



# Committee Daily Bulletin

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

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## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Conference Committee	HB 5829 & SB 1224	Speaker Cayetano and Senate Majority Leader Zubiri	Institutionalizing Comprehensive Values Education in the K to 12 curriculum as a core subject including Good Manners and Right Conduct, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Conference Committee, co-chaired by Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo, Chair of the House Committee on Basic Education and Culture, and Senator Win Gatchalian, Chair of the Senate Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture, approved the reconciled version of HB 5829 and SB 1224 subject to style.</p> <p>Aside from Rep. Romulo, the following conferees from the House of Representatives were present during the meeting: Deputy Speaker Evelina Escudero (1<sup>st</sup> District, Sorsogon), Reps. Jocelyn Fortuno (5<sup>th</sup> District, Camarines Sur), Resurreccion Acop (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Antipolo City), and Stella Luz Quimbo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Marikina City).</p> <p>On the part of the Senate, other conferees who were present aside from Senator Gatchalian were: Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri, Senators Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, Joel Villanueva, and Risa Hontiveros.</p>

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Climate Change (Special Committee)	HB 2184	Deputy Speaker Legarda	Promoting a low carbon economy, establishing for this purpose the emission cap-and-trade system in the industry sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the climate	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Edgar Chatto (1<sup>st</sup> District, Bohol), approved HB 2184 subject to amendment.</p> <p>Resource persons from the Departments of Energy (DOE), Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Trade and Industry (DTI), and Finance (DOF), and the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC) were requested to submit their respective recommendations for consideration by the Committee.</p>
Games and Amusements	HR 660	Rep. Nieto	Congratulating boxer, Johnriel "Quadro Alas" Casimero for winning the WBO Bantamweight World Championship on December 1, 2019	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Eric Go Yap (Party-List, ACT-CIS), adopted HR 660.
Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Public Accounts	HR 695	Rep. Defensor	Inquiry into the Philippine plan for energy sufficiency and sustainability in relation to the uncollected receivables of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management (PSALM) Corporation	The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Michael Defensor (Party-List, ANAKALUSUGAN), Chair of the Committee on Public Accounts, and Rep. "Kuya" Jose Antonio Sy-Alvarado (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Bulacan), Chair of the Committee on Good Government

