



# Committee Daily Bulletin

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

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## COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food	HB 4637	Deputy Speaker Marcoleta	Establishing the Paniqui Tarlac Eco-Farm and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Wilfrido Mark Enverga (1<sup>st</sup> District, Quezon), approved HB 4637.</p> <p>The bill will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for review of its funding provision.</p>
	HBs 914, 1335, 1368, 2617 & 2658	Rep. Tan (A.S.), Deputy Speaker Romero, Reps. Go (E.C), Albano (A.), and Dy (I.P)	Establishing the Philippine Corn Research Institute (PCRI) and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the seven bills and come up with a substitute bill.</p> <p>Rep. Antonio "Tonypet" Albano (1<sup>st</sup> District, Isabela) was designated as TWG Chair.</p>
	HB 3375	Rep. Garin (S.)	Promoting and supporting the development of the corn industry	<p>The Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), and the Philippine Maize Federation, Inc. (Philmaize) expressed their support for the bills.</p>
	HB 4108	Rep. Rodriguez	Promoting and supporting the development of the corn industry, establishing the Philippine Corn Industry Development Authority (CornDev), appropriating funds therefor	<p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers for the TWG's reference in drafting the substitute bill.</p>
Economic Affairs jt. w/ Trade and Industry	HB 200	Rep. Garcia (J. E.)	Establishing a special defense economic zone (SpeDEZ) 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	<p>The Joint Committee, co-presided by Rep. Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), Chair of the Committee on Economic Affairs, and Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Nueva Ecija), Vice Chair of the Committee on Trade and Industry, approved HB 200.</p> <p>Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Bataan), author of HB 200, explained that the establishment of a SpeDEZ will not only strengthen the country's defense capability but also contribute to the country's economic productivity.</p> <p>The Department of National Defense (DND) and the Government Arsenal (GA) support the bill.</p> <p>According to GA Director Daniel Casabar Jr., the passage of the proposed law would boost the technical capability of the GA to produce weapons and ammunition required by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). He also said that it can also lead to GA being able to produce weaponry not only for the AFP's requirements but also for selling and distribution in the region.</p>

Continuation... Economic Affairs jt. w/ Trade and Industry				<p>On the query of several Members regarding the viability of producing weapons locally as opposed to importing them, Director Dave Cruz of DND's Office of Assistant Secretary for Logistics and Acquisitions (OASLA) said that although huge investments will be required during the initial stage, greater returns can be expected in the long-term particularly having a self-reliant defense capability for the country.</p> <p>Casabar was requested to submit to the Committee comparative data showing the cost of locally-produced weapons and imported ones.</p> <p>Rep. Jericho Jonas Nograles (Party-List, PBA) said that the DND must ensure that whatever technology or asset acquired under the project must be turned over to the government in case private entities fail to deliver their contract obligations. He cited the case of the Hanjin Heavy Industries Corporation-Philippines shipyard in Subic Freeport when it went bankrupt and its remaining assets were not turned over to the government.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Prospero Pichay Jr. (1<sup>st</sup> District, Surigao del Sur) asked the DND why it chooses to buy imported guns instead of locally-made guns from Armscor in Marikina. Cruz replied that the latter is disqualified based on the provisions of DND's Procurement Law and Defense Acquisition Act.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Stella Luz Quimbo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Marikina City) disclosed to the body that Armscor is having difficulty selling in the domestic market because imported guns are sold cheaper due to a tax advantage being enjoyed by importers.</p>
	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 certain parts of the country, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the eight bills subject to style.
	HB 1419	Rep. Romualdez (Y.M.)	Converting and expanding the Leyte Industrial Development Estate into the Leyte Ecological Industrial Zone, creating for this purpose the Leyte Ecological Industrial Zone (LEIZ) Authority, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved HB 1419 subject to style.</p> <p>Majority Leader Ferdinand Martin Romualdez (1<sup>st</sup> District, Leyte), co-author of HB 1419, said that converting and expanding the Leyte Industrial Development Estate into an</p>

