



Committee Daily Bulletin

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Bases Conversion (Special Committee)	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Francis Gerald Aguinaldo Abaya (1st District, Cavite), 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 policies and programs relating to bases conversion, the operation of special economic zones in former military bases, sale of military camps and disposition of proceeds thereof, relocation of military camps and personnel, and the construction of new military camps."</p>
Inter-parliamentary Relations and Diplomacy	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Divina Grace Yu (1st District, Zamboanga del Sur), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18th Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Rep. Yu reported on the accomplishments of the Committee in the previous Congress, including the participation of the lady legislators in the Women Political Leaders Forum's (WPL) Global Summit for the past three years, and participation of some Members of the Committee in international parliamentary forums and conferences.</p> <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee has jurisdiction "over all matters directly and principally relating to inter-parliamentary relations and linkages with international parliamentary organizations such as but not limited to the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union (APPU), Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU); establishment of inter-parliamentary friendship societies; and visits of parliamentary delegations as well as other foreign dignitaries."</p>
Mindanao Affairs	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte), 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 development of Mindanao including the preparation of a comprehensive and integrated development plan for Mindanao."</p>
National Defense and Security	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Raul "Boboy" Tupas (5th District, Iloilo), 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 national defense and national security, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, citizens army, selective services, forts and arsenals, military bases, reservations and yards, and coast and geodetic surveys."</p>
Science and Technology	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Erico Aristotle Aumentado (2nd District, Bohol), 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 science and technology</p>

Continuation... Science and Technology		<p>including scientific and technological research and development, technology transfer, science and technology education including the Philippine Science High School System, intellectual property rights on biotechnology, and climate and weather forecasting.”</p> <p>Rep. Aumentado reported that during the 17th Congress, the Committee’s major accomplishment was the passage of the following laws:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RA 11035 - institutionalizing the Balik Scientist Program; • RA 11312 - strengthening the Magna Carta for scientists, engineers, researchers and other science and technology personnel in the government, amending for the purpose RA 8439, and • RA 11363 - establishing the Philippine Space Development and Utilization Policy and creating the Philippine Space Agency.
--	--	---

COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food	HBs 233, 401, 1136 & 3310	Rep. Vargas, Deputy Speakers Villafuerte & Estrella, and Rep. Villar	Strengthening the resiliency of small farmers against climate change and extreme weather risks by establishing the regulatory framework and program for a free weather index-based crop insurance, providing the source of funding therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Wilfrido Mark Enverga (1st District, Quezon), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate and study the bills further.</p> <p>Rep. Caminero, also the Committee Vice Chair, was designated to head the TWG.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Estrella, author of HB 1136, said that his bill aims to provide assistance to the small farmers in the form of a weather index-based agriculture insurance to cushion the adverse impact of disastrous weather conditions on their farms which may leave them uncompensated, empty-handed or financially burdened.</p> <p>Weather index-based insurance (WIBI), as defined in HB 1136, is “an innovative insurance product that aims to provide prompt insurance payout against the incidence of extreme weather conditions through the use of scientifically measurable weather parameters such as rainfall, temperature, frost, humidity and/or other gauges as proxy for actual loss using transparent indicators of the occurrence of an adverse event.”</p> <p>Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) President Jovy Bernabe said the PCIC supports the grant of subsidy for the farmers’ insurance premiums.</p> <p>Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration’s (PAGASA) research assistant Rosalinda de Guzman said that in line with WIBI, to accurately measure rainfall, the distance between weather stations should be 20 kilometers. However, at present, the weather stations are 50 kilometers apart.</p>

