



# Committee Daily Bulletin

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

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## ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Women and Gender Equality	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba (1<sup>st</sup> District, Bukidnon), 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 the rights and welfare of women and female children and youth, inclusive of their education, employment, working conditions, and their role in nation building, and all concerns relating to gender equality."</p>
	Briefing by various government agencies on their mandates and programs, initiatives, and policy proposals in relation to gender equality, gender equity, and gender mainstreaming	Representatives from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), Civil Service Commission (CSC), Commission on Human Rights (CHR), Philippine National Police-Women and Children Protection Center (PNP-WCPC), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) discussed the mandates and programs of their respective agencies in relation to gender equality, gender equity, and gender mainstreaming. The agencies also informed the Committee on the various stages of their respective initiatives as well as policy proposals to enhance their institutional capability in those aspects.

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food	HBs 855, 3412 & 5640	Reps. Aglipay, Benitez, and Mariano-Hernandez	Promoting the use of urban agriculture in all urban areas in the Philippines, establishing for the purpose the urban agriculture program and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Wilfrido Mark Enverga (1<sup>st</sup> District, Quezon), approved the three bills.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to come up with a Substitute Bill to HBs 855, 3412, and 5640. It was also directed to include in the substitute bill the relevant provisions of HBs 284, 2119, and 4081, when these bills are finally referred to the Committee. The last three bills were originally referred to the Committee on Food Security.</p>
	HB 3213	Rep. Dy (F.M.C.)	Declaring August of every year as National Farmers Month, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved HB 3213 with amendments. The Secretariat was directed to come up with a substitute bill.</p> <p>Among the amendments to the bill agreed upon were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To change the farmer's month to November instead of August; and</li> <li>Include as implementing agencies, aside from those mentioned in Section 4 of the bill, the following: Philippine Information Agency (PIA) and other government news agencies; National Youth Commission (NYC); National Council for Children's Television (NCCT); and National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).</li> </ul>

Continuation... Agriculture and Food	HB 5583	Deputy Speaker Villafuerte	Authorizing the use of the rice subsidy, as provided for under the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of 2019, for the purchase of palay from farmers, mandating the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in coordination with the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the National Food Authority (NFA), to buy palay from local farmers and distribute rice subsidy in the form of rice, instead of cash assistance, to qualified beneficiaries	<p>The Committee approved HB 5583 with amendments. The Secretariat was directed to come up with a substitute bill.</p> <p>Among the amendments to the bill agreed upon were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only compliant beneficiaries of the 4Ps will be entitled to the rice subsidy; and</li> <li>Section 5 of the bill, which enumerates specific provinces as target areas, will be deleted so that the proposed law will cover all provinces which have very low prices of palay at a given time.</li> </ul>
Labor and Employment	Substitute Bill to HBs 135, 850, 2519 & 5201	Reps. Roman, Aglipay, Nograles (J.J.), and Noel	Instituting policies for the protection and welfare of caregivers in the practice of their profession	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to the four bills.</p> <p>Rep. Raymond Democrito Mendoza (Party-List, TUCP), Chair of the Subcommittee on Labor Standards, said that a bill with similar subject matter was approved on Third Reading by the House during the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress.</p>
	HBs 274, 4236 & 5590	Reps. Aglipay, Nieto, and Noel	Providing for the protection of workers in the business process outsourcing (BPO) industry	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Mendoza emphasized that labor rights of BPO workers such as security of tenure, fair working hours, and occupational safety and health standards, must be upheld and protected.</p> <p>The BPO Industry Employees Network (BIEN) expressed its support for the bill, saying further that the proposed law will be beneficial to the approximately 1.3 million call center employees in the country.</p> <p>The Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), BPO operators, and other stakeholders will be invited to attend the next meeting.</p>
	HBs 508 & 2627	Reps. Castro (F.) and Mendoza	Providing for the period of probationary employment of teaching and non-teaching personnel in private schools, amending for the purpose PD 442 or the Labor Code of the Philippines, as amended	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. France Castro (Party-List, ACT-TEACHERS), principal author of HB 508, said that the bill sets a maximum six-month probationary period for teaching and non-teaching personnel in private schools. After this period, the teaching and non-teaching personnel on probation should be hired as regular employees.</p> <p>Rep. Castro said that Article 281 of the Labor Code prohibits private sector employers from placing workers on probationary period longer than six months. However, at present, probationary periods for teaching personnel are longer -- three years for basic education and six consecutive regular semesters or nine consecutive trimesters for the tertiary level.</p> <p>Rep. Castro added that the long probationary period in the education sector was allowed under certain administrative issuances, such as the Department of Education (DepEd) Order No. 88, s.</p>