Continuation... Economic Affairs jt. w/ Trade and Industry				ecological industrial zone would help revive the economic activities in the area. He also said that the creation of the LEIZ Authority and the promotion and development of Leyte's copper industry are consistent with the country's industry development goals.
Higher and Technical Education jt. w/ Basic Education and Culture	HB 513	Rep. Castro (F.L.)	Recognizing the annual observance of World Education Support Personnel Day, declaring for the purpose the sixteenth day of May of every year as National Education Support Personnel Day in the Philippines	The Joint Committee, co-presided by Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, Chair of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, and Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo, Chair of the Committee on Basic Education and Culture, approved HB 513.
	HB 3108	Rep. Castelo	Integrating into the curriculum in all levels of the Philippine educational system, both private and public, a mandatory subject or course on disaster risk management education, both theoretical and with practical component as an effective proactive response to natural disasters, calamities, and hazards like floods, typhoons, fires, tsunamis, earthquakes, and strong winds	The Joint Committee will deliberate further on the three bills in its next meeting.  Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Quezon City), author of HB 3108, said that her bill seeks to include a course or subject on disaster risk management in all levels of the educational system in the country.  Department of Education (DepEd) Senior Education Program Specialist Christine Graza-Magboo apprised the Committee that disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) is already being taught as part of the Science and Health curriculum for Grades 1 to 10. Similarly, a subject on DRRM is included in the Senior High School level as part of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) strand.
	HBs 5386 & 5978	Reps. Noel and Silverio	Requiring the teaching of disaster awareness and disaster mitigation as part of the curriculum of all primary and secondary schools	Rep. Ramon Guico III (5 <sup>th</sup> District, Pangasinan) suggested that a DRRM subject be taught in all other strands not just the STEM.  Meanwhile, Deputy Speaker Evelina Escudero (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Sorsogon) informed the body that RA 10121 or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 contains a provision (Section 14) with the same intent of integrating disaster risk management in school curricula.
	HB 208	Rep. Garcia (J.E.)	Providing for the establishment of learning cities, mandating compliance with the key features thereof and appropriating funds therefor	The Joint Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to thresh out issues and concerns relative to HB 208 and to draft the corresponding substitute bill.  Based on the explanatory note of HB 208, "learning cities" is described as "a city which effectively mobilizes its resources in every sector to: promote inclusive learning from basic to higher education; revitalize learning in families and communities; facilitate learning for and in the workplace; extend the use of modern learning technologies; enhance quality excellence in learning; and foster culture of learning throughout life."  Asked to elucidate further on the establishment of learning cities, Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Bataan),

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education jt. w/ Basic Education and Culture				<p>author of HB 208, said that local government units (LGUs), cities and municipalities will be mandated to incorporate into their plans the lifelong learning system wherein the LGUs will be the center or main implementor.</p> <p>Rep. Romulo expressed his concern that establishing the “learning cities” might duplicate the function and objective of the existing alternative learning system (ALS) program. He also opined that the establishment of “learning cities” will necessarily require additional appropriation from the government.</p> <p>Rep. Guico expressed his support for the bill as the proposed establishment of “learning cities” will not add another layer of learning but will only facilitate the synergy of programs among schools and various government agencies that are aligned with the concept of lifelong learning which is the key to a sustainable and developed society.</p> <p>Lindsay Barrientos, Deputy Executive Director of Philippines’ National Commission for UNESCO, expressed her support for the bill. She agreed that LGUs and agencies should align their programs with the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) which already initiates efforts to mainstream lifelong learning policies. She added that more is to be done outside the purview of educational agencies where lifelong learning is concerned.</p> <p>Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Lawyer Clefford Pascual also expressed his support for the bill. He said that the establishment of learning cities will enhance individual empowerment and foster social inclusion.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to come up with a framework for the establishment of the lifelong learning system to be discussed in the next meeting.</p>
	HBs 569 & 5231	Reps. Gasataya and Noel	Regulating the commencement of class hours in public and private educational institutions in the Philippines	<p>The Joint Committee agreed to create a TWG to draft the substitute bill to the two bills.</p> <p>Bacolod City Rep. Greg Gasataya, author of HB 569, said that his bill proposes to reduce the number of class hours in public and private schools without compromising the quality of education. HB 569 prohibits the commencement of classes earlier than 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>On the query of Deputy Speaker Escudero on the required number of hours that students should stay in schools, DepEd’s Project Development Officer for Literacy Coordinating Council Marianne Centeno said that students should stay for a maximum period of six hours. However, she suggested that the proposed measure should also consider the issue of</p>