Continuation... Agriculture and Food				<p>Rep. Enverga underscored the need to allocate funds for the purchase of PAGASA's additional equipment and facilities.</p> <p>Representatives from the PCIC, Insurance Commission, PAGASA, and Office of the Civil Defense (OCD)-National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) expressed support for the bills.</p>
	HB 869	Deputy Speaker Estrella	Amending certain sections of RA 10068 or the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010 (by further promoting, propagating, and developing organic farming and other sustainable agricultural practices)	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to consolidate and study the bills further.</p> <p>Rep. Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), author of HB 3599, was designated to head the TWG.</p>
	HB 1290	Deputy Speaker Villafuerte	Strengthening sustainable agriculture and enhancing support for small organic farmers, amending for the purpose certain sections of RA 10068	<p>Deputy Speaker Conrado Estrella III (Party-List, ABONO), author of HB 869, said that his bill aims to promote organic farming to ensure the availability of adequate, safe and nutritious food through the use of natural and farm-based resources. He added that organic farming may increase small farmers' income because it is a low-cost and efficient alternative way of farming.</p> <p>Rep. Garin mentioned the need to revisit RA 11068 or the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010 to address some issues and concerns in the implementation of the law, such as the tedious and expensive process of applying for certification of organic products.</p> <p>Department of Agriculture (DA) Undersecretary Evelyn Laviña expressed support for the bills and agreed that the existing law should be revisited every five years. Laviña also informed the Committee that an Organic Farming Congress will be held on November 11-15 in Cavite City which will be attended by farmers' groups and organizations. The comments and suggestions that will be raised during the event will be submitted to the Committee for its reference, Laviña added.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Wilfredo "Willy" Caminero (2nd District, Cebu) on the success rate of organic farming, Laviña said that the Philippines ranked fifth in the list of countries with the largest number of organic producers of over 165,000.</p> <p>Reps. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija) and Michael Gorriceta (2nd District, Iloilo) asked DA to provide financial assistance to organic farmers and to disseminate information on the benefits of organic products.</p> <p>Representatives from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS), and Center for Food Regulation and Research (CFRR) of</p>
	HBs 2656 & 3599	Reps. Dy (I.P.) and Garin (S.)	Strengthening the implementation of the national organic agriculture program by enhancing regulatory capacity, establishing coordinating offices, augmenting human resource complement, and repealing RA 10068, and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 4483	Deputy Speaker Romero	Amending RA 10068, appropriating funds therefor, providing stiffer penalties and sanctions	

Continuation... Agriculture and Food				the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) expressed support for the proposed law.
Basic Education and Culture	Substitute Bill to HBs 1, 609, 721, 3970 & 4259	Speaker Cayetano, Reps. Acop, Torres-Gomez, Sy-Alvarado, and Silverio	Institutionalizing the inclusion of good manners and right conduct curriculum in Kinder to Grade 3	The Committee, chaired by Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo, approved the substitute bill and the corresponding Committee Report subject to style and amendment.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 917, 1586, 3992 & 4392	Deputy Speaker Gonzales (A.), Reps. Romualdez (Y.), Agabas, and Robes	Institutionalizing the Alternative Learning System (ALS) in the basic education for out-of-school children, youth and adults, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and other marginalized sectors of society, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved the substitute bill and the corresponding Committee Report subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Among the amendments made to the substitute bill were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Education shall prescribe an appropriate number of months required for the completion of the ALS program; • Passers of the Accreditation and Equivalency Exam shall be given a Certificate of Rating by the Bureau of Education Assessment and a Certificate of Completion by the Schools Division Offices; and • There shall be at least one ALS Community Learning Center in every public elementary and high school. <p>Noting that some local government units (LGUs) are not as financially capable as the others, Deputy Speaker Evelina Escudero (1st District, Sorsogon) suggested that the local government units (LGUs) should have the discretion to allocate the appropriate amount for their ALS programs instead of requiring them to set aside a portion of the proceeds of the Special Education Fund for these programs, as proposed under Section 18 of the bill.</p> <p>Majority of the Members present concurred with the statement of the Deputy Speaker.</p>
	HB 3259	Rep. Mangaoang	Separating the Naneng National High School – Mosimos Extension in Barangay Dupag, City of Tabuk, Province of Kalinga from the Naneng National High School, converting it into an independent national high school to be known as the Dupag National High School and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 3259 and the corresponding Committee Report subject to style.
Higher and Technical Education	HB 1219	Rep. Salceda	Requiring the Philippine government to issue educational bonds for the benefit of tertiary students, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, approved HB 1219 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), author of HB 1219, underscored the importance of the proposed measure in ensuring that every poor Filipino tertiary student shall be provided with financial assistance while enrolled in a public or private educational institution.</p>