Continuation... Labor and Employment				<p>of 2010 (2010 Revised Manual of Regulations for Private Schools in Basic Education) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Memorandum Order No. 40 (Manual of Regulations for Private Higher Education of 2008). These issuances should not supersede the Labor Code, Rep. Castro stressed.</p> <p>Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA) Managing Director Joseph Noel Estrada explained that the three-year probationary period is necessary to determine the professional competency of private school personnel.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go proposed that the probationary period for teachers be lowered to two years, while Rep. Leonardo Babasa Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Zamboanga del Sur) suggested that the probationary period for non-teaching personnel be set to six months.</p> <p>The DepEd, CHED, and other stakeholders will be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee.</p>
Ways and Means	HB 783	Rep. Biazon	Providing for a classification system for third parties under RA 10863, otherwise known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Albay), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to harmonize the provisions of the six bills and come up with a draft a substitute bill.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), was designated as TWG Chair.</p> <p>The discussion focused on the issues raised by the Members during the BOC briefing last November 27.</p> <p>Rep. Jose Atienza Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY), author of HB 2591, criticized the BOC for failing to operationalize the CMTA which resulted in revenue losses amounting to billions of pesos. The CMTA was enacted in 2016.</p> <p>Several members also criticized BOC's implementation of the National Valuation Verification System (NVVS) for being contrary to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Valuation Agreement, which provides that the customs valuation should be based primarily on the transaction value of imported goods. Transaction value is the price actually paid or payable for the goods when sold for export to the Philippines subject to certain adjustments (Section 701 of the CMTA).</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, author of HBs 783, 784 and 800, added that the NVVS likewise runs counter to the BOC's "no contact policy" and can become a breeding ground for corruption.</p> <p>Rep. Garin, author of HB 5548, also stated that the NVVS only adds another layer in the importation process which will result in more delays.</p>
	HB 784	Rep. Biazon	Providing for the acquisition of the services of a private auction house that shall undertake all public auctions at the Bureau of Customs (BOC), amending for this purpose RA 10863	
	HB 800	Rep. Biazon	Amending RA 10863 (by including a new provision that would allow the BOC to use part of its income for its modernization program)	
	HB 2591	Rep. Atienza	Amending Section 440 of RA 10863 (by establishing a mandatory advance customs clearance and control on containerized cargoes)	
	HB 5278	Deputy Speaker Marcoleta	Requiring the declaration of the value of imported goods in shipping and airline documents and prohibiting fraudulent alteration of cargo manifest, Bill of Lading, and airway bill, amending for the purpose RA 10863	
	HB 5548	Rep. Garin (S.)	Amending for the purpose Sections 102, 119, 201, 307, 402, 405, 407, 431, 802, 806, 1135, 1100, 1129, 1147, 1400, and 1226 and deleting Section 709 of RA 10863 (by simplifying and clearly defining some processes in the customs clearance of imported goods and setting stricter provisions in granting the authority to operate a customs facilities warehouse, among others)	

