



Committee Daily Bulletin

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS

| COMMITTEE | SUBJECT MATTER | DISCUSSIONS |
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| Banks and Financial Intermediaries | Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure | <p>The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Junie Cua, 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 banking and currency, government-owned or controlled banks and financial institutions, non-government banks and financial institutions, insurance, securities and securities exchange."</p> <p>Rep. Cua reported on the Committee's accomplishments for the 17th Congress which include the passage of the following national laws:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RA 11439 – Regulation and organization of Islamic Banks; • RA 11211 – The New Central Bank Act; • RA 11127 – Regulation and supervision of payment systems; • RA 11057 – Strengthening the secured transactions legal framework in the Philippines; and • RA 1092 – Designating casinos as covered persons under the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001, as amended. |
| Human Rights | Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure | <p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jesus "Bong" Suntay (4th District, Quezon City), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18th Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Rep. Suntay said that among the priority legislative agenda of the Committee are the following: Human Rights Defenders Act; Right to Adequate Food Framework; Right to Prohibiting Racial, Ethnic and Religious Discrimination; Protection of the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons; and the establishment of a National Committee for the Prevention of Torture and the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT). The Committee will also push for laws amending RA 9745 or the Anti-Torture Act of 2009 and the CHR charter.</p> <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee has jurisdiction over "all matters directly and principally relating to the protection and enhancement of human rights, assistance to victims of human rights violations and their families, the prevention of violations of human rights and the punishment of perpetrators of such violations."</p> |
| Labor and Employment | Organizational meeting, adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure, and creation of subcommittees | <p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18th Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Likewise, the Committee created six subcommittees and designated their respective chairpersons, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor Standards – Rep. Raymond Democrito Mendoza (Party-List, TUCP); • Labor Relations – Rep. Michael Edgar Aglipay (Party-List, DIWA); • Workers with Special Concerns – Rep. Maria Fe Abunda (Eastern Samar); • Human Resource Development – Rep. Ma. Theresa Collantes (3rd District, Batangas); |

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| Continuation... Labor and Employment | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment – Rep. Henry Villarica (4th District, Bulacan); and • Oversight – Rep. Mark Go (Baguio City). <p>Rep. Pineda said that the Committee will craft laws aimed at improving the quality of life of the 43 million Filipinos who comprise the country's workforce. He mentioned that the passage of the Security of Tenure Bill will be given priority as requested by House Speaker Alan Peter "Compañero" Cayetano (1st District, Taguig City-Pateros).</p> <p>The Committee will also look into the alleged illegal hiring of Chinese nationals as workers of the Philippine offshore gaming operations (POGOs) and the reports that these Chinese are working in the country without work permits.</p> <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee has jurisdiction over "matters directly and principally relating to labor, the advancement and protection of the rights and welfare of workers, employment and manpower development inclusive of the promotion of industrial peace and employer-employee cooperation, labor education, labor standards and statistics, and the organization and development of the labor market including the recruitment, training, and placement of manpower."</p> |
| Suffrage and Electoral Reforms | Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure | <p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Juliet Marie Ferrer (4th District, Negros Occidental), 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 protection and advancement of the right of suffrage and the conduct of elections, plebiscites, initiatives, recalls and referenda."</p> |

| COMMITTEE MEETINGS | | | | |
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| COMMITTEE | MEASURES | | SUBJECT MATTER | ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION |
| | NO. | PRINCIPAL AUTHOR | | |
| Basic Education and Culture jt. w/ Youth and Sports Development | HBs 303, 545, 4013, 4128 & 4492 | Reps. Yap (V.), Enverga, Villarica, Tan (A.S.), and Velasco | Establishing a Philippine High School for Sports (PHSS) and appropriating funds therefor | <p>The Joint Committee, co-presided by Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo, Chair of the Committee on Basic Education and Culture, and Rep. Eric Martinez (2nd District, Valenzuela City), Chair of the Committee on Youth and Sports Development, agreed to draft a substitute bill to the 13 bills, incorporating therein pertinent recommendations of the resource persons.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Martinez said that the establishment of a National Academy of Sports for High School (NASHS) is one of the priority legislative measures of President Rodrigo Duterte which he mentioned in his 2019 State of the Nation Address (SONA).</p> <p>The bills' authors believe that the passage of the proposed law will provide bigger opportunities for young Filipino athletes to develop their skills and talents and become world-class athletes in the future.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Roberto Puno (1st District, Antipolo City), author of HB 2875, added that his</p> |
| | HBs 2545, 2867, 2875, 3277 & 4344 | Deputy Speakers Villafuerte, Romero, and Puno, Reps. Romualdez (Y.) and Tambunting | Creating and establishing the National Academy of Sports, providing funds therefor | |
| | HB 4084 | Rep. Torres-Gomez | Creating the National Academy of Sports for High School (NASHS) students in the City of Ormoc, Province of Leyte and appropriating funds therefor | |
| | HB 4248 | Rep. Garcia (J.E.) | Creating a high school for sports in the City of Balanga, Province of Bataan to be known as the Bataan High School for Sports, appropriating funds therefor | |