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education				<p>Rep. Salceda explained that the educational bond with a face value amounting to P25,000.00 shall be issued by the Bureau of Treasury (BTr) and the Department of Finance (DOF) in favor of every child born at any given year with a maturity period of 18 years. The proceeds of the bond shall be released to the qualified beneficiary who meets the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be 18 years of age and enrolled in undergraduate-post-secondary program in any public or private educational institutions; and • Must be part of the household included in the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD's) National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) or <i>Listahanan</i>.
	HB 262	Rep. Ramirez-Sato	Converting the Occidental Mindoro State College in the Province of Occidental Mindoro into a state university to be known as the Occidental Mindoro State University (OMSU) and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 262 subject to style and amendment.
	HB1581	Deputy Speaker Hataman	Converting the Basilan State College (BASSC) in the City of Isabela, Province of Basilan into a state university to be known as the Basilan State University (BASSU) and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 1581 subject to style and amendment.
	HBs 776, 1231, 4254 & 4300	Reps. Collantes, Espina, Aragonese, and Suarez (D.)	Establishing Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) training and assessment centers in certain parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HBs 776, 1231, 4254 and 4300 subject to style and amendment.
	HR 297	Rep. Lagon	Commending and congratulating Aldrean Paul Elvira Alogon for being awarded with the prestigious Freeman Asian Scholarship at the Wesleyan University in Connecticut, USA	The Committee adopted HR 297.
	HB 3218	Deputy Speaker Villanueva	Providing additional benefits for all teaching personnel in state universities and colleges and state-run technical and vocational institutions, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to discuss further HB 3218.</p> <p>Rep. Domingo Rivera (Party-List, CIBAC), co-author of HB 3218, said that the measure seeks to increase the remunerations and benefits of teaching personnel in state universities and colleges (SUCs) and state-run technical-vocational institutions (TVIs) through additional grocery, transportation and medical allowances amounting to P20,000.00 annually.</p> <p>Representatives from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) expressed their support for the bill.</p> <p>While interposing no objection to the proposed law, Philippine Association of State</p>

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education				<p>Universities and Colleges (PASUC) President Tirso Ronquillo suggested the inclusion of non-teaching personnel as well in the bill's coverage. According to Ronquillo, non-teaching personnel play a vital role in the improvement and development of SUCs in the country.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to invite representatives from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Civil Service Commission (CSC) and CHED to join the TWG.</p>
Inter-parliamentary Relations and Diplomacy	HR 387	Rep. Yu	Organizing the Philippines-Bahrain Parliamentarians' Friendship Group	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Divina Grace Yu (1st District, Zamboanga del Sur), adopted HR 387.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Rogelio Neil Roque (4th District, Bukidnon), presided over this meeting to allow Rep. Yu to sponsor her resolution.</p> <p>Rep. Yu said that forming a parliamentary group of friendship and goodwill between the Philippines and the Kingdom of Bahrain will give rise to a more solid institutional linkage that will facilitate discussion of legislative matters of mutual interest and exchange of experiences and ideas.</p> <p>Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Assistant Secretary Leslie Baja expressed his support for the measure.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Deputy Speaker Raneo "Ranie" Abu (2nd District, Batangas), Rep. Yu said that through HR 367, the House of Representatives makes the initial move to create parliamentary relations with Bahrain. She added that an official communication will be sent to the legislature of Bahrain on the matter.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Voltaire Mauricio, DFA legislative liaison unit acting head, gave a briefing on the country's membership and participation in parliamentary assemblies and bilateral friendship groups.</p> <p>Mauricio said that inter-parliamentary relations and activities reinforce diplomacy and overall relations and cooperation with other countries. He said that the Philippine Congress may initiate the organization of a parliamentarians' friendship group through a resolution. If the parliament of the other country favors the proposal to form such a group, it will formulate a counterpart resolution affirming the same.</p> <p>Mauricio suggested that aside from the existing parliamentary friendship groups of which the Philippines is a member, other countries that it may form parliamentary ties with are Malaysia, Myanmar, Japan and India.</p>

