Deputy Speaker Villafuerte	Providing for a P3,000 increase across the board in the monthly pension of war veterans and their dependents, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Geraldine Roman (1<sup>st</sup> District, Bataan), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune HB 1671.</p> <p>Catanduanes Rep. Hector Sanchez was designated as head of the TWG.</p> <p>Rep. Roman said that HB 1671 seeks to increase by P3,000 the pension of war veterans and their dependents and provide the rule of succession on the pension of the beneficiaries wherein the spouse or the eldest legitimate child shall be allowed to receive the pension upon the death of the war veteran.</p> <p>Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) Administrator Ernesto Carolina said that the monthly pension of senior veterans of World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars has already been increased to P20,000 by virtue of RA 11164 which was signed into law in 2018.</p> <p>Carolina said that another increase would entail a huge budget amounting to P5.03 billion and P5.2 billion for years 2021 and 2022, respectively.</p> <p>Department of Budget and Management's Bureau D Assistant Director Beverly Galmesa said that the source of funds for such increase in pension should be identified. She also requested PVAO to submit accurate information on the profile of the spouses or widows of the senior war veterans to come up with proper budget estimates.</p>
Youth and Sports Development	HRs 701, 708 & 740	Reps. Tiangco, Martinez, and Olivarez	Congratulating and commending Alexandra M. Eala for winning in the 2020 Australian Open-Junior Girl Doubles	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Eric Martinez (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Valenzuela City), directed the Secretariat to prepare a substitute resolution.
	HBs 1226 & 5281	Reps. Pineda and Barba	Redefining the crime of game fixing and prescribing stiffer penalties therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to refer the bills to the Subcommittee on Oversight chaired by Rep. Jericho Jonas Nograles (Party-List, PBA) to study the bills further.</p> <p>A bill with similar subject matter was approved on Third Reading in the previous Congress.</p>

Continuation... Youth and Sports Development				<p>Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN), author of HB 1226, said that his bill seeks to expand the elements and acts constituting the crime of game fixing and prescribe stiffer penalties, while promoting a fair and competitive conduct of sports in the country.</p> <p>Navotas City Rep. John Reynald Tiangco, who sponsored HB 5281 in behalf of the author, manifested that the explanatory note attached to the bill be considered as the author's sponsorship speech.</p> <p>Department of Justice (DOJ) State Counsel Charles Cambaliza interposed no objection to the proposed law. However, he recommended that the last paragraph of Section 3 of both bills should have a legal justification as to why the receipt of money shall constitute a prima facie evidence of game-fixing. The pertinent provision in Section 3 merely states that "The payment or receipt of money or valuable consideration shall constitute a prima facie evidence of game-fixing."</p> <p>Others who manifested their support for the bills were Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) Commissioner Celia Kiram, Games and Amusements Board (GAB) Boxing Chief Discoro Bautista, National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Legal Counsel Atty. Joseph Noel Estrada, University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) Legal Counsel Rene Andrei Saguisag, Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) Legal Counsel Melvin Mendoza, Maharlika Pilipinas Basketball League (MPBL) Commissioner Kenneth Duremdes, and Fencing Confederation Association President Celso Dayrit. They were requested to submit to the Committee their respective position papers.</p>
	HB 4594	Rep. Torres-Gomez	Institutionalizing a comprehensive national grassroots sports development program centered in the Philippine national games (PNG)	<p>The Committee agreed to refer HB 4594 to the Subcommittee on Sports, chaired by Sarangani Rep. Rogelio Pacquiao, to study the bill further.</p> <p>Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez (4<sup>th</sup> District, Leyte), author of HB 4594, said that the proposed PNG is not limited to in-school or student athletes in primary and secondary schools but also includes college and university students, out-of-school youths, graduates, and professionals. The program encourages the participation of local government units in the promotion of sports in the countryside.</p> <p>Commenting on the appropriations provision of the bill, PSC Commissioner Arnold Agustin said that the proposed P50 million funding for the implementation of the program, which includes meal and transportation allowances, among others, may not be enough. Agustin explained that based on the last national games, the PSC allocated P50 million for the preparations, organization, and procurement of competition equipment, but does not include the cost of transportation and meal allowances of the athletes.</p>



Continuation... Youth and Sports Development				Asked on the budget for the <i>Palarong Pambansa</i> , Department of Education (DepEd) Director Rizalino Jose Rosales said that it was allocated with a budget of P400 million.