<p>Continuation...</p> <p>Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Public Accounts</p>				<p>and Public Accountability, will deliberate further on HR 695 in its next meeting.</p> <p>PSALM President and Chief Executive Officer Irene Joy Besido-Garcia presented PSALM's existing generation assets and outstanding financial obligations as well as the details of its overdue receivables.</p> <p>Besido-Garcia stated that as of December 2019, PSALM has overdue receivables amounting to P95.42 billion from the independent power producers (IPPs), electricity distribution companies, and electric cooperatives. Some of these receivables, he said, were contested and are pending for litigation in the courts.</p> <p>Atty. Joshua Gilbert Paraiso, counsel of the Vivant-Sta. Clara Northern Renewables Generation Corporation, said that the corporation already paid P1.2 billion of its P4.6 billion total obligations to PSALM last January 2020 and will pay the remaining balance on installment basis.</p> <p>Juan Eugenio Roxas, president and CEO of FDC Utilities, Inc. (FDCUI), said that FDCUI and FDC Misamis Power Corporation (FDC Misamis) have agreed on a payment settlement scheme with PSALM in which initial payments of P400 million and P150 million, respectively, were made. As of December 2019, FDCUI has P1.2 billion outstanding balance, while FDC Misamis has P2.6 billion, Roxas said, minus the initial payments made.</p> <p>Manila Electric Company (MERALCO) First Vice President and Head of Regulatory Management Jose Ronald Valles confirmed that MERALCO and National Power Corporation (NPC) entered into a compromise settlement in which the former agreed to pay its financial obligation amounting to P15 billion.</p> <p>However, Besido-Garcia explained that PSALM is still unable to collect its receivables from MERALCO due to a case filed by the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) in the Supreme Court questioning the agreement between MERALCO and NPC. She said that the OSG contends that PSALM should have been a party to the agreement.</p> <p>The Joint Committee agreed to issue a subpoena to the Solicitor General to compel his attendance in the Committee's next meeting.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Atty. Jupiter Cabaguio, counsel of the South Premiere Power Corporation (SPPC), a subsidiary of SMC Global Power Holdings Corp, affirmed that in September 2015, SPPC filed a case questioning PSALM's termination of its IPPA agreement and</p>
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Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Public Accounts				<p>disputing the power generation rates being charged by PSALM. SPPC has P23.94 billion outstanding balance due to PSALM. The civil case filed by SPPC against PSALM is pending with the Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 212 Mandaluyong City.</p> <p>Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso III (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Leyte) questioned RTC's jurisdiction over the case and pointed out that pursuant to RA 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA Law), the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) has the original and exclusive jurisdiction over the case.</p> <p>In response, Cabaguio said that the matter was brought before the RTC and not before the ERC as the SPPC did not see the necessity of getting a Certificate of Concurrence from ERC on its dispute with PSALM.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Camarines Sur) chided the representatives of the SPPC and SMC Global Power Holdings Corp. for not being forthright in their answers relative to SPPC's financial performance and issuance of dividends to its stockholders. The Deputy Speaker said the officers of the two corporations should be issued a stern warning by the Committee, reminding them that they are under oath.</p> <p>The Committee will invite Judge Rizalina Capco-Umali of RTC Branch 212 to shed light on the status of the case. Other personalities to be invited in the Committee's next meeting are ERC Chair Agnes Devanadera, all the signatories to the IPP Administration Agreement between PSALM and SPPC, and officials of First Gen Hydro Power Corporation.</p> <p>Rep. Veloso requested PSALM to come up with an exit mechanism on how to collect the remaining overdue receivables and how to deal with the contracts entered into by PSALM after the expiration of its corporate life on June 2026.</p>
Health	Substitute Bill to HBs 173, 295, 956, 3353, 3488, 3839, 3932 & 4828	Reps. Tan (A.), Yap (V.), Salo, Almario, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Cabochan, Vargas, and Nieto	Institutionalizing an emergency medical services system (EMSS), creating for the purpose the National EMSS Council, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4<sup>th</sup> District, Quezon), approved the substitute bill.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 172, 437, 1451, 3078, 3079, 3332 & 4811	Reps. Tan (A.), Revilla, Bagatsing, Saulog, Tambunting, and Alonte	Providing for the mandatory immunization program, repealing for the purpose RA 10152, otherwise known as the Mandatory Infants and Children Health Immunization Act of 2011	<p>The Committee approved the substitute bill.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p>

Continuation... Health	Substitute Bill to HB 6276	Rep. Tan (A.)	Institutionalizing a National Oral Health Program and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 6276 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p>
	HBs 2614 & 3889	Reps. Mariano-Hernandez and Vergara	Increasing the bed capacity of the Bay District Hospital in the Municipality of Bay, Laguna, and in Dr. Paulino J. Garcia Memorial Research and Medical Center in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, respectively, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved HBs 2614 and 3889, subject to style and amendment and compliance with certain requirements set by the Department of Health (DOH).</p> <p>The Secretariat will prepare the substitute bills which will be presented to the Committee in another meeting.</p>
	HB 3439	Deputy Speaker Santos-Recto	Upgrading the Lipa City Hospital into a secondary level hospital and increasing the bed capacity for general care services from 100 to 200, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved HB 3439, subject to style and amendment and compliance with certain requirements set by the DOH.</p> <p>The Secretariat will prepare the substitute bill which will be presented to the Committee in another meeting.</p>
	HB 4093	Rep. Defensor (M.)	Establishing a free annual medical check up for Filipinos	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to further discuss HB 4093.</p> <p>Rep. Michael Defensor (Party-List, ANAKALUSUGAN), author of HB 4093, said that his bill aims to provide each Filipino the chance to have a free annual medical check up in any government hospital and health facility to give importance to preventive health care.</p> <p>Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) Primary Care Benefit team head, Dr. Jocelyn Maala, said that the intent of the bill can already be covered by the PhilHealth Konsultasyong Sulit at Tama (Konsulta) Package which will provide all Filipinos access to primary care, including preventive, promotive and curative services, in all accredited government and private health care providers. The Konsulta Package was established pursuant to RA 11223 or the Universal Health Care Law.</p>
	HBs 6140 & 6305	Reps. Defensor (L.) and Rodriguez	Establishing the Philippine Children's Medical Center for Visayas and Philippine Children's Medical Center for Mindanao and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to further discuss HBs 6140 and 6305.</p> <p>Rep. Tan will chair the TWG.</p> <p>Rep. Lorenz Defensor (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Iloilo), author of HB 6140, underscored the importance of establishing a hospital for children in the Visayas and Mindanao to allow the patients from these regions to avail themselves of quality and affordable health services without travelling to Quezon City where the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC) is located.</p> <p>Dr. Eva Jopson, head of the PCMC's Planning Department, said that while she supports the</p>