Continuation... Inter-parliamentary Relations and Diplomacy				<p>Ifugao Rep. Solomon Chungalao suggested that the Philippines should instead let Malaysia make the first move so as not to compromise the Philippines' stand on its territorial dispute with Malaysia about Sabah. Mauricio, however, said that having better parliamentary ties with Malaysia may actually help resolve the dispute through diplomatic means.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to activate the parliamentary friendship groups formed through the years with 39 countries. The Members were requested to submit to the Committee a list of parliamentary friendship groups they want to join.</p>
Justice	HBs 842, 1156, 1446, 1619, 2122, 3263, 3628, 4265, & 4308	Reps. Biazon, Romualdez (Y.), Zubiri, Suarez (A.), Chipeco, 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	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso III (3 rd District, Leyte), approved the nine Committee Reports on the bills.
	HBs 2243 & 3091	Reps. Dujali and Alvarez (P.)	Creating additional branches of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) in the Eleventh Judicial Region in the Province of Davao del Norte and appropriating funds therefor, amending for the purpose Batas Pambansa Blg. 129	The Committee approved HB 3091 in consolidation with HB 2243, and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HBs 376, 393, 572, 628, 727 & 2005	Reps. Olivarez, Ferrer, Gasataya, Almario, Jalosjos, and Vargas	Creating additional branches of the RTC, Municipal Trial Court (MTC), and Metropolitan Trial Court (MeTC) in various parts of the country, amending for the purpose Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, as amended, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the six bills subject to style and amendment.
	HBs 724, 4190 & 4714	Rep. Torres-Gomez	Creating additional branches of the RTC, MTC and MeTC in the Province of Leyte	The Committee approved HB 724 in consolidation with HBs 4190 and 4714, subject to style and amendment.
	HB 2286	Rep. Dimaporo (M.K.)	Transferring the seats of two branches of the RTC in the Province of Lanao del Norte to the Municipality of Tubod and creating two additional branches of the RTC in the Province of Lanao del Norte, amending for the purpose Section 14(m) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, as amended, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 2286 subject to style and amendment.
	HBs 1614 & 1746	Deputy Speakers Gonzales (N.) and Villafuerte	Granting good conduct time allowance (GCTA) to prisoners who participate in literacy, skills, and values development programs in penal institutions, amending for the purpose Article 97 of Act No. 3815	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the nine bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Resource persons present during the meeting were requested to submit their respective position papers for the Committee's reference in its deliberations on the bills.</p>
	HBs 4383 & 4822	Deputy Speaker Garcia and Rep. Flores	Further amending Article 97 of Act No. 3815, in order to clarify the legislative intention of RA 10592 excluding recidivists, habitual delinquents, escapees, and persons convicted of heinous crimes from enjoying the benefits of GCTA under Article 97 of said Act	The DOJ was requested to submit a copy of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the GCTA Act (RA 10592) which was already published in September this year.

Continuation... Justice	HBs 4456 & 4894	Reps. Haresco and Yap (E.)	Defining good conduct, instituting additional measures for the implementation of GCTA, amending for this purpose Articles 97 and 99 of Act No. 3815, as amended	
	HB 4628	Rep. Veloso	Rationalizing the grant of GCTA, amending for the purpose Articles 29, 97 and 99 of Act No. 3815, as amended	
	HB 4715	Rep. Torres-Gomez	Further amending Articles 29, 97, 98, and 99 of Act No. 3815, as amended (by rationalizing the grant of GCTA)	
	HB 4964	Rep. Rodriguez	Amending RA 10592, or the law amending Articles 29, 94, 97, 98, and 99 of Act No. 3815, as amended (by granting the Secretary of Justice the sole authority to release or grant allowances for good conduct to prisoners/inmates sentenced to life imprisonment or reclusion perpetua or high risk inmates, among others)	
	HB 4553	Rep. Veloso	Amending Article 70 of Act No. 3815, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code (RPC) (by repealing the 5 th 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. Lawrence "Law" Fortun (1st District, Agusan del Norte) asked the position of the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) on the bill.</p> <p>PAO Public Attorney Maria Joy Karen Adraneda-Filio said that the three-fold rule under Article 70 of the RPC can still be applied under the proposed law.</p> <p>The three-fold rule under Article 70 of the RPC provides that a convict can only be punished for a maximum of three times the most severe penalty. The maximum period, however, shall not exceed 40 years as provided for under Paragraph 5 of Article 70.</p> <p>Department of Justice (DOJ) State Counsel Ulyses Aguila said that instead of repealing Paragraph 5 of Article 70, the DOJ proposes to amend the provision by coming up with a list identifying the circumstances wherein persons deprived of liberty (PDL) shall be disqualified from the three-fold rule.</p>
Poverty Alleviation	HR 402	Rep. Malapitan	Resolution urging the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to seriously consider the recommendations and proposals of the House of Representatives in the crafting and promulgation of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA 11310, also known as the "Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Act," deemed to be in the furtherance of the legislative intent and spirit of the said law	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Dale "Along" Malapitan (1 st District, Caloocan City), adopted HR 402 with amendments.
Science and Technology	HB 260	Rep. Ramirez-Sato	Strengthening the national policy on access, and benefit-sharing from the utilization of Philippine genetic resources	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Erico Aristotle Aumentado (2 nd District, Bohol), approved HB 260.