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| Continuation... Basic Education and Culture jt. w/ Youth and Sports Development | HB 4249 | | Establishing at least one high school for sports in every region and appropriating funds therefor | <p>bill has a counterpart bill in the Senate and thus requested the Joint Committee for its immediate approval.</p> <p>Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, author of HB 4492, proposed that at least one PHSS campus be established in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. On the other hand, Rep. Romulo favored the establishment of a national high school for sports in New Clark City, Capas, Tarlac, where several world-class facilities have already been built and are still being built in line with the holding of the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games later this year.</p> <p>Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) Project Manager Arrey Perez said that the BCDA will be able to set aside about three to four hectares of land in New Clark City for the proposed sports academy.</p> <p>Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) Chair William Ramirez, meanwhile, said regional sports training centers may also be constructed to accommodate children whose parents may not allow them to stay or travel far.</p> <p>On suggestions that funding for the establishment of sports academies will be sourced from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), both PCSO legislative liaison officer Gay Nadine Alvor and PAGCOR legal counsel Mae Lyn Almonte said they can no longer accommodate such funding allocations citing their numerous financial commitments under existing laws. Alvor added that the PCSO is now focused on channeling funds to priority health and medical programs under RA 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act.</p> |
| Games and Amusements | HBs 1524 & 3867 | Reps. Garbin and Bernos | Strengthening the Games and Amusements Board (GAB) | <p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Eric Go Yap (Party-List, ACT-CIS), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to harmonize the conflicting provisions of the bills.</p> <p>Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. (4th District, Cavite) was designated to head the TWG.</p> <p>All the authors of the bills agreed that PD 449, or the Cockfighting Law of 1974, is an antiquated law that should be amended.</p> <p>Rep. Manuel "Way Kurat" Zamora (1st District, Compostela Valley), author of HB 1570, said that strengthening the role of GAB will help the agency to effectively and efficiently regulate cockfighting including the online <i>sabong</i> betting sites.</p> <p>GAB Legal Division head Ermar Benitez expressed support for the bills. Benitez said that it is about time that the GAB be granted expanded powers and functions to allow it to better enforce laws on cockfighting.</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, as amended | |
| | HBs 2625 & 4588 | Rep. Lagon and Teves (A.) | Regulating cockfighting in the Philippines | |
| | HB 4246 | Deputy Speaker Garcia | Further amending PD 449, as amended, and PD 1802-A or the law creating the Philippine Gamefowl Commission, in order to rationalize and strengthen the regulation of cockfighting by local government units | |

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| Continuation... Games and Amusements | | | | <p>Department of Justice (DOJ) State Prosecutor Charles Romulus Cambaliza interposed no objection to the bills. He said that DOJ will submit its official position paper on the proposed law.</p> <p>Pit Games Publishing president Emmanuel Berbano, in support for the bills, said that cockfighting is a multi-billion industry that can generate substantial revenues for the government if properly regulated.</p> <p>The GAB was requested to submit its current staffing pattern to help the Committee determine if it can handle the regulation of cockfighting nationwide as proposed in the bills. The DOJ was likewise requested to submit an official legal opinion on the mandates of local government units (LGUs) and the GAB pertaining to cockfighting.</p> |
| Government Reorganization jt. w/ Disaster Management | HB 4 | Speaker Cayetano | Creating the Emergency Response Department (ERD), 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. Lucy Torres-Gomez (4th District, Leyte), Chair of the Committee on Disaster Management, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on the 28 bills.</p> <p>The TWG will be co-chaired by Rep. Eric Olivarez (1st District, Parañaque City) for the Committee on Government Reorganization and Rep. Romeo Momo Sr. (Party-List, CWS) for the Committee on Disaster Management.</p> <p>Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, author of HB 338, said that the Executive Branch has its own version of the proposed Department of Disaster Resilience and expressed his intention to incorporate some of its provisions into the House bill. The Joint Committee agreed not to invoke Rule 10, Section 48 of the House Rules in order to study and consider the inputs of the Executive Branch to the proposed law.</p> <p>Section 48 of the House Rules states that measures identified as priority by the House and which were approved on Third Reading in the previous Congress "may be disposed of as matters already reported out upon the approval of the majority of the Members of the Committee present."</p> <p>While supportive of the proposed law, Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Undersecretary Ricardo Jalad expressed concern that the functions of the proposed Department of Disaster Resilience may be too broad which might overwhelm the Department and eventually lead to ineffective performance.</p> <p>Likewise objecting to the proposed abolition of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) in some of the bills, CCC legal counsel Efren Bascos</p> |
| | HB 885 | Rep. Cabochan | Establishing the Emergency Management Agency (EMA), amending for this purpose RA 10121, otherwise known as the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 | |
| | HB s 30, 164, 195, 338, 398, 563, 1151, 2451, 3023, 3084, 3142, 3214, 3348, 3459, 3490, 3542, 3999, 4301, 4313, 4401 & 4577 | Reps. Salceda, Belmonte, Suansing (E.), Romualdo, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Abellanos, Romualdez (Y.), Fortun, Palma, Olivarez, Almario, Herrera-Dy, Deloso-Montalla, Velasco, Nieto, Sy-Alvarado, Agabas, Suarez, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Bolilia, and Aragon | Creating the Department of Disaster Resilience, defining its powers and functions, and appropriating funds therefor | |
| | HB 2001 | Rep. Vargas | Creating the Department of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, defining its mandates, powers and functions, and appropriating funds therefor | |
| | HB s 2133 & 3182 | Reps. Castelo and Tolentino | Creating the Department of Disaster Management, defining its powers and functions and appropriating funds therefor | |