Continuation... Health				bill, she believes that the charter of the PCMC should be reviewed first to determine if it allows the setting up of satellite pediatric hospitals in the Visayas and Mindanao.
Housing and Urban Development	HB 2000	Deputy Speaker Gonzales (N.)	Declaring certain portions of the Welfareville property located in the City of Mandaluyong open for disposition to bona fide residents without public bidding	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Strike Revilla (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Cavite), approved HB 2000.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Neptali Gonzales II (Mandaluyong City), author of HB 2000, said that his bill seeks to allow the sale of the Welfareville property in Mandaluyong City by direct negotiated sale, without public bidding, to bonafide residents in the area who have occupied the property for four decades now. This, the Deputy Speaker said, is serving social justice to the qualified residents.</p>
People's Participation	Substitute Bill to HBs 832, 4244 & 6151	Reps. Bordado, Abaya, and Umali (A.)	Creating a system of partnership between local governments and civil society organizations (CSOs) through the establishment of a people's council in every local government unit, prescribing its powers and functions	<p>The Committee, chaired by San Jose del Monte City Rep. Florida "Rida" Robes, approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 832, 4244 and 6151 subject to style.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HB 230	Rep. Vargas	Institutionalizing the participation of CSOs in the preparation and authorization process of the annual national budget, providing effective mechanisms therefor	<p>The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 230 subject to style.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p>
	HB 1959	Rep. Cabochan	Amending Section 2 of RA 1827, or the law regulating lobbying in the Congress of the Philippines and in the Commission on Appointments, so as to impose higher penalties for those engaged in unfair and unethical lobbying practices	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to thresh out the issues and concerns relative to HB 1959.</p> <p>Rep. Manuel Cabochan III (Party-List, MAGDALO), author of HB 1959, said that his bill seeks to increase the penalties for those persons who practice unethical lobbying and use corrupt means to influence legislation and confirmation of appointment.</p> <p>Under the proposed law, any person who shall employ corrupt means to influence legislation and confirmation of appointment will be punished by imprisonment of not more than six years and by fine not exceeding P1 million. And if such person is holding any elective or appointive position, he/she shall be subjected to the penalty of perpetual disqualification from holding any public office. RA 1827 only provides a punishment of two years imprisonment or fine of P5,000.</p> <p>Commission on Appointments' Information and Planning Service Director Raymund Alzaga and PUBLiCUS Asia, Inc. Chief Executive Officer Ma. Lourdes Tiquia lauded the bill but suggested that the term "lobbying" should be defined in the bill to clarify the acts that should be penalized.</p> <p>PUBLiCUS Asia, Inc. is a registered lobbying and campaign management firm in the country.</p>