Continuation... Science and Technology	HBs 1674 & 2108	Deputy Speaker Villafuerte and Rep. Aumentado	Strengthening the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) for the promotion of research work along scientific lines and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate HBs 1674 and 2108.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Faustino “Inno” Dy V (6th District, Isabela), was designated to head the TWG.</p> <p>DOST Secretary Fortunato dela Peña expressed support for the proposed law but gave several recommendations to improve it. Dela Peña, who served as president of the NRCP in the past, expressed no objection to retaining the present structure of the NRCP but manifested that being a government corporation does not have any advantage.</p> <p>Dela Peña also does not favor the creation of NRCP offices in all regions, as proposed in the bill, citing the huge budgetary requirements.</p> <p>Dela Peña also suggested that the NRCP and the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) should adopt a common agenda for research and development in science and technology.</p>
--	--------------------	--	---	---

AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Bases Conversion (Special Committee)	<p>Briefing by the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) Group on their mandate, corporate structure, areas of operations, and programs and projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Francis Gerald Aguinaldo Abaya (1st District, Cavite), listened to the briefing conducted by the BCDA and allied agencies and corporations on their mandate, corporate structure, areas of operations, and programs and projects.</p> <p>BCDA President and CEO Vivencio Dizon said that BCDA is mandated “to help strengthen the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) while building great cities.” Dizon added that BCDA provides funding for the modernization program of the AFP as well as for the housing, operations and administration of the AFP.</p> <p>From May 1993 to September 2019, Dizon reported that BCDA has already disposed or sold a total of P106.1 billion worth of assets which are part of military bases and camps. He also said that BCDA’s 2016 to 2018 total remittance to the National Treasury reached P15.5 billion, which is almost 25% of the total remittance it made since 1993.</p> <p>Dizon added that the BCDA is positioning Clark as the next investment center in Asia through high impact projects such as the New Clark City (NCC) – a 9,450-hectare metropolis rising within the Clark Special Economic Zone – next to Bonifacio Global City (BGC) in Taguig City, which is now one of the premier business and residential districts in the country.</p> <p>The first phase of the NCC is the establishment of the National Government Administrative Center (NGAC) that will house back-up offices of various national government agencies to ensure continuous operations and services in case of disaster or natural calamities. The NCC will also house a world class sports complex which will be used as one of the venues for the 30th Southeast Asian Games (SEAG) this year which the Philippines will be hosting. After the SEA Games,</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Bases Conversion (Special Committee)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) • Clark Development Corporation (CDC) 	<p>Dizon said that part of the sports complex will be assigned to the proposed Philippine High School for Sports.</p> <p>The NCC is also envisioned to be a major economic hub with its own international airport, the Clark International Airport. Dizon said that the airport has served more than 2.5 million domestic passengers during the first half of 2019 and that domestic and international flights are using the airport at an increasing trend.</p> <p>SBMA Chair and Administrator Wilma Eisma informed the Committee that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has not yet approved the proposed new organizational structure of the SBMA. She also mentioned SBMA's expansion plan that will accommodate more local and foreign investors in the freeport zone.</p> <p>Eisma admitted that many workers were affected by the closure of Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction Philippines, Inc. (Hanjin), a South Korean shipbuilding company operating in Subic, which filed for bankruptcy in January of this year. But she disclosed that an American company is willing to take over Hanjin but refrained from discussing other details, saying that the ongoing negotiation is strictly confidential. Hearing this, Occidental Mindoro Rep. Josephine Ramirez-Sato said that all contracts involving government property must be open to the public. Rep. Ramirez-Sato likewise cautioned the SBMA that the conversion of lands, in line with its expansion plan, should not be detrimental to the ecosystem.</p> <p>CDC President and Chief Executive Officer Noel Manankil said that CDC's total net income from 2016 to 2018 was P3.17 billion. For the same period, Manankil said that CDC's total remittance to the government's coffer reached P2 billion.</p> <p>On the query of Baguio City Rep. Mark Go if there are Philippine offshore gaming operators (POGOs) in Clark, Manankil answered in the affirmative, further confirming that majority of the employees of the POGOs are Chinese nationals.</p> <p>John Hay Management Corporation (JHMC) President and CEO Allan Garcia and Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC) Vice President for Airport Operations Josefa Catherine Bada likewise presented the mandate of their respective offices.</p>
<p>Subcommittee on Marawi Rehabilitation (Disaster Management)</p>	<p>Briefing by the Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM) on the status of the government's rehabilitation efforts in Marawi City</p>	<p>The Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Ansaruddin Abdul Malik Adiong (1st District, Lanao del Sur), listened to the briefing of the TFBM on the government's rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in Marawi City in the aftermath of the battle between the ISIS-backed local terrorist groups and government forces which left the city in ruins.</p> <p>Director Rowena Dineros, deputy head secretariat of the TFBM, reported on the activities and accomplishments of the members of the TFBM since its creation in 2017. The departments and agencies involved have been providing the affected residents medical assistance, food packs and other relief goods, livelihood starter kits, skills training, and shelter, among others. Dineros said that the task force has completed the profiling of 46,169 families who are homeowners/sharers and 3,787 families who are renters in Marawi City.</p> <p>As of October 31, 2019, a total of 2,846 homeowners in the most affected areas (MAA) in Marawi City have already consented to the demolition of their damaged houses. Aside from the demolition of houses as part of the debris clearing in the area, 536 unexploded bombs were also recovered as of October 2019.</p> <p>On the reconstruction and rehabilitation of roads and bridges, Dineros reported that the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)</p>