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| Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ Disaster Management | HB 3245 | Deputy Speaker Gonzales | Creating the Department of Disaster and Emergency Management, defining its powers and functions, appropriating funds therefor | argued that it would be better to retain the CCC and allow it to work closely with the proposed Department. |
| | HB 3913 | Deputy Speaker Legarda | Creating the Philippine Disaster and Emergency Management Authority, defining its powers and functions, appropriating funds therefor | <p>Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) Director for Operations Samuel Tadeo also expressed his opposition to the proposed transfer of supervision of the BFP from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to the OCD. Tadeo explained that disaster response is not a primary function of the BFP and that it is better left to an agency that is adequately manned and equipped for the task. He clarified, however, that the BFP can still be tapped for support whenever the need arises.</p> <p>The OCD, as the implementing arm of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, has the primary mission of administering a comprehensive national civil defense and disaster risk reduction and management program that will reduce the vulnerabilities and risks to hazards and manage the consequences of disasters.</p> |
| Justice | HBs 842, 1156, 1446, 1619, 2122, 3091, 3263, 3628, 4265 & 4308 | Reps. Biazon, Romualdez (Y.), Zubiri, Suarez (A.), Chipeco, Alvarez (P.), Veloso, Tolentino, Uy (J.), and Tan (A.) | Creating additional branches of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) in various parts of the country, amending for the purpose Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980, as amended, and appropriating funds therefor | <p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso III (3rd District, Leyte), approved the 10 bills and the corresponding Committee Reports, as amended.</p> <p>Supreme Court's Court Management Office Chief Marina Ching, in expressing support for the bills, said that establishing more RTCs would address problems on case overload in some courts and lack of courts in certain areas especially in remote locations.</p> <p>Upon the recommendation of Ching, the Committee agreed to add four more RTCs under HB 4308 and six more RTCs under HB 3091, on top of the number of RTCs originally proposed in these bills.</p> |
| | HBs 741, 1380, 1588, 1800, 1806, 1807, 2026, 2092, 3128, 3256 & 3261 | Reps. Biazon, Castro, Minority Leader Abante, Reps. Pacquiao (R.), Barbers, Deputy Speaker Abu, Rep. Leachon, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, and Rep. Gatchalian | Restoring death penalty for heinous crimes, amending RA 9346 or the law prohibiting the imposition of death penalty in the Philippines | <p>The Committee will deliberate further on the bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, author of HB 741, said that his bill seeks to restore death penalty for heinous crimes covered under RA 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, as amended. He opined that barbaric acts are, more often than not, committed by perpetrators under the influence of drugs. As such, high level drug-related crimes should be punishable by death as this is the root cause of the commission of other heinous crimes, Biazon said.</p> <p>Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Commissioner Karen Gomez Dumpit, expressed her objection to the restoration of the death penalty, saying that it is "premeditated murder and goes against the right to life," quoting French philosopher and Nobel Prize winner Albert Camus.</p> |