Continuation... People's Participation				The resource persons were asked to submit their respective position papers on the bill.
Public Information	HBs 1293, 2143 & 2278	Deputy Speakers Villafuerte and Romero, and Rep. Garcia (J.E)	Prohibiting and penalizing the dissemination of false or manipulated information	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN), agreed to consolidate and deliberate further on the measures in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Cesar "Jawo" Jimenez Jr. (1<sup>st</sup> District, Zamboanga City) sponsored HB 1293 in behalf of the author, Deputy Speaker Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Camarines Sur).</p> <p>Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Bataan), author of HB 2278, emphasized the need to penalize those who disseminate false or manipulated information as this cause confusion and misunderstanding and could be very destructive particularly in the minds of the youth, who may not have enough capacity to differentiate authentic information from those that are fake.</p> <p>Similarly, Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy (Party-List, Bagong Henerasyon) said that her resolution aims to address the proliferation of false news and irresponsible reporting especially by the print media.</p> <p>The Department of Justice (DOJ), ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation, and the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) expressed their support for the measures.</p> <p>Rep. Garcia requested the DOJ to submit a list of all libel or cybercrime cases that ended in conviction or were dismissed.</p> <p>The Presidential Communications and Operations Office (PCOO), DOJ's Office of Cybercrime, and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) will be invited to attend the Committee's next meeting.</p>
	HR 174	Rep. Herrera-Dy	Inquiry into the actions of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and the Philippine Star relative to the alleged spreading of false news, unfair reporting, out of context, and other acts of irresponsible reporting	
	HB 361	Rep. Yap (V.)	Prohibiting fake, malicious and spurious identity on social media	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to study the bill further.</p> <p>Rep. Jimenez was designated as TWG Chair.</p> <p>According to Rep. Victor Yap (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Tarlac), author of HB 361, his bill aims to curtail the abuse and misuse of social media by prohibiting and penalizing online identity theft. The bill also holds social media networks responsible for verifying and ascertaining the authenticity of social media accounts and for denying or shutting down accounts that are found to be inauthentic or compromised.</p> <p>KBP Legal Counsel Rudolph Jularbal explained to the body that while comments from fake accounts can be filtered or controlled in the website of KBP members, it is difficult to be done in social media platforms such as Facebook.</p>

Revision of Laws	Substitute Bill to HBs 478, 507, 1622, 1939, 2538, 2661, 3088, 3513, 3533, 3703, 3902, 3911, 4040, 4242, 4782, 4971, 5059, 5497, 5708, 5819 & 6051	Reps. Brosas, Barbers, Fortun, Pineda, Deputy Speaker Gonzales (A.), Reps. Sy-Alvarado, Villaraza-Suarez, Aragonés, Castelo, Deputy Speakers Fernandez, Legarda, and Hernandez, Reps. Abaya, Guico, Nieto, Agabas, Delos Santos, Pacquiao, Vargas, and Deputy Speaker Villafuerte	Granting additional benefits to solo parents, amending for the purpose RA 8972, otherwise known as the Solo Parents Welfare Act of 2000	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Zambales), approved the substitute bill to the 21 bills subject to style.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report and to refer the bill to the Committees on Appropriations and Ways and Means for review of its funding and tax provisions, respectively.</p>
	HB 408	Rep. Romualdo	Amending Article 2 of RA 386, otherwise known as the Civil Code of the Philippines, by providing for the publication of laws in the print or online version of the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines, as a requirement for their effectivity	<p>The Committee suspended its deliberation on HB 408 until the submission of position papers from the stakeholders.</p> <p>Rep. Lawrence "Law" Fortun (1<sup>st</sup> District, Agusan del Norte) sponsored HB 408 in behalf of the author, Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, and manifested that the explanatory note attached to the bill be considered as the author's sponsorship speech.</p> <p>The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) expressed its support for the bill.</p> <p>Resource persons from the DICT and the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill.</p>
Transportation	<i>Motu proprio</i> inquiry		Quezon City government's suspension of the Metro Rail Transit (MRT)-7 construction	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1<sup>st</sup> District, Western Samar), inquired into the circumstances behind the suspension of the MRT-7 construction by the Quezon City government effective February 18.</p> <p>The head of the QC government's Department of Building Official, Atty. Mark Perral, clarified that what was temporarily suspended was the above-ground station of MRT-7 which will be located within the Quezon City Memorial Circle. According to Ferral, the City wants the station to be constructed underground so as not to affect the status of the Quezon Memorial Circle as a cultural heritage park. He assured the Committee that the city government is holding talks with San Miguel</p>