<p>Continuation... Subcommittee on Marawi Rehabilitation (Disaster Management)</p>		<p>has already completed the construction of 18.97 kilometers of transcentral roads in Marawi City, which was funded by Japan. The reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Banggolo, Mapaning and Pumping Bridges is still on-going.</p> <p>Director Edgar Posadas from the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) reported on the status of utilization of the FY 2018 and FY 2019 National Disaster Risk Reduction Management (NDRRM) Fund for the Marawi Recovery Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program (MRRRP).</p> <p>Posadas disclosed that out of the total appropriations of P10 billion for FY 2018, only about P5.62 billion has been issued with Special Allotment Release Order (SARO). On the other hand, no SARO has been issued yet for the FY 2019 appropriations amounting to P3.5 billion. The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) issues the SARO which authorizes an agency to incur obligations not exceeding the amount given and for the purpose for which it was approved.</p>
<p>Mindanao Affairs</p>	<p>Briefing by the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) on its plans and programs for Mindanao</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte), will continue its discussion with MinDA on its plans and programs for Mindanao in another meeting.</p> <p>In today's briefing, MinDA Assistant Secretary Romeo Montenegro reported that 52% of the country's food production comes from Mindanao. He added that the region has high opportunities for growth especially in the agriculture sector since 65% of its potential irrigable areas have yet to be developed.</p> <p>According to Montenegro, Mindanao's annual average growth rate has steadily increased from 3.92% during the Ramos administration to 7.5% during the time of President Benigno Aquino III. For 2016 to 2022, the Duterte administration's target growth rate is between 7% and 8%. To achieve this target, Montenegro said that MinDA continues to embark on several catalytic programs and projects, focusing on interconnectivity with other countries in the East ASEAN Growth Area.</p> <p>Montenegro added that MinDA has 72 flagship projects being implemented or lined up for the period 2017 to 2022, including the construction of new air and sea linkages such as airports, railways, and bridges, as well as the construction of power plants and fish ports. He said Mindanao will need an additional budget of P1.31 trillion or 20% of the annual national budget over a four-year period in order to fund the Mindanao Development Corridor's projects aimed at spurring economic growth and reducing poverty in the region.</p> <p>Several Members of the Committee expressed concern over the planned single-track, diesel-run railway system under the Mindanao Railway Project. Rep. Pantaleon Alvarez (1st District, Davao del Norte) urged the implementing agency to revert back to the original plan of a two-track, electric-run railway system. Rep. Alvarez also recommended the conduct of a feasibility study for another airport as an alternative to the Davao International Airport, citing the latter's limited runway capacity. He, along with Rep. Isidro Ungab (3rd District, Davao City), favors an increased funding for the region in order to sustain its growth.</p> <p>The 102-km Mindanao Railway Project: Tagum-Davao-Digos (MRP-TDD) segment is the first of the three segments of the MRP that will commence construction by the 3rd quarter of next year and is expected to be completed by the end of 2021. The MRP-TDD is expected to reduce travel time from Tagum City, Davao del Norte to Digos City, Davao del Sur from 3.5 hours to 1.3 hours once it starts operating in 2022. (Source: www.dotr.gov.ph)</p>