	HR 388	Deputy Speaker Romero	Prohibiting all collegiate leagues from recruiting, acquiring and using non-Filipino citizens and foreign imports as players, in effect stopping the growth and development of "homegrown Filipino players" and shortchanging the development of various sports programs in the Philippines	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HR 388 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Women's National Collegiate Athletic Association (WNCAA) President Yolanda Co suggested the exclusion of foreign players who have dual citizenship and who are enrolled in a Philippine school from the scope of the proposed law.</p> <p>On the part of the NCAA, Estrada said that it already disallowed the recruitment of foreign players to play in the NCAA games for several years now.</p> <p>On the part of the UAAP, Saguisag objects to the prohibition arguing that the schools are allowed to recruit foreign players in order to stay in the competition.</p>
	HR 679	Rep. Chatto	Congratulating and commending the athletes from the Province of Bohol who won and participated in the 2019 30 <sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian (SEA) Games held in the Philippines	The Committee adopted HR 679.
	HR 680	Rep. Chatto	Congratulating and commending the Speaker of the House of Representatives and Chairperson of the Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee (PHISGOC), Honorable Alan Peter S. Cayetano, and the President of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC), Honorable Abraham "Bambol" N. Tolentino for their exemplary leadership in the successful hosting of the 30 <sup>th</sup> SEA Games	The Committee adopted HR 680.
	HR 690	Rep. Romualdez	Congratulating and commending Dexter Bolambao for winning the Philippines' first gold medal in Arnis at the 30 <sup>th</sup> SEA Games	The Committee adopted HR 690.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Cooperatives Development (Technical Working Group)	HR 524	Rep. Geron	Inquiry into the provisions and implementation of the Joint Administrative Order No. 1-2019 (JAO 1-2019) and its implication to the memorandum circulars issued by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the memoranda issued by the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) to cooperatives for its compliance with RA 9520 otherwise known as the Cooperative Code of 2008	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Sabiniano Canama (Party-List, COOP-NATCCO), will continue its inquiry relative to the issues raised in HR 524.</p> <p>The CDA and all the cooperatives present in the meeting were requested to submit their position papers on Section 1, Rule IV (Non-compliance with Filing Reportorial Requirements) of JAO 1-2019, which imposes a range of penalties for failure of a registered cooperative to comply with reportorial requirements.</p>

Continuation... Cooperatives Development (Technical Working Group)				Similarly, the Department of Finance and the BIR were also asked to submit their respective position papers on the same provision in the JAO, taking into account the complaints from the cooperatives.
Land Use (Technical Working Group)	HBs 105, 158, 564, 2323, 2550, 2715, 2833, 3062, 3244, 3556, 4347, 4398, 5255 & 5534	Reps. Fortun, Belmonte, Abellanos, Torres-Gomez, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Garcia, Rodriguez, Nograles (J.J.), Salceda, Chipeco, Tambunting, Abaya, Quimbo, and Deputy Speaker Gonzales (A.)	Instituting a National Land Use and Management Policy, providing the implementing mechanism and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Teodorico Haresco Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Aklan), acknowledged that a bill with similar subject matter was approved on Third Reading by the House of Representatives during the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress. Based on Sec. 48 of the House Rules, priority bills passed on Third Reading in the immediately preceding Congress may already be disposed of as matters already reported, upon approval by the Committee.</p> <p>It was mentioned during the meeting that HB 105, authored by Rep. Lawrence "Law" Fortun (1<sup>st</sup> District, Agusan del Norte), is a refiled version of HB 5240 which was the bill approved on Third Reading during the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress.</p>
	HBs 706 & 2367	Reps. Biazon and Deloso-Montalla	Instituting a national land use policy, providing the implementing mechanisms therefor	
	HB 2892	Rep. Ramirez-Sato	Instituting the national land, water, and air use policy of the Republic of the Philippines, providing the implementing mechanisms therefor	
	HB 3297	Deputy Speaker Romero	Providing for a national land use and development program, providing funds therefor	