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education jt. w/ Basic Education and Culture				classroom availability especially in highly urbanized cities wherein classroom use has morning and afternoon shifts.
	HBs 1406, 3610, 3983 & 4074	Rep. Vargas, Deputy Speaker Escudero, Reps. Ong (R.), and Duavit	Synchronizing the academic calendar in all levels of public and private schools nationwide	<p>The Joint Committee agreed to create a TWG to draft the substitute bill to the seven bills.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Escudero, author of HB 3610, said that her bill proposes to change the allowable period for the commencement of classes in schools to within the second Monday of August to the second Monday of September. At present, the allowable period is from the first Monday of June to the last day of August, as provided for under RA 7977 or the "Act to lengthen the school calendar from 200 days to not more 220 class days."</p> <p>However, Graza-Magboo informed the body that shifting the start of school from June to August will incur additional costs on the part of the schools as this would mean that classes will be ongoing during the summer months of April and May. During this period, high electric bills will be expected with the frequent use of electric fans and air conditioners to provide relief from the heat.</p> <p>According to Graza-Magboo, the Department is still studying which will be the best month to start classes for both the teachers and students.</p> <p>Likewise, CHED Executive Director Cinderella Filipina Benitez-Jaro cited some challenges that will be encountered if the opening of classes will be moved to August, such as the teachers' employment gap from April to July during the first year of transition, and the schedule of board examinations which also needs to be adjusted.</p> <p>On the other hand, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) expressed support for the bills as moving the opening of classes to August would lessen class suspensions during the typhoon months of June and July.</p>
	HBs 1591 & 3201	Reps. Hofer and Olivarez	Shifting the academic calendar from June to August	
	HB 1845	Rep. Rodriguez	Revising the school calendar for the health, safety and welfare of school children and student youth	
Justice	HB 3124	Rep. Tejada	Creating one additional branch of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) in the Twelfth Judicial Region to be stationed at the Municipality of Mlang, Province of Cotabato, further amending for the purpose Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as the "Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980," as amended and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso III (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Leyte), approved HB 3124 with amendment.</p> <p>Atty. Marilou Marzan-Anigan, OIC of the Court Management Office of the Office of the Court Administrator (OCA), Supreme Court, recommended the creation of two additional branches of the RTC in the Municipality of Mlang, Province of Cotabato.</p>
	HB 4609	Rep. Flores	Creating an additional branch of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC) in the City of Malaybalay, Province of Bukidnon, further amending for the purpose BP 129, as amended and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 4609.

Continuation... Justice	HB 5532	Rep. Mariano-Hernandez	Creating an additional branch of the RTC in the Province of Laguna to be stationed at the Municipality of Los Baños, amending for the purpose BP 129, as amended, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 5532.
	HB 5914	Rep. Mariano-Hernandez	Creating two additional branches of the RTC and one additional branch of the Municipal Trial Court (MTC) in the Province of Laguna to be stationed at the City of Cabuyao, amending for the purpose BP 129, as amended, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved HB 5914 with amendment.</p> <p>Marzan-Anigan recommended the creation of five additional branches of the RTC in the City of Cabuyao, Province of Laguna.</p>
	HB 2993	Rep. Nograles (J.F.F.)	Creating a comprehensive legal aid program, rationalizing standards for the underprivileged and underserved, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee suspended its action on HB 2993 pending the submission of position papers by the PAO, Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), University of the Philippines-Office of Legal Aid (UP-OLA), Legal Education Board (LEB), and the Philippine Association of Law Schools (PALS).</p> <p>Rep. Juan Fidel Felipe Nograles (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Rizal), author of HB 2993, said that his bill seeks to complement the needed modernization of the PAO by creating legal aid clinics in all law schools, both public and private, and engage students in providing supplemental legal aid under the supervision of a practicing lawyer.</p> <p>PAO Chief Attorney Rueda-Acosta urged the Committee to consider the bill as a certified urgent bill in support of the PAO and the IBP's aim to address the lack of legal practitioners around the country.</p>
	HB 3126	Rep. Tejada	Establishing a National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) district office in the Province of Cotabato and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to deliberate further on HB 3126 in its next meeting.</p> <p>NBI Regional Director Olivo Ramos manifested that under Section 3 of RA 10867 or the NBI Reorganization and Modernization Act, the Bureau is already mandated to establish district offices without need of legislation. However, the NBI complained that the DBM has not yet issued any allotment for this purpose.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Henry Oaminal (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Misamis Occidental) argued that a Department of Justice (DOJ)-NBI panel should have been created immediately to formulate the law's implementing rules and regulations (IRR). This has always been the procedure, the Deputy Speaker said, citing experiences of other government agencies undergoing strengthening, reorganization or modernization.</p>
	HB 4281	Rep. Nograles (J.F.F.)	Modernizing, broadening, and strengthening the Public Attorney's Office (PAO), further amending for the purpose pertinent provisions of EO 292, otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987, as amended and RA 9406, or the	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to harmonize the two bills.</p> <p>The Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), PAO,</p>