Continuation... Mindanao Affairs		<p>MinDA was requested to submit a copy of the Mindanao Development Plan, as the Committee agreed to set another meeting to continue its discussion on MinDA's plans and programs for Mindanao.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to invite representatives from the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in the Committee's next meeting.</p>
National Defense and Security	<p>Briefing on national security concerns and on the status of the AFP Modernization Program by the following agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Department of National Defense (DND) 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Raul "Boboy" Tupas (5th District, Iloilo), listened to the presentation of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Department of National Defense (DND) on military matters.</p> <p>AFP Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations Andres Centino discussed the AFP's mandate, functions, and the operational plans for internal and external security, humanitarian assistance, and disaster response.</p> <p>Reporting on the status of implementation of the AFP Modernization Program, AFP System Engineering Office Chief Roy Galido informed the body of the recent acquisitions by the AFP to boost its capability in air, maritime, and land defense. With regard to the financial requirements of the program, Galido recommended the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the annual P25 billion AFP modernization budget and provide additional funding for the other pillars of the program; and Provide an annual defense budget representing at least 2% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). <p>AFP Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence Reuben Basiao discussed the internal security threats coming from the communist terrorist group (CTG). He provided a list of organizations that are allegedly financially supporting and fronting for the CTG.</p> <p>On the query of Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon if the country's territorial seas are covered by the military's air and maritime defense program, DND Secretary Delfin Lorenzana answered in the affirmative. He added that with the recently acquired radars, the country now has a more effective surveillance of its maritime domain.</p> <p>Rep. Arlene Brosas (Party-List, GABRIELA) denounced the military for red-tagging GABRIELA and accusing it as a CTG front. She questioned the DND if the red-tagging of legitimate groups and organizations is a prelude to martial law.</p> <p>Lorenzana denied that martial law is forthcoming. He explained that the AFP has determined that GABRIELA is fronting for the CTG based on the documents seized during its operations around the country.</p> <p>Rep. Brosas countered that the AFP has to prove its accusations against GABRIELA in court before it does drastic measures.</p> <p>For his part, Rep. Joseph Stephen Paduano (Party-List, ABANG LINGKOD) opined that communists whose ideologies are not espousing armed struggle are legal.</p> <p>Meanwhile, DND Assistant Secretary for Plans and Programs Angelito de Leon presented the National Defense Strategy for 2018-2022. He informed the body of the country's traditional threats which include challenges to territorial integrity and maritime domain; ongoing internal conflicts due to ethnic, political, sectarian and religious friction; and terrorism. Non-traditional threats include threats to cyberspace, impacts of climate change and disasters, and proliferation of nuclear weapons and chemical, biological, radioactive, and nuclear explosive materials.</p>