Continuation... Transportation				<p>Corporation, the private proponent of the MRT project, contractor EEI Corporation, and the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to thresh out issues.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon asked the DOTr why this issue is being brought out only now that the implementation of the project has already begun.</p> <p>According to DOTr Undersecretary Timothy Batan, the plan was already submitted and approved by the local government of Quezon City during the previous administration. Despite this, the DOTr understands the present QC administration's concern and is willing to adjust the original plan.</p> <p>Rep. Romeo Momo Sr. (Party-List, CWS) inquired as to how the changes will affect the project cost. Batan admitted that any change in the design will definitely incur additional costs.</p> <p>The MRT-7 project, which is part of the government's "Build, Build, Build" program, will connect Quezon City to San Jose del Monte in Bulacan. It will connect with Light Rail Transit (LRT) 1, MRT 3, and the Metro Manila Subway via the common station between SM North EDSA and Trinoma Mall in Quezon City.</p> <p>The Committee requested the QC government and DOTr to submit a copy of the QC ordinance regarding the preservation of the Quezon Memorial Circle and the minutes of the meetings between the concerned government agencies and the contractor on the project's new design to suit the requirement of Quezon City.</p>
	Motu proprio inquiry		Realignment of Metro Manila subway project	<p>The Committee inquired into the realignment of the route of the Metro Manila subway project.</p> <p>Rep. Edgar Erice (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Caloocan City) questioned the DOTr's decision to change the route of the Metro Manila subway so that it will pass through Katipunan Avenue instead of EDSA which was the original plan. Rep. Erice said the new route would be the costliest in terms of investments and environmental impact, citing the study conducted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). He added that the Katipunan route is also close to the West Valley fault line putting the multibillion-peso project at risk.</p> <p>Batan clarified that the Katipunan route was among the three feasible routes identified by JICA in its study. He explained that despite the cost, the Katipunan route will allow more people to access the rail system. JICA Senior Representative Kiyo Kawabuchi affirmed Batan's claims, adding that the project is</p>



Continuation... Transportation				<p>situated a safe distance away from the fault line.</p> <p>The Metro Manila subway is also among the priority infrastructure projects of President Duterte's administration under the "Build, Build, Build" program. Its route will start from Mindanao Avenue-Quirino Highway to Tandang Sora, North Avenue, and Quezon Avenue in Quezon City, passing through East Avenue, Anonas, and Katipunan Avenue also in Quezon City, before going to Ortigas in Pasig City, all the way to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), after passing through some areas in Makati City and Taguig City.</p>
	<i>Motu proprio</i> inquiry		On the status of MRT-3 maintenance	<p>The Committee inquired into the status of MRT-3 maintenance.</p> <p>MRT-3 Director for Operations Michael Capati informed the Committee of the ongoing maintenance work and upgrading of MRT-3. Among these are the restoration of train sets, upgrading of signaling and communications system, and the planned replacement of tracks, which will allow the trains to travel up to 60 km per hour.</p>
	<i>Motu proprio</i> inquiry		On the status of rehabilitation of the Light Rail Transit (LRT)-2	<p>The Committee conducted an inquiry into the status of rehabilitation of the LRT-2, which caught fire on October 3, 2019 resulting in the suspension of its operations.</p> <p>Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) Chief Legal Counsel Jose Belarmino informed the Committee that the LRTA has already prepared its report on the cause of the fire and on the parts that should be replaced or repairs that need to be done to resume the LRT-2's full operations, but that the report will still need to be verified by a third party.</p> <p>Nevertheless, Belarmino assured the Committee that full operations of LRT-2 will resume not later than June of this year.</p> <p>The LRTA was asked to submit to the Committee a monthly accomplishment report on the repair and rehabilitation of the segment of the LRT-2 most affected by the fire, the use of which is suspended up to now.</p>
	<i>Motu proprio</i> inquiry		On the status of LRT Line 1 Cavite Extension Project	<p>The Committee inquired into the status of LRT Line 1 Cavite Extension Project – an 11-kilometer extension from Baclaran Station to Niog, Cavite.</p> <p>Light Rail Manila Corp. Project Manager Rey Pangilinan presented the timelines and status of the LRT1 extension project. He said that the construction of the first phase of the project, consisting of five stations, is 36% complete. He added that partial operability of the extension line is expected to begin by 2021.</p>