Population and Family Relations (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 100, 838 & 2263	Reps. Lagman, Brosas, and Alvarez (P.)	Reinstituting absolute divorce as an alternative mode for the dissolution of marriage	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Edcel Lagman (1<sup>st</sup> District, Albay), terminated its deliberation on the Substitute Bill to HBs 100, 838 and 2263.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to incorporate in the final version of the substitute bill the recommendations of the resource persons. The substitute bill will be presented to the mother Committee for consideration and approval in its next meeting.</p>
Public Works and Highways (Technical Working Group)	HBs 175, 238, 825, 923, 4008 & 5605	Reps. Tan (A.), Vargas, Deputy Speaker Gonzales (A.), Rep. Fernando, Deputy Speaker Romero, and Rep. Momo	Regulating the planning, design, construction, occupancy, and maintenance of buildings, enacting a New Building Act, repealing PD 1096 or the law adopting a National Building Code of the Philippines (NBCP) thereby revising RA 6541	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Romeo Momo Sr. (Party-List, CWS), will deliberate further on the 12 measures in its next meeting, agreeing to use HB 5605 as its point of reference.</p> <p>Department of Trade and Industry-Bureau of Philippine Standards (DTI-BPS) Director Neil Catajay informed the TWG that there are several terms defined in the bill which are already defined in the Philippine National Standards (PNS) catalogue. He asked the TWG to consider harmonizing these with the PNS.</p> <p>Committee Members and resource persons disagreed on the provision in the bill which requires the inspection and assessment by an</p>
	HB 364	Rep. Yap (V.)	Providing for the telecommunications technology readiness of buildings and structures, amending certain sections of PD 1096, otherwise known as the National Building Code	
	HB 1650	Rep. Cabochan	Expediting and streamlining the application process for securing building permits and certificates of occupancy,	

Continuation... Public Works and Highways (Technical Working Group)			amending for the purpose certain provisions of RA 6541, otherwise known as the National Building Code of the Philippines	<p>accredited certifier as to the structural stability and fire safety of buildings, to be commissioned by the building owner 15 years from the date of completion of the building and every 15 years thereafter.</p> <p>Rep. Bayani Fernando (1<sup>st</sup> District, Marikina City) said that it should be the building official, instead of an accredited certifier, who should conduct the mandatory inspection and assessment of buildings. Rep. Fernando also said that the building officials should be held liable if the buildings they certified turned out to have not met the standards.</p> <p>The National Building Code provides that a building official shall be responsible in carrying out the provisions of the Code as well as the enforcement of orders and decisions made pursuant thereto, and shall have the duty of issuing building permits.</p> <p>Quezon City government's OIC-City Building Official Mark Perral said that building officials cannot be held liable for whatever happens to the building 15 years after the issuance of permit for as long as they have complied with existing laws at the time the permit was issued.</p> <p>University of the Philippines (UP)-Institute of Civil Engineering Professor Benito Pacheco informed the TWG that it is now a common practice in other countries that the mandatory inspection and assessment of buildings are done by accredited certifiers.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their recommendations and position papers on the proposed law.</p>
	HB 1891	Rep. Vargas	Strengthening PD 1096, as amended, by mandating a comprehensive nationwide inspection of buildings and imposing stiff penalties against building officials who violate the pertinent provisions of the said Code	
	HB 723	Rep. Torres-Gomez	Promoting the safety of residents, tenants and guests, especially children, in buildings, whether public or private, with two or more floors, through the installation of protective devices or structures to prevent accidental falling or suicide	
	HR 32	Rep. Pineda	Inquiry into the compliance with the guidelines and implementing rules on earthquake recording instrumentation for buildings as provided for by PD 1096	
	HR 132	Rep. Vargas	Conducting an accessibility audit of all public buildings and infrastructures to address the needs and requirements of persons with disability (PWDs) pursuant to Batas Pambansa Bilang 344	