Continuation... Justice			law reorganizing and strengthening the PAO, appropriating funds therefor	PNP, and AFP expressed support for the bills.
	HB 4312	Deputy Speaker Hernandez	Providing free legal assistance to any officer or enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) on any charge before the Prosecutor's office, court or any competent body arising from an incident or incidents related to the performance of official duty	<p>PAO's Chief Public Attorney Persida Rueda-Acosta underscored the importance of strengthening the PAO to allow it to perform its mandate and provide free legal services to the marginalized sector.</p> <p>Rueda-Acosta likewise manifested that free legal assistance is provided for all uniformed personnel of the PNP and the AFP through an administrative order (AO) issued by then Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales. The AO was expanded later on to include high-ranking uniformed officers provided that the case they are involved in were service-related or in the performance of their duty.</p> <p>Rueda-Acosta said that the TWG may look into the possible conflict of PAO's policy of providing assistance to uniformed personnel with RA 9745 or the Anti-Torture Act of 2009 as the law considers uniformed personnel as one of the perpetrators of acts of torture.</p> <p>Resource persons present were requested to submit their respective position papers and recommendations on the proposed law.</p>
	HBs 4461 & 4683	Rep. Haresco and Majority Leader Romualdez	Establishing a separate facility for prisoners convicted of heinous crimes	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HBs 4461 and 4683 in its next meeting.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare a substitute bill for the consideration of the Committee.</p>
Poverty Alleviation	Substitute Bill to HB 4829	Rep. Malapitan	Providing 20% discount for poor job applicants in the payment of fees and charges for certain certificates and clearances issued by government agencies	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Dale "Along" Malapitan (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Caloocan City), approved the Substitute Bill and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HB 4793	Rep Bolilia	Establishing the National Financial Literacy Council and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the three bills. The Secretariat was directed to draft a substitute bill, using HB 6100 as the lead bill.</p> <p>Rep. Malapitan, author of HB 6100, said that the bills seek to promote the value and practice of saving money among Filipinos and the value of financial literacy to help them achieve financial independence.</p> <p>Rep. Irene Gay Saulog (Party-List, KALINGA), who sponsored HB 4793 in behalf of the author, emphasized the importance of financial literacy as a necessary life skill to prepare Filipinos for their future and in the event of economic or financial difficulties.</p> <p>Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Deputy Director Rochelle Tomas said that the BSP, in partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd), is crafting a policy that will integrate financial literacy and education in the K-12 curriculum. She also said that the BSP forged</p>
	HB 4907	Rep. Nieto	Declaring a national policy the promotion of financial literacy as a tool for poverty alleviation	
	HB 6100	Rep. Malapitan	Declaring October 31 as annual National Savings and Financial Literacy Day	

Continuation... Poverty Alleviation				<p>a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Civil Service Commission (CSC), Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to integrate financial education in the training programs for civil servants, overseas Filipino workers (OFW), and AFP personnel.</p> <p>The DepEd, Department of Finance (DOF), Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), and Philippine Information Agency (PIA) were requested to submit their respective position papers on the proposed law.</p>
	HR 214	Rep. Barba	Inquiry into the national poverty situation to include a comprehensive review and assessment of existing poverty data and poverty reduction programs in the country	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised relative to HR 214.</p> <p>The Committee will invite in its next meeting the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) to discuss the results of its empirical research on the effectiveness of government pro-poor programs, and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) to provide a framework which will be used to review and assess these programs.</p> <p>The first set of programs to be reviewed and assessed are those implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Department of Agriculture (DA).</p> <p>The resolution calls for a comprehensive assessment of poverty reduction efforts in the country to aid in the formulation of a national policy framework for poverty reduction.</p>
Youth and Sports Development	HRs 573, 606 , 608 & 622	Reps. Nieto, Bautista, Castelo, and Deputy Speaker Arenas	Commending and congratulating the Filipino athletes and the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (PHISGOC) for the success of the 2019 Southeast Asian (SEA) Games	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Eric Martinez (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Valenzuela City), directed the Secretariat to draft a substitute resolution and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HRs 585, 596, 601 & 605	Reps. Ortega, Sy-Alvarado, Fariñas (R.C), and Albano (A.)	Congratulating and commending Roger Casugay for winning the Philippines' first-ever gold medal in surfing at the 30 <sup>th</sup> SEA Games and commending his heroic act in rescuing Indonesian surfer Arip Nurhidayat in the middle of their one-on-one race during the semi-finals	The Committee directed the Secretariat to draft a substitute resolution and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HRs 629 & 640	Reps. Bagatsing and Guico	Congratulating and commending Carlos Yulo for winning two gold and five silver medals in the men's artistic gymnastics in the 30 <sup>th</sup> SEA Games	The Committee directed the Secretariat to draft a substitute resolution and the corresponding Committee Report.