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| Continuation... Justice | | | | <p>Similarly, Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) President Domingo Cayosa opposes the death penalty explaining that it does not deter crime based on studies.</p> <p>The SC, Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) will be submitting their position papers on the proposed law.</p> |
| | HB 4553 | Rep. Veloso | Amending Article 70 of Act No. 3815, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code (by repealing the 5th paragraph of Article 70 which provides that the maximum period of the convict's sentence shall not exceed 40 years) | <p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 4553 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Veloso said that the maximum sentence of 40 years stated in the 5th paragraph of Article 70 of the Revised Penal Code (RPC) should be removed as it clashes with another provision in the last paragraph of the same Article which states that "duration of perpetual penalties shall be computed at thirty years."</p> <p>Some legislators objected to the intent of the bill. According to Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA), removing the 5th paragraph which sets a convict's sentence to a maximum of 40 years, would make a convict with say, a 30-year sentence, serve a period of 90 years by virtue of the three-fold rule.</p> <p>Under the "three-fold rule" of Article 70, a convict can be punished only up to three times the most severe penalty imposed, but such maximum period shall not exceed 40 years.</p> <p>Rep. Edcel Lagman (1st District, Albay) had a similar argument saying that removing the maximum period of penalty would defeat the purpose of reforming convicts and integrating them back to society.</p> <p>The DOJ and the CHR will submit their respective position papers on the bill.</p> |
| Local Government | HBs 810, 904, 1389 & 4303 | Rep. Alvarez (G.), Deputy Speaker Pimentel, Reps. Sacdalan, and Barzaga | Creating barangays in the City of Kabankalan, Province of Negros Occidental, in the Municipality of barobo, Province of Surigao del Sur, in the Municipality of Alamada, Province of North Cotabato, and in the City of Dasmariñas, Province of Cavite, respectively, and providing funds therefor | The Committee, chaired by Rep. Noel Villanueva (3 rd District, Tarlac), approved the four bills. |
| | HB 2998 | Deputy Speaker Puno | Transferring the capital and seat of government of the Province of Rizal from the City of Pasig, Metro Manila to the City of Antipolo, Province of Rizal | The Committee approved HB 2998. |
| | HB 3300 | Rep. Romualdez (Y.) | Declaring November 8 of every year as a special non-working public holiday in the Eastern Visayas Region to be known as the Yolanda Commemoration Day | The Committee approved HB 3300. |
| | HBs 3416 & 4004 | Reps. Palma and Hofer | Declaring February 24 of every year as a special working holiday in the Province of Zamboanga Sibugay in | The Committee directed the Secretariat to prepare a substitute bill and the corresponding Committee Report. |

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| Continuation... Local Government | | | commemoration of its founding anniversary to be known as Araw ng Sibugay | |
| | HBs 41, 180 & 650 | Reps. Benitez, Suansing (H.), and Tambunting | Changing the term of office of barangay officials and members of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) from three to five years, amending for the purpose Section 43 of RA 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 | The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the bills. Rep. Alfredo Garbin Jr. (Party-List, AKO BICOL), author of HB 89, was designated as TWG Chair. Both Reps. Garbin and Wilter "Sharky" Palma II (1 st District, Zamboanga Sibugay) pointed out the importance of discussing these bills thoroughly in the TWG meetings because extending the length and number of terms of office of both barangay and SK officials to five years may result in the simultaneous holding of barangay and presidential elections in 2028, citing the possible enactment of a law postponing the 2020 barangay and SK elections to 2023. Resource persons from the League of Barangays and the League of Provinces of the Philippines expressed their support for the bills. |
| | HBs 89, 2176 & 3756 | Reps. Garbin, Castelo, and Rodriguez | Changing the term of office of all barangay officials from three years to five years and providing a system for recall, amending for the purpose Sections 43 and 74 of RA 7160, respectively | |
| Public Order and Safety | HBs 931, 1166, 2469, 2546, 3102, 3275, 3404, 3498 & 4707 | Rep. Cabochan, Deputy Speaker Romero, Rep. Almario, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Romualdez (Y.), Salceda, Sy-Alvarado, and Tambunting | Strengthening and modernizing the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), providing funds therefor | The Committee, chaired by Rep. Narciso Bravo Jr. (1 st District, Masbate), agreed to consolidate the nine bills and come up with a substitute bill. Also during the meeting, the Committee designated Iligan City Rep. Frederick Siao as the chair of both the Subcommittee on Allied Services and the Subcommittee on Jail Management, while Rep. Michael Edgar Aglipay (Party-List, DIWA) was designated as chair of the Subcommittee on Fire Protection Service. |
| Suffrage and Electoral Reforms | HBs 47, 396, 420, 625, 905, 1029, 1071, 1354, 1571, 2060, 2175, 2276, 2386, 2483, 2531, 2551, 2608, 2647, 2727, 2874, 2888, 2890, 2959, 3037, 3100, 3187, 3268, 3316, 3500, 3515, 3652, 3670, 3937, 3959, 4042, 4606 & 4682 | Reps. Dy, Erice, Rodriguez, Almario, Deputy Speaker Pimentel, Reps. Salceda, Velasco, Castelo, Deputy Speaker Abu, Reps. Villa, Abellanosa, Deputy Speaker Gonzales (A.), Reps. Robes, Suansing (E.), Ty, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Bolilia, Deloso-Montalla, Gatchalian, Fortuno, Sarmiento, Nieto, Arroyo (J.M.), Hofer, Revilla, Chatto, Go (M.), | Postponing the May 2020 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections, amending for the purpose RA 9164, as amended | The Committee, chaired by Rep. Juliet Marie Ferrer (4 th District, Negros Occidental), agreed to the proposed postponement of the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections scheduled for May 2020. The Secretariat was directed to come up with a substitute bill incorporating therein the pertinent recommendations from the resource persons and the bills' authors. Postponing the May 2020 barangay and SK elections is one of the legislative priorities mentioned by President Rodrigo Duterte during his State of the Nation Address (SONA) last July 22. |