Trade and Industry jt. w/ Health (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 40, 500, 1508, 1510, 1703, 2277, 2862, 2929, 3049, 3083, 4816, 5072, 5099, 5310, 5510, 5561, 5630, 5702, 5752 & 5873	Reps. Biazon, Barbers, Garbin, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Garcia (J.E.), Salo, Castelo, Tan (A.), Olivarez, Singson-Meehan, Roman, Garin (S.), Herrera-Dy, Alonte, Minority Leader Abante, Reps. Rodriguez, Deloso-Montalla, and Bagatsing	Regulating the manufacture, importation, packaging, use, sale, distribution, and advertisement of electronic nicotine delivery systems and electronic non-nicotine delivery systems (ENDS/ENNDS) and heated tobacco products (HTPs)	<p>The joint technical working group (TWG), co-chaired by Rep. Wes Gatchalian (1<sup>st</sup> District, Valenzuela City), for the Committee on Trade and Industry, and Batanes Rep. Ciriaco Gato Jr., for the Committee on Health, will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>During the meeting, the TWG members discussed lengthily Section 8 (Online Trade) of the draft bill, which prohibits online selling of ENDS/ENNDS or HTPs to minors.</p> <p>The PMFTC, Inc., the joint-venture company of Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing, Inc. and Fortune Tobacco Corporation, suggested that online buyers be required to show their government-issued ID, with the date of birth written on it, both upon ordering and upon receipt of the products. This will ensure that no minors are able to buy ENDS/ENNDS and HTPs online.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, however, suggested the deletion of Section 8. He said the best way to prevent the sale of tobacco products to minors is to not make them available online.</p>

Continuation... Trade and Industry jt. w/ Health (Technical Working Group)				<p>Likewise, HealthJustice Philippines' legal consultant, Atty. Benedict Nisperos, recommended a total ban of selling ENDS/ENNDS and HTPs online.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP), Rep. Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN), and Rep. Robert Ace Barbers (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Surigao del Norte) disagreed with the suggestion to delete Section 8. They said that it is illogical to prohibit the purchase of ENDS/ENNDS or HTPs online when these can be purchased in the actual market by those who are eligible to do so, and it may just result in the illegal trade of these products.</p> <p>Rep. Jericho Jonas Nograles (Party-List, PBA) said that what is being debated on is actually a part of the process of implementation that should be better left to the agency that will be tasked to enforce the proposed law under consideration by the joint body.</p> <p>After voting on the matter, the TWG agreed to retain Section 8.</p> <p>Another issue discussed by the TWG was the seeming inconsistency between the title and content of Executive Order 106 series of 2020.</p> <p>House Members present in the meeting noted that while the title of EO 106 speaks of "prohibiting the manufacture, distribution, marketing and sale of unregistered and/or adulterated ENDS/ENNDS, HTPs, and other novel tobacco products," its content speaks of only regulating these products.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Marcoleta said that the inconsistency can be rectified upon the enactment of this proposed law.</p> <p>The TWG also agreed on the following, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designate a separate vaping area in public and private places or establishments;</li> <li>• Identify the flavors to be included in the product standard requirements for ENDS/ENNDS; and</li> <li>• Delete Section 18 (Role of the Local Government Units) of the bill.</li> </ul>
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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Veterans Affairs and Welfare	Briefing by the Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP) on the operations and management of the 50-hectare VFP Industrial Center in Taguig City	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Geraldine Roman (1<sup>st</sup> District, Bataan), listened to the briefing conducted by the VFP regarding the operations and management of the VFP industrial center in Taguig City.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Roman said that the briefing was conducted in relation to HBs 702, 1921, and 5841 which mandate the use of</p>

Continuation... Veterans Affairs and Welfare		<p>proceeds from the development, lease or use of certain government properties for payment of pensions and other benefits of the veterans.</p> <p>In the Committee's previous meeting, the VFP expressed opposition to the inclusion of the Taguig Industrial Estate as one of the sources of funds for the payment of pensions and other benefits of the veterans because it would deprive the VFP of its only source of funds for its operations.</p> <p>VFP President Raul Urgello presented to the Committee the VFP's mission and vision, while VFP Veterans Center General Manager Diosdado Domingo presented the VFP's annual financial report, operational highlights, and the development plan.</p> <p>The VFP officials said that 93% of their revenues come from the VFP Industrial Center. Likewise, they reported that in the last two years, VFP recorded a significant increase in its income which could be attributed to the proper financial management of the new VFP administration. The VFP invests its savings in government securities, they added.</p> <p>The Committee requested the VFP to submit the reports presented and all other documents and data required by the Members. The documents will be used as reference by the technical working group created to draft a substitute bill to HBs 702, 1921, and 5841.</p>