Continuation... National Defense and Security		<p>Lt. Col. Domingo Robles of the Philippine Army (AFP-PA) enumerated the proposed priority legislative measures of the DND/AFP, some of which are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Defense Act; • Defense Acquisition Act; • Mandatory Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) in Grades 11 and 12; and • Military and Uniformed Personnel Pension Reform. <p>The DND was requested to submit a report on the utilization of the P25-billion budget for the AFP Modernization Program.</p> <p>Resource persons from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) will be invited to attend in the next meeting to explain or justify the approved budget of the DND.</p>
Science and Technology	Briefing by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) on its proposed FY 2020 budget, major accomplishments, and plans and programs	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Erico Aristotle Aumentado (2nd District, Bohol), listened to the presentation of the DOST on its proposed FY 2020 budget, major accomplishments, and plans and programs.</p> <p>DOST Undersecretary Renato Solidum said that under the FY 2020 National Expenditure Program (NEP), the DOST is set to receive a budget of P20.18 billion, which is 0.39% lower than its current budget of P20.26 billion.</p> <p>Solidum presented the DOST's 11-Point Agenda, which is in line with President Rodrigo Duterte's pronouncement that science and technology should remain important drivers of development, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue research and development (R&D) to address pressing national problems; • Continue R&D to enhance productivity and improve management of resources; • Engage in R&D to generate and apply new knowledge and technologies across sectors; • Strengthen and utilize regional R&D capabilities; • Maximize utilization of R&D results through technology transfer and commercialization; • Develop science, technology, and innovation (STI) human resources and build a strong STI culture; • Upgrade STI facilities and capacities to advance R&D activities and expand S&T services; • Expand STI assistance to communities and the production sector, particularly the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs); • Provide STI-based solutions for disaster risks and climate change adaptation and mitigation; • Strengthen industry-academe-government and international STI collaboration; and • Enhance effectiveness of STI governance.

DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Cooperatives Development	Discussion on the issuance of Certificate of Tax Exemption (CTE) to cooperatives by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sabiniano Canama (Party-List, COOP-NATCCO), will continue its discussion on the process of issuance of CTEs to cooperatives by the BIR on November 18.</p> <p>According to BIR OIC Assistant Commissioner Ma. Luisa Belen, cooperatives will be issued CTEs upon compliance with the documentary requirements specified under RA 9520 (Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008) and BIR memorandums and circulars.</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Cooperatives Development</p>		<p>However, Rep. Canama cited the difficulties the cooperatives face in securing CTEs such as the numerous documentary requirements that need to be complied with and BIR's issuances on CTEs which are deemed contrary to the letter of the law.</p> <p>Belen said that 6,866 cooperatives out of the 26,779 registered cooperatives have already been granted CTEs to date. She also cited Article 144 of RA 9520 as the basis for the issuance of BIR memorandum circulars regarding the tax exemptions.</p> <p>House Members and cooperative leaders maintained that the CTE should be granted to cooperatives automatically by virtue of RA 9520.</p> <p>Belen proposed a review of the law and the conduct of dialogues with cooperatives in order to improve the process of CTE issuance.</p> <p>Rep. Canama advised the cooperatives present in the meeting to consult individually with the BIR representatives regarding their concerns.</p>
	<p>Presentation by the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) on the draft Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 11364 or the CDA Charter of 2019</p>	<p>The Committee listened to the presentation of CDA Executive Director Ray Elevazo on the draft IRR of RA 11364.</p> <p>On the statement of Fr. Anton Pascual, founding director of Metro South Cooperative Bank (MSCB), that the drafting of the IRR should be led by the cooperative sector, Rep. Canama emphasized that the CDA is the government body given the mandate of drafting the IRR.</p> <p>After the discussion on the draft IRR, Rep. Canama requested the CDA to incorporate in the draft IRR the suggestions of the Members and the resource persons during the meeting.</p> <p>Consultations on the IRR with NCR cooperatives will be held on November 20.</p>
<p>Poverty Alleviation</p>	<p>Presentation of the draft implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA 11291 or the Magna Carta of the Poor by the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC)</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Dale "Along" Malapitan (1st District, Caloocan City), will schedule another meeting to give NAPC the opportunity to present a complete draft of the IRR of RA 11291.</p> <p>Rep. Raul del Mar (1st District, Cebu City), one of the authors of RA 11291, noted that the NAPC added provisions in the IRR that are not included in the law. He advised the NAPC to work within the provisions of the law to prevent questions on the legality of the IRR which could further delay the law's implementation.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP), also one of the authors of RA 11291, concurred with the statement of Rep. Del Mar and asked NAPC to explain why it was not able to submit a complete draft considering that it had already conducted 17 consultations with stakeholders.</p> <p>NAPC Research Unit Head Fernando Cao explained that the delay in the crafting of a complete draft IRR was due to the late submission of inputs from other agencies that were also tasked to contribute to the crafting of the IRR. However, he gave assurance that the complete and revised draft IRR will be submitted to the Committee by November 18.</p>