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| Continuation... Suffrage and Electoral Reforms | | Del Mar, Sy- Alvarado, Deputy Speaker Romero, Reps. Alvarez (G.), Geron, Garcia (V.), Ferrer (J.M.), Deputy Speakers Hernandez, Oaminal, and Rep. Romualdez (Y.) | | |
| Trade and Industry | HBs 59, 192, 344, 402, 1222 & 4554 | Reps. Yap (V.), Suansing (E.), Romualdo, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Salceda, and Garin (S.) | Setting the minimum paid-up capital and locally produced stock inventory requirements for foreign retail business enterprises, amending for the purpose RA 8762, otherwise known as the Retail Trade Liberalization Act of 2000 | <p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Wes Gatchalian (1st District, Valenzuela City), directed the Secretariat to prepare the Committee Report on the proposed law, based on the Committee Report on similar bills approved on Third Reading during the 17th Congress.</p> <p>Seven of the eight bills under consideration by the Committee seek to encourage more foreign retail business enterprises to invest in the Philippines by lowering the required minimum paid-up capital to USD 200,000 or its equivalent in pesos. At the same time, these foreign retailers are required to have at least 10% of the aggregate cost of their stock inventories made in the Philippines.</p> <p>Board of Investments (BOI) Director Bobby Fondevilla expressed support for the bills saying that the proposed law would boost foreign investments in the country's retail industry which would consequently generate additional employment for Filipinos; provide greater access to a diverse range of consumer products; and create healthy competition among local players.</p> <p>However, Fondevilla recommended that the required minimum paid-up capital be increased to USD 300,000, and the required locally-made portion of their stock inventories be raised to 20%, with 10% of which shall be supplied by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). This is to strike a balance between encouraging foreign investments and stimulating the development of the domestic retail sector, especially the MSMEs.</p> <p>National Policy and Planning Director Bien Ganapin of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) expressed his support for the bills.</p> <p>On the other hand, Philippine Retailer's Association (PRA) Chair Paul Santos and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce Inc. (FICCI) Corporate Secretary Ravi Samtani expressed their objection to the bills. They said that lowering the minimum paid-up capital required from foreign retailers would give them advantage over local retailers, particularly the MSMEs.</p> |
| | HB 3502 | Rep. Silverio | Amending RA 8762 (by removing the equity and capitalization requirements in the retail sector) | |
| | HB 4484 | Deputy Speaker Romero | Amending RA 8762 (by providing stiffer penalties and sanctions) | |

| AGENCY BRIEFINGS | | |
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| COMMITTEE | SUBJECT MATTER | DISCUSSIONS |
| Banks and Financial Intermediaries | Briefing by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) on the economic and financial status of the Philippines | <p>The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Junie Cua, listened to the presentation of the BSP on its mandate and the economic and financial status of the country.</p> <p>BSP Senior Assistant Governor and General Counsel Elmore Capule was present during the briefing but it was BSP Director Laura Ignacio who made the presentation. Ignacio said that the BSP focuses on strengthening the three pillars of central banking, to wit: 1) price stability, 2) financial stability; and 3) efficient payment and settlement systems.</p> <p>According to Ignacio, the country's continuing reforms in the Philippine financial system have contributed much to the positive growth performance of the economy, posting an average GDP growth of 6.5% annually for the last six years. The improving inflation environment in the first eight months of 2019 which includes low food, electricity, and fuel prices along with expectations of further slowdown in inflation momentum in the succeeding months, are expected to benefit various sectors of the economy as well. The banking system maintained its solid footing as evidenced by its satisfactory asset quality, ample liquidity and solvency, profitable operations, and streamlined physical network.</p> <p>With regard to BSP's legislative priorities for the 18th Congress, Ignacio enumerated the following: financial consumer protection bill; improvements to the Agri-Agra Law; and amendments to the law on secrecy of bank deposits.</p> <p>Rep. Cua said the BSP should study the banking system models adopted by successful economies in the Southeast Asian region, and to take advantage of technology to further develop new banking and financial products. He requested the BSP to update the Committee of the progress or results of its study on the matter.</p> |
| Energy | <p>Briefing by the following government agencies on the electric power generation and energy resource development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Power Corporation (NPC) Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM) | <p>The Committee, chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, listened to the briefing conducted by NPC, PSALM, and PNOC on the electric power generation and energy resource development in the country.</p> <p>NPC Vice President for Corporate Affairs Rene Baruela discussed NPC's priority strategic initiatives for 2020-2024 that are geared towards ensuring energy security, expanding energy access, promoting a low carbon future, and strengthening financial sustainability. Baruela likewise apprised the Committee of the status of NPC's privatization and resiliency programs, including the Agus-Pulangi Rehabilitation Project.</p> <p>In his report, Baruela also said that NPC aims to generate additional power capacity and generate renewable energy sources with an increased sales and operations of the NPC-Small Power Utilities Group (NPC-SPUG) and the new power provider/qualified third parties (NPP/QTP). As to the electrification of missionary areas, Baruela said that 276 NPC-SPUG and 22 NPP/QTP are serving 220 and 22 areas, respectively, in various parts of the country with a total dependable capacity of 370.474 mega watts (MW).</p> <p>PSALM President and Chief Executive Officer Irene Joy Besdo-Garcia presented the agency's mandate and functions, major accomplishments, and 10-point priority program.</p> <p>Under RA 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA), Besdo-Garcia said that PSALM is mandated to take ownership of and manage the orderly sale, disposition and privatization of all existing generation assets, liabilities, independent power producers (IPP) contracts, real estate and all other disposable assets of the NPC and the</p> |