Continuation... Transportation	Motu proprio inquiry		On the status of Philippine National Railways (PNR) projects	<p>The Committee conducted an inquiry into the status of the PNR projects.</p> <p>PNR Senior Corporate Attorney Maria Cresielda Ecalnea reported on the status of PNRs projects particularly the construction of the PNR South Railways project – a 639-kilometer standard gauge railway line from Manila to Matnog, Sorsogon. According to Ecalnea, the project is still being finalized. Batan added that the P175-billion project will be funded through an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan from China.</p> <p>Rep. Gabriel Bordado Jr. (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Camarines Sur) expressed concern over the possible debt trap that the country might find itself into due to this loan. Rep. Momo likewise said that the 2% loan interest rate imposed by China is quite high compared to the interest rates offered by other financial institutions.</p> <p>Batan and Ecalnea also took turns in responding to the questions of the Members regarding the conceptualization, planning, and execution of the PNR's projects, including the North-South Commuter Rail and the PNR South Railways projects. The PNR was instructed to submit the loan agreements on the PNR projects.</p>
Ways and Means	Substitute Bills to HBs 422, 901,1252, 2220, 3071, 3898, 4138 & 4285	Rep. Rodriguez, Deputy Speakers Pichay and Villafuerte, Reps. Barba, Umali (A.), Deputy Speaker Savellano, Rep. Abueg-Zaldivar, and Deputy Speaker Pimentel	Establishing special economic zones and freeports in various areas in the country and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Albay), approved the tax provisions of the eight substitute bills with amendments.
	Substitute Bill to HB 1419	Rep. Romualdez (Y.M.)	Converting and expanding the Leyte Industrial Development Estate into the Leyte Ecological Industrial Zone, creating for the purpose the Leyte Ecological Industrial Zone Authority, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provisions of the Substitute Bill to HB 1419 with amendments.
	HB 200	Rep. Garcia (J.E.)	Establishing a special defense economic zone inside the Government Arsenal Defense Industrial Estate located in Camp Gen. Antonio Luna, Lamao, Municipality of Limay, Province of Bataan, creating for this purpose the Special Defense Economic Zone Authority (SpeDEZA) and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provisions of HB 200 with amendments.

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES**

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Subcommittee on Police Administration (Public Order and Safety)	HB 1197	Deputy Speaker Oaminal	Providing for the revitalization and capability enhancement of the Philippine National Police (PNP), appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Subcommittee on Police Administration, chaired by Rep. Samier Tan (1<sup>st</sup> District, Sulu), terminated its deliberation on HB 1197. The Secretariat was directed to come up with a substitute bill using the version of the bill submitted by the Philippine National Police (PNP) as its working draft.</p> <p>The substitute bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Among the agreements reached during the meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chief of the PNP, in consultation with the Secretaries of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), shall prepare the PNP's Revitalization and Capability Enhancement Program (RCEP) within 60 days from the effectivity of the proposed law;</li> <li>• The PNP Chief shall submit the RCEP to the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) which shall endorse the same to Congress, through the Congressional Oversight Committee, for monitoring and evaluation;</li> <li>• The augmentation of funds of local police stations shall be discretionary on the part of the local chief executives of the provincial, city and municipal governments, instead of making it mandatory; and</li> <li>• The Chief of the PNP, in consultation with the NAPOLCOM and the DBM, shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) within 60 days from the implementation of the law.</li> </ul>

**TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES**

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Government Enterprises and Privatization (Technical Working Group on the Creation of Lake Lanao Development Authority)	HBs 3665 & 3877	Reps. Adiong and Balindong	Creating the Lake Lanao Development Authority, defining its powers, functions, and duties and providing funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Yasser Alonto Balindong (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Lanao del Sur), will draft a substitute bill to be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Balindong, author of HB 3877, said that the bill is envisioned to provide a management mechanism that is accountable and inclusive for the protection of Lake Lanao and its watersheds and ensure that the future generations will benefit from activities that can be introduced to maximize the economic potential of the lake's resources.</p>