Continuation... Ways and Means				<p>The NVVS is a web-based system which the BOC assessment officers may access to verify the declared value of importation against the prevailing reference values generated by the system. (Source: BOC website)</p> <p>BOC Director for Assessment and Operations Coordinating Group Yasser Abbas explained that the NVVS is just one of the tools being used by the BOC to determine the correct valuation of goods, especially if the use of the transaction value is not applicable.</p> <p>Rep. Garin asked the BOC to stop using the NVVS saying that the Bureau has other existing tools for the same purpose. (The CMTA prescribes the methods for the valuation of imported goods with the transaction value as the primary basis for computation.)</p> <p>The Committee agreed to recommend the suspension of the BOC's NVVS and that a memorandum will be issued to the BOC regarding the matter.</p> <p>On the issue of BOC's slow processing of forfeited goods, Deputy Speaker Johnny Ty Pimentel (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Surigao del Sur) said that these delays are affecting the value of goods when auctioned off.</p> <p>BOC Assistant Commissioner Vincent Maronilla explained that forfeited goods with pending cases cannot be auctioned off by the BOC.</p> <p>Both BOC officials assured the Committee that the suggestions of the Members will be taken into consideration by the Bureau.</p> <p>The BOC was requested to submit a report on its regulations concerning surcharges on misdeclared and misclassified goods; tracking data on NVVS; copy of bill of lading of luxury cars which were shipped at the Port of Batangas; and comparative data on collection performance and volume by the Manila International Container Port (MICP) and Ports of Batangas, Cebu, and Davao.</p>
Women and Gender Equality	Substitute Bill to HBs 111, 866, 1142, 1148, 3396 & 4113	Reps. Fortun, Aglipay, Brosas, Acosta-Alba, and Villarica	Ensuring the fundamental equality of men and women under the laws on marriage and family relations, amending for the purpose Articles 14, 96, 124, 211 and 225 of EO 209, otherwise known as the Family Code of the Philippines	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba (1<sup>st</sup> District, Bukidnon), approved the substitute bill to the six bills and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Acosta-Alba informed the body that bills having the same subject matter were extensively discussed and approved at the Committee level during the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 479, 2266, 3330 & 5223	Reps. Brosas, Fortun, Tambunting, and Rodriguez	Defining electronic violence against women and their children, providing protective measures, and prescribing penalties for violations thereof, amending for the purpose RA 9262, otherwise known as the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004	<p>The Committee approved the substitute bill to the four bills and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>A bill with similar subject matter was approved by the House on Third Reading during the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress.</p>
	HB 4888	Rep. Nograles (J.F.)	Amending RA 9262, expanding its coverage and covered acts, prescribing penalties therefor	The Committee will deliberate further on HB 4888 in its next meeting.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Constitutional Amendments	HB 788	Rep. Biazon	Providing for the selection of an acting President and acting Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines in case of a failure of election	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair, Rep. Lorenz Defensor (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Iloilo), held the second leg of a series of public consultations on the measures proposing amendments to, or revision of, the Constitution at the University of the Philippines Visayas in Iloilo City on December 6.</p> <p>Aside from Rep. Defensor, other House Members present during the public consultation were Rep. Ferdinand Gaité (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA) and Iloilo City Rep. Julianne "Jam" Baronda.</p> <p>During the consultation, Rep. Defensor presented the salient features of each measure. Afterwhich, the resource persons gave their respective insights and also presented their own studies on constitutional reform.</p> <p>Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya presented the proposal of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Federalism (IATF) that was created by President Duterte to integrate, harmonize, and coordinate ongoing efforts towards federalism and constitutional reform. The DILG Secretary sits as chair of the IATF.</p> <p>Malaya and Gary Olivar, member of the Center for Federalism and Constitutional Reform, explained the merits of relaxing the economic restrictions on foreign investments under the Constitution.</p> <p>On the other hand, Rep. Gaité and Atty. Neri Colmenares, chair of the National Union of Peoples' Lawyers, said that opening up the economy to foreign investments may not redound to the benefit of the country.</p> <p>An open forum followed after the resource persons gave their respective presentations.</p> <p>The Committee asked the people present in the public consultation to fill out a survey questionnaire on the proposal to amend or revise the Constitution. Most of those who attended were in favor of amending the Constitution through a constitutional convention.</p>
	Resolution of Both Houses (RBH) 1	Rep. Rodriguez	Constituting the Senate and the House of Representatives into a constituent assembly to propose revisions of the 1987 Constitution by adopting a federal form of government	
	RBHs 2 & 3	Reps. Velasco and Haresco	Proposing amendments to certain economic provisions of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines	
	RBH 4	Rep. Defensor (L.)	Calling for a Constitutional Convention in 2022 to revise or propose amendments to the Constitution	
	House Joint Resolution (HJR) 3	Rep. Cabochan	Proposing amendment to Section 16, Article VII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution in order to limit the confirmation process of the Commission on Appointments for members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to the positions of Chief-of-Staff of the AFP and service commanders of the Army, Air Force, and Navy only	
	HJR 4	Deputy Speaker Gonzales (A.)	Calling upon members of Congress to convene for the purpose of considering proposals to amend or revise the Constitution, upon a vote of three-fourths of all members	
	HJR 20	Deputy Speaker Oaminal	Convening both Houses of Congress into a constituent assembly for the purpose of proposing amendments to, or revision of, the Constitution to provide a mechanism for the election of senators by region based on proportional representation	
	HJR 21	Deputy Speaker Oaminal	Convening both Houses of Congress into a constituent assembly for the purpose of proposing amendments to, or revision of, the Constitution to remove certain restrictive economic provisions thereof	
	House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 1	Rep. Rodriguez	Proposing amendments to certain provisions of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines particularly on Articles VI, X, XII, XIV, and XVI	