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| Continuation... Energy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) | <p>National Transmission Corporation (TransCo) and act as the administrator of the Universal Charge Fund.</p> <p>Besdo-Garcia reported that 42 power plants have already been privatized through public bidding via a 25-year concession contract. This translates to achieving 71.59% privatization level and realizing an income of P908.78 billion, of which P579.97 billion has already been collected. Likewise, PSALM has managed to reduce its debts and IPP lease obligations from as high as P1.24 trillion in 2003 down to P428.9 billion as of June 2019.</p> <p>PNOC OIC Senior Vice President for Energy Investments Lilia Czarina Aquitania briefed the Committee on the historical perspective, mandate, and energy resource development plans and projects of PNOC.</p> <p>According to Aquitania, PNOC was created in response to the oil crisis faced by the country during the 70's. But with the deregulation of the industry, PNOC's marketing arm Petron was privatized and PNOC lost its place as one of the three major players in the oil industry. Since then, PNOC has undertaken broader functions in oil or petroleum operations and other energy resources exploitation, including exploration, development, extraction, processing, and marketing of all forms of energy resources.</p> <p>Aquitania reported that PNOC has two subsidiaries working together, namely: PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC), which takes the lead in the exploration, development and production of the country's oil, gas and coal resources; and the PNOC Renewables Corporation (PNOC RC), which promotes and undertakes research and development, utilization, manufacture, sale, marketing, distribution and commercial application of new, renewable, non-conventional and environment-friendly energy sources.</p> <p>Rep. Sergio Dagooc (Party-List, APEC) asked the NPC to carefully study the factors causing the fluctuation of crude oil prices in the world market to be able to anticipate and mitigate well the effects on the people especially in areas being supplied by electric cooperatives and SPUGs.</p> <p>Rep. Jericho Jonas Nograles (Party-List, PBA) urged the PNOC to require oil suppliers to establish oil reserves or depots that shall be tapped in case of serious problems in supply and prices in the country as a result of spiraling global prices of crude oil.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Godofredo Guya (Party-List, RECOBODA) opposed the privatization of the Agus-Pulangi Plant, asserting that it is operating at a profit and thus beneficial to the country. He said that the power plant complex earns an average net operations income of P7.4 billion.</p> <p>PSALM, however, said that the Agus-Pulangi Plant is already included in the list of NPC assets for privatization.</p> <p>Rep. Guya also suggested that the operation and control of the country's power transmission system should be undertaken by the government and not by a private company, like the existing provider National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), to protect national security. He mentioned that the NGCP's business partner is a Chinese-owned company, State Grid of China Corporation (SGCC).</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit pertinent documents required by the Members of the Committee.</p> |
| Human Rights | Briefing by the following government agencies on their respective mandate and plans and programs in relation to human rights promotion and protection | The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jesus "Bong" Suntay (4 th District, Quezon City), listened to the briefing of various government agencies on their respective mandate, and plans and programs in relation to human rights promotion and protection. |