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DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (Special Committee)	<p>Discussion with the following agencies/groups on the alleged profiling of Muslim students in high schools, colleges, and universities in Manila being conducted by the police</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Philippine National Police (PNP)</li> </ul>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Esmarel Mangudadatu (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Maguindanao), discussed with concerned government agencies and non-government organizations the circumstances surrounding the alleged profiling of Muslim students in high schools, colleges, and universities in Manila being conducted by the police.</p> <p>The Manila Police District (MPD) Director, Police Brigadier General Bernabe Balba, explained that the MPD issued a memorandum dated January 31, 2020 directing station commanders to submit an updated list of Muslim students in secondary and tertiary levels in Manila to be used by the Saalam Police Center in planning and preparing a series of seminars and information campaign for Muslims, and in promoting cultural sensitivity and ensuring the safety and security of the students.</p> <p>The Saalam Police Center is a police unit created to keep a healthy relationship with the Muslim community, overseeing police matters concerning Muslim communities, including the handling of cases involving alleged harassment and discrimination against Muslim Filipinos.</p> <p>In the MPD memorandum, it was stated that the list of Muslim students will be used as "reference in the series of activities in Metro Manila as part of the strengthening of peacebuilding and counter violent extremism (campaign) of the PNP."</p> <p>According to Balba, the MPD failed to reflect its true intention in the memorandum, which created a misunderstanding that triggered alarm and concern among Muslim students. For this reason, Balba apologized for the miscommunication.</p> <p>Likewise, NCRPO Regional Director Debold Sinas said that he has issued an official statement explaining the true intent of the memorandum and directed the MPD to recall the document. He went</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (Special Committee)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF)</li> <li>• Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)</li> <li>• Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID)</li> <li>• Movement for Young Peacebuilders in Mindanao</li> </ul>	<p>on to say that he will meet with students and community leaders to allay their fears.</p> <p>Rep. Jose Christopher Belmonte (6<sup>th</sup> District, Quezon City) said that the MPD officers should be careful with the language that they use so as not to create undue fear among the people. Legitimate intentions should be clearly and accurately written or expressed, he added.</p> <p>Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA) stressed that the MPD memorandum caused a chilling effect on the Muslim youth and made them vulnerable to harassment and attacks.</p> <p>NCMF Bureau on Peace and Conflict Restoration Chief Cosanie Derogongan disclosed that according to the Salaam Police Center, it is actually just asking the MPD for the number of Muslim students in its area of jurisdiction for the purpose of determining the number of participants in its upcoming programs on preventing and countering violent extremism.</p> <p>Derogongan asserted that the PNP should never allow its personnel to be perpetrators of discriminatory acts and should remain true to its mandate which is to “serve and protect” the people.</p> <p>On the other hand, OPAPP Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. reported that OPAPP is implementing programs especially designed for the Muslim youth. These programs recognize the threat to stability and development posed by the rise of violent extremism among the youth.</p> <p>Likewise, the OPAPP provides interventions particularly for the youth which are all geared towards enabling them to contribute to the attainment of peace in Mindanao.</p> <p>PCID Program Director Salma Razon condemned the action of the MPD, describing it as discriminatory and culturally insensitive. She said that if the MPD only wants to get data pertaining to the Muslim students they should check the same from the Department of Education for secondary level, and from the Commission on Higher for tertiary level.</p> <p>PCID is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to the study of Islamic and democratic political thought and the search for peace, democracy, and development in Muslim communities. (<i>Source: PCID website</i>)</p> <p>Movement for Young Peacebuilders in Mindanao representative Rodolfo Matucan Jr. lamented that the MPD memorandum singled out the Muslim youth as potential sources of criminal acts and extremist violence. He likewise said that the directive violates people's right to privacy. He stressed that consent of an individual should first be secured by the MPD before getting such information.</p>
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