Continuation... Government Enterprises and Privatization (Technical Working Group on the Creation of Lake Lanao Development Authority)				<p>Resource persons from the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), and Reference and Research Bureau of the House of Representatives (RRB-HRep) suggested that a provision identifying the areas covered by the proposed law be included.</p> <p>The Committee requested the resource persons to submit their respective position papers on the bills.</p>
Information and Communications Technology (Technical Working Group)	HB 62, in consolidation with HBs 3563 & 4110	Reps. Yap (V.), Campos, and Abaya	Strengthening the powers of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), amending for the purpose RA 7925, otherwise known as the Public Telecommunications Policy Act of the Philippines	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by its Committee Secretary Ranier Alvarado, will deliberate further on the bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>The TWG agreed to use HB 62 as its working draft.</p> <p>Among the recommendations of the members of the TWG were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To require a unit in the NTC, instead of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) as proposed in HB 5317, to submit to Congress and the President an annual report on the compliance of public telecommunications entities with the proposed law;</li> <li>To allow new players in the telecommunications industry to operate broadband services; and</li> <li>To clarify if the creation of a comprehensive public telecommunications policy is already provided for under RA 7925.</li> </ul> <p>The Internet Society-Philippines Chapter (ISOC.PH) and Philippine Cable Television Association Inc. (PCTA) were requested to submit their recommendations on the bills for consideration by the TWG.</p>
	HB 4886	Deputy Speaker Romero	Providing for a comprehensive Public Telecommunications Policy Program, providing for penalties and sanctions	
	HB 5317	Rep. Romualdo	Promoting open internet access, strengthening the NTC, and expanding the rights of end-users, amending for the purpose RA 7925	
	HB 5973	Rep. Olivarez	Expanding the coverage and strengthening the powers of the NTC, amending for the purpose RA 7925	
Science and Technology (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 1110, 1464, 3885 & 4572	Reps. Salo, Yu, Umali (A.), and Rodriguez	Converting the Provincial Science and Technology Center (PSTC) into Provincial Science and Technology Office (PSTO) in every province	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Domingo Rivera (Party-List, CIBAC), approved the Substitute Bill subject to style.</p> <p>The bill will be submitted to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>The proposed measure seeks to strengthen and expand the coverage of the PSTCs by converting these centers into offices.</p> <p>It also increases the PSTOs' manpower complement and upgrades the level of positions in these offices, making them at par with the provincial offices of other national government agencies.</p> <p>The PSTOs shall have the following functions: identify the needs and opportunities in science and technology (S&amp;T) in the provinces;</p>

Continuation... Science and Technology (Technical Working Group)				implement the programs and projects of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) on technology promotion and transfer; and develop institutional linkages.
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AGENCY BRIEFINGS				
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER			DISCUSSIONS
Climate Change (Special Committee)	Sectoral reports on the Philippine Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) pursuant to the Paris Agreement on climate change			<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Edgar Chatto (1<sup>st</sup> District, Bohol), listened to the briefing by concerned agencies on the Philippine's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).</p> <p>Climate Change Commission (CCC) Vice Chair and Executive Director Emmanuel de Guzman explained to the Committee that the NDCs detail the actions or efforts a country will undertake to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Under the Paris Agreement, state parties are required to prepare, communicate, and maintain successive NDCs that they intend to undertake in their own countries. The attainment of the goals of the Paris Agreement is dependent on the successful implementation of every nation's NDC.</p> <p>De Guzman also reported that the country's NDC was developed through a whole-of-government-and-society approach and was facilitated by the CCC together with the Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Agriculture (DA), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and representatives from the academe and civil society.</p> <p>According to De Guzman, the CCC has invested so much time and resources to ensure that the NDC is founded on reliable data analytics and the latest science. He added that during the last cabinet cluster meeting, it was agreed that the NDC will serve as the country's investment plan and strategy in attaining a greener economy.</p> <p>With regard to carbon pricing, Environmental Management Bureau's (EMB) Chief of Climate Change Division Albert Magalang presented the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A comprehensive study is needed to look at social and economic implications of implementing a policy on cap-and-trade system as a means of instituting carbon pricing;</li> <li>• The establishment of a company or a facility-level greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions data reporting system is a prerequisite;</li> <li>• The carbon pricing instrument that will be developed should be aligned and consistent with the Philippine NDC; and</li> <li>• The recommendations of the interagency technical working group of the ongoing technical assistance project of the World Bank for the Philippine government entitled "Partnership of Market Readiness" shall be considered. The project includes a study on carbon pricing through the emissions trading scheme.</li> </ul> <p>Carbon pricing puts a price on greenhouse gas emissions which effectively shifts the responsibility of paying for the damages of climate change from the public to the carbon</p>