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| <p><i>Continuation...</i> Human Rights</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission on Human Rights (CHR) • Philippine National Police (PNP) • Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) • Department of Health (DOH) • Department of Justice (DOJ) | <p>CHR Chairperson Jose Luis Martin Gascon said that the CHR engages with local and international communities for the protection and promotion of human rights.</p> <p>For the 18th Congress, the priority legislative agenda of the CHR are amending the CHR Charter and RA 10368 (Human Rights Victims Reparation and Recognition Act of 2013), as well as the passage of a law defining the rights and guaranteeing the fundamental freedoms of human rights defenders.</p> <p>Gascon disclosed that so far, there was only one case of torture that resulted in conviction because prosecutors who handle the cases on torture only cite the Revised Penal Code (RPC) and not RA 9745 or the Anti-Torture Act of 2009. He stressed the need to put in place a system of coordination between the CHR and the prosecutors to come up with a stronger human rights violation case.</p> <p>PNP Human Rights Affairs Office Chief Dennis Siervo said that the PNP conducts human rights courses and issues advisories to law enforcers to serve as guide in human rights promotion and protection. He explained that the PNP cannot provide the CHR some information involving drug cases because it is constrained from doing so under RA 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012.</p> <p>AFP Human Rights Office (HRO) Chief Raymundo Acorda said that the AFPHRO is tasked to assist in the crafting of the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) manual which will be used by the AFP, PNP, judges, prosecutors, and investigators in the conduct of their duties. Acorda also reported that the AFP is reviewing and revising its operational guidelines in the implementation of Administrative Order (AO) 35 which created the Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) on Extra-Legal Killings (ELK), Enforced Disappearances (ED), Torture and Other Grave Violations to the Rights to Life, Liberty and Security of Persons.</p> <p>The IAC is headed by the Presidential Human Rights Committee and has six member-agencies including the AFP. It serves as the government's institutional machinery dedicated to the resolution of unsolved cases of political violence.</p> <p>DOH Legislative Liaison Division Chief Maria Soledad Antonio said that the implementation of RA 11223 or the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act of 2019 and the Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP) will help address the fragmented health system in the country and high out-of-pocket expenditures of patients.</p> <p>The UHC Law is a landmark legislation passed in February this year which provides the automatic enrolment of all Filipinos to the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) and ensures that they are able to access quality and affordable health services without exposure to financial hardship. On the other hand, the HFEP aims to upgrade health facilities such as health centers, barangay health stations, and rural health units to sufficiently provide for emergency and primary care services.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Suntay, Antonio explained that the budgetary requirement for the implementation of the UHC Law will be sourced from the incremental tax collections under RA 10351 or the Sin Tax Reform Law, and from 50% of the national government's share from the income of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO).</p> <p>Maria Theresa Sindico-Guillaume, Chief of Staff of DOJ Undersecretary Mark Perete, said that one of the proposed priority legislations of the Department is to strengthen the powers and functions of its Board of Claims. Sindico-Guillaume said that the DOJ also plans to streamline the processing of applications under the Board of Claims' compensation</p> |
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| Continuation... Human Rights | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and National Housing Authority (NHA) | <p>program. The Board was created by virtue of RA 7309 with the task of facilitating the release of P10,000 financial assistance to each of the victims of unjust imprisonment or detention and violent crimes.</p> <p>The representatives from the DSWD and NHA apprised the Committee of the programs of their respective agencies in relation to the devolution of basic social services to local government units (LGUs) and the right to decent and affordable housing.</p> |
| Poverty Alleviation | Report by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on the draft implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA 11310, otherwise known as the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Act | <p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Dale "Along" Malapitan (1st District, Caloocan City), agreed to file a resolution requesting the DSWD to seriously consider the Members' recommendations aimed at ensuring that the IRR conforms to the spirit of RA 11310.</p> <p>The DSWD, as the lead implementing agency of the 4Ps, is currently drafting the IRR of RA 11310, which was enacted into law in April of this year. The 4Ps is the country's national poverty reduction strategy and a human capital investment program that provides conditional cash transfer with support services to partner qualified household-beneficiaries who are compliant with the set conditions of the program.</p> <p>During her briefing on the features of the IRR, DSWD 4Ps National Program Manager Gemma Gabuya said that the 4Ps program seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the health and nutrition of children and mothers by promoting health care and proper nutrition; Improve the participation of children in child development centers; Increase school enrolment and attendance rate of school-aged children; Contribute to the efforts on child protection; Raise the average consumption rate in food expenditure of poor households; Enhance parenting skills; Improve the financial literacy skills of beneficiaries and their participation in community development activities; and Improve the household beneficiaries' socio-economic condition. <p>Gabuya also explained the other components of the IRR prescribing the system for the selection of qualified household beneficiaries, schemes in determining the amount of conditional cash transfer the beneficiaries will be entitled to, the mode of cash transfer, and the conditions for entitlement. She also discussed the implementing rules on case management in case of noncompliance with the program conditions, family development sessions, periodic assessment of program effectiveness, and livelihood interventions, among others.</p> <p>Rep. Domingo Rivera (Party-List, CIBAC) underscored the importance of evaluating the effectiveness and success of the program using verifiable metrics.</p> <p>Several lawmakers expressed concern whether the existing DSWD's manpower will be able to cope with the demands of program implementation given the huge number of 4Ps beneficiaries spread across the country. They suggested the hiring of additional competent case workers and the regularization of workers handling 4Ps cases to significantly improve the workers-beneficiaries ratio.</p> <p>Other recommendations made by the Committee are the inclusion in the IRR of the following cases/aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-demand application to ensure the inclusion of households who are not included in the initial assessment of DSWD but may be eligible; Choice of conduits and their corresponding standards of performance such as the regularity, reliability, safety and |