#### COMMITTEE MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Constitutional Amendments	Proposed amendments to the 1987 Constitution submitted by the Constitutional Reform (CoRe) Movement and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) through the Inter-agency	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rufus Rodriguez (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Cagayan de Oro City), continued its discussion on the proposed amendments to the 1987 Constitution submitted by the CoRe Movement and the DILG, through the IATF.



<p>Continuation... Constitutional Amendments</p>	<p>Task Force on Federalism and Constitutional Reform (IATF)</p>	<p>The IATF was created by the Office of the President through Memorandum Circular No. 52 series of 2018. It is chaired by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), with the Department of Justice (DOJ) as Vice Chair and the following agencies as members: Office of the Cabinet Secretary; Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO); Office of the Presidential Spokesperson; Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO); Commission on Higher Education (CHED); Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP); and the University of the Philippines (UP) Law Center.</p> <p>In today's meeting, the Committee focused its discussion on the proposed amendments to Sections 6 and 14 of Article X (Local Government) and Article V (Suffrage) of the 1987 Constitution.</p> <p>IATF Executive Director and DILG Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya explained that Section 6, Article X provides that "Local government units (LGUs) shall have a just share, as determined by law, in the national taxes which shall be automatically released to them." However, Section 284 of the Local Government Code (LGC) limited the internal revenue allotment (IRA) share of LGUs to "national internal revenue taxes." To empower LGUs and help them fund the functions that were devolved to them under the LGC, the IATF proposed that the LGUs and the Regional Development Authority (RDA), also proposed to be created, "shall have a just share, as determined by law, on the basis of their financial needs, organizational capacities, and resources, in all national taxes based on the second year preceding the current fiscal year and which shall be automatically released to them."</p> <p>The IATF also invoked the Supreme Court (SC) ruling on <i>Mandanas and Garcia v. Ochoa et al.</i> which states: "The exclusion of other national taxes like customs duties from the base for determining the just share of the LGUs contravened the express constitutional edict in Section 6, Article X of the 1987 Constitution." He added that this ruling should be enshrined in the Constitution to correctly interpret the principle of "just share" and safeguard the hard-earned gains of LGUs in the national taxes. Under the same SC ruling, the sources of IRA should include national internal revenue taxes collected by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and Bureau of Customs (BOC), tariff and customs duties collected by the BOC, among others.</p> <p>With regard to Section 14 of Article X, the IATF proposes the transformation of Regional Development Councils (RDCs) into RDAs. This body will be composed of provincial governors, city mayors, president of leagues of municipalities of each province, and regional heads of departments and other national government offices within the region. The RDAs shall formulate, implement and monitor plans and programs for the development of their respective regions.</p> <p>Several lawmakers, led by Rep. Rodriguez, expressed their opposition to the creation of RDAs. Deputy Speaker Johnny Ty Pimentel (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Surigao del Sur) believes that it is unnecessary and will result in more bureaucratic red tape as well as usurpation of authority and duplication of functions within the bureaucracy.</p> <p>Institute for Political and Electoral Reform (IPER) Executive Director Jose Ramon Casiple, who is also the resource person of the IATF, discussed the proposed amendments to Article V of the 1987 Constitution. The proposals include: the</p>
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Continuation... Constitutional Amendments		<p>institutionalization of political parties; reforms against turncoatism; anti-political dynasty reforms; amendments to the terms of office of Senators, members of the House Representatives, and local elective officials; and the proposed tandem voting for President and Vice President.</p> <p>Majority of the Committee Members present support the proposals on political turncoatism, terms of office, and tandem voting. However, most of them were against the proposed anti-political dynasty reforms.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Department of National Defense (DND) Undersecretary Ricardo David proposed the inclusion of another amendment to the Constitution which will assert the ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague on the West Philippine Sea in favor of the Republic of the Philippines. The Committee agreed and asked the IATF to include it in its proposal.</p> <p>The Committee Secretariat was instructed to invite representatives from the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC), the business community, LGUs, and the Consultative Commission headed by former Chief Justice Reynato Puno in its next meeting.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Banks and Financial Intermediaries (Technical Working Group)	HBs 4256, 4622 & 5143	Rep. Garin, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, and Rep. Acosta-Alba	Strengthening rural banks in the Philippines, amending further for the purpose RA 7353, otherwise known as the Rural Banks Act of 1992, as amended	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Quirino Rep. Junie Cua, will deliberate further on the