<p>Continuation... Climate Change (Special Committee)</p>	<p>emission producers. This gives producers the option of either reducing their emissions to avoid paying a high price or continue emitting but having to pay for their emissions. (Source: UNFCCC website)</p> <p>NEDA Director for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment Nieva Natural informed the body that the NDC integrated model that was developed for the country takes into account economic development and poverty reduction efforts consistent with <i>AmBisyon Natin 2040</i> (i.e. zero poverty), and the sectoral growth of the following industries: agriculture, industrial processes and product use (IPPU), transport, forestry, and energy.</p> <p>Meanwhile, DOE Director for Energy Policy and Planning Bureau Jesus Tamang said that in support of the Paris Agreement and the country's efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change, a potential 25% GHG emission avoidance is targeted for the energy sector. However, the DOE's commitment to the NDC is conditional as its principal role is to provide an enabling environment for greater private sector investments and participation considering that the energy sector is private sector-driven. He added that the country's energy security is a top priority as far as DOE is concerned.</p> <p>Similarly, DA's Systems-wide Climate Change Office senior technical officer Perla Baltazar explained the Department's conditional commitment to the NDC depending on the technology transfer, capacity building, and climate finance that will be extended through the financial mechanisms of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).</p> <p>DOTr Assistant Secretary Maria Sheila Napalang presented the Department's key programs intended to address climate change, including the Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program which requires PUVs to be compliant with the Clean Air Act and to have Euro-4 emission engines or better.</p>	<p>Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda (Antique) manifested that she will deliver a privilege speech in the Plenary to present her report on the results of the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP25) to the UNFCCC.</p>
<p>Games and Amusements</p>	<p>Update by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on the status of its <i>Peryahan</i> Games and Small Town Lottery (STL)</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Eric Go Yap (Party-List, ACT-CIS), listened to the presentation of PCSO Legislative Liaison Officer Gay Nadine Alvor on the status of its <i>Peryahan</i> Games and the STL.</p> <p>Alvor reported that <i>Peryahan</i> Games was supposed to run from November 2015 to March 2016 based on the Deed of Authority (DOA) issued by PCSO and the Games' implementing rules and regulations (IRR). However, the authority given to the service provider, Globaltech, was terminated by the PCSO on February 17, 2016 because of violations of the DOA and the IRR. Globaltech filed a case against the PCSO and eventually got a favorable ruling from the Court of Appeals, allowing it to continue to operate. The PCSO Board had to comply with the January 2019 decision of the CA.</p> <p>The Office of the President (OP), however, issued a memorandum dated January 29, 2020, stating that "the resumption of such operations (of Globaltech) does not bear the approval of the President and therefore is still subject to the suspension order of all PCSO games pronounced earlier (in</p>

<p>Continuation...</p> <p>Games and Amusements</p>		<p>July 2019) by the President.” Thus, Alvor said, the PCSO again suspended the operations of <i>Peryahan</i> Games effective February 6, 2020 “until further instructions from the OP.”</p> <p>Alvor reported that <i>Peryahan</i> Games generated a total revenue of P119.9 million during its short run from October 2019 to February 5, 2020.</p> <p>From STL operations, the revenues generated decreased by P6.23 billion or from P26.11 billion in 2018 to only P19.88 billion in 2019. Alvor explained that this significant revenue decline was a result of the President’s suspension of all PCSO games in July 2019, and with only 59 authorized agent corporations (AACs) operating out of the 87 AACs from the previous year. (When the President lifted the suspension of STL games in August 2019, only the AACs that were compliant with the required remittances and other conditions under the STL contract were allowed to resume operations.)</p> <p>According to Alvor, the PCSO revised the STL’s IRR to incorporate new terms and conditions intended to ensure AACs’ compliance with rules and regulations. The 2020 STL Revised IRR was approved by the PCSO Board on January 9, 2020 and was transmitted to the OP for review and approval on January 27.</p> <p>Some Members of the Committee said that they receive reports that <i>Peryahan</i> Games are still being held in their respective areas despite the suspension, and unauthorized STL operations are happening as well.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Prospero Pichay Jr. (1<sup>st</sup> District, Surigao del Sur) stressed that PCSO is losing so much in potential revenues due to these illegal gambling operations.</p> <p>PCSO General Manager Royina Garma said that investigations and proper actions are being undertaken by the PCSO to address illegal gambling operations.</p>
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