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| Continuation... Poverty Alleviation | | <p>convenience in the disbursement of subsidy;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of parent leaders as qualified case managers who will help monitor and ensure the compliance with the conditions of the program by household beneficiaries; • Grievance redress system; • Exit or graduation from 4Ps; and • Coverage of 4Ps beneficiaries under the no balance billing policy in government hospitals for in-patient services as per RA 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act. |
| Public Order and Safety | <p>Briefing by the following agencies on their respective legislative agenda for the 18th Congress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) • Philippine National Police (PNP) | <p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Narciso Bravo Jr. (1st District, Masbate), took note of the legislative agenda for the 18th Congress of the BJMP, PNP, and BFP as the latter made their presentations.</p> <p>BJMP Directorial Staff chief Efren Nemeño said that the agency is mandated to direct, supervise and control the administration and operation of all district, city and municipal jails nationwide with a two-pronged task of safekeeping and developing persons deprived of liberty (PDL).</p> <p>Among the BJMP's legislative priorities are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate all the provincial and sub-provincial jails to the BJMP; • Rename the rank classification in the BJMP; and • Upgrade the rank classification of BJMP and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP). <p>Nemeño said that as of July 2019, there are only 84 provincial and sub-provincial jails nationwide housing 32,940 PDLs and being manned by a personnel strength of only 3,196. The budgetary requirement for the proposed transfer of supervision and administration of provincial and sub-provincial jails to BJMP will amount to P2.97 billion. At present, there are six provinces with no provincial jails, namely Batanes, Catanduanes, Zamboanga Sibugay, Davao Occidental, Dinagat Island, and Apayao.</p> <p>Rep. Wilton "Tonton" Kho (3rd District, Masbate) asked the BJMP to comment on the possible displacement of provincial jail personnel should the proposed transfer push through. Nemeño replied that BJMP will look into ways to absorb the qualified personnel from the provincial and sub-provincial jails.</p> <p>PNP Legislative Affairs Center chief Percival Rumbaoa said that among the PNP's priority measures are as follows: PNP Modernization Bill; PNP Strengthened Disciplinary Mechanism Bill; PNP Reorganization Bill; Forensic DNA Database; Mandatory Autopsy; and the National Police Clearance System.</p> <p>Rumbaoa said that the PNP proposes the creation of five area police offices (APOs) in North Luzon, South Luzon, Visayas, Eastern Mindanao, and Western Mindanao to supervise the conduct of lateral security operations, rescue and relief operations in times of calamities, and other emergency situations within their area of operations. The proposed APOs will be headed by directors with the rank of police lieutenant general.</p> <p>Meanwhile, PNP Deputy Director for Operations Elmer Cabreros briefed the Committee on the peace and order situation in the country. He reported that crime volume decreased from 658,305 for the period July 2016 to August 2017 to 552,271 for the period July 2018 to August 2019. The index crime also dropped to 82,324 from 212, 256 during the same period.</p> <p>Crime volume is the total number of all crimes committed in an area over a period of time. Index crimes, as defined by the PNP, are crimes</p> |

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| Continuation... Public Order and Safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) | <p>against persons such as murder, homicide, physical injury, and rape, and crimes against property such as robbery, theft, carnapping/carjacking and cattle rustling.</p> <p>BFP Legal Officer Jayson Molejon pushed for the reorganization and reform of the structure of the uniformed personnel of the BFP. He likewise called for the revision or amendment of RA 9514 or the Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008, to include the following provisions, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specify the jurisdiction of the BFP with regard to the administration and enforcement of the Fire Code in all public and private buildings including those establishments in economic zones; Expand the utilization of the Fire Code collections to allow the BFP to acquire real properties for the establishment of national, regional, and provincial offices and city or municipal fire stations; and Increase BFP's revenues by removing the ceiling on the amount of the Fire Code construction tax being collected; and Provide stringent penalties for the violation of the Fire Code. |
| Trade and Industry | Continuation of the briefing by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) on its plans and programs for FY 2020 | <p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Wes Gatchalian (1st District, Valenzuela City), listened to the presentation of the DTI on its plans and programs for FY 2020.</p> <p>DTI Undersecretary Ireneo Vizmonte presented DTI's plans, programs and projects. He said that DTI's mandate can be summarized into three words: <i>Trabaho</i>, <i>Negosyo</i> and <i>Konsyumer</i>. In the previous meeting, <i>Trabaho</i> was already discussed in detail by DTI Secretary Ramon Lopez.</p> <p>With regard to <i>Negosyo</i>, Vizmonte said that the DTI has laid out seven key strategies to develop micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) into highly competitive firms. These are: Mindset, Mastery, Mentoring, Market Access, Machine, Money and Models.</p> <p>Vizmonte discussed the various programs being implemented by the DTI adopting these seven strategies. One of these is helping MSMEs promote their products by partnering with mall owners and installing a <i>Go Lokal</i> store inside the malls which sells MSME products. Another is a loan program called <i>Pondo ng Pagbabago para sa Pag-asenso</i> (P3), with a P3.46 billion fund, which was established to prevent the proliferation of usurious lending schemes victimizing MSMEs. The MSMEs can secure a loan directly from the DTI or through the 350 accredited micro finance institutions. As of July 23, a total of P2.9 billion was released to micro entrepreneurs as loans under the P3 program.</p> <p>To promote the interest of the local <i>Konsyumer</i>, the DTI is focusing its efforts on decreasing the inflation rate and stabilizing the prices of consumer products. The DTI is currently helping the Department of Agriculture (DA) in coming up with the suggested retail price for agricultural products.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Luis Campos Jr. (2nd District, Makati City) pertaining to the P3 program, Vizmonte confirmed that the P3 program can only be availed through cooperatives, but since not all entrepreneurs are members of cooperatives, the DTI will allow individual MSMEs to take out loans themselves soon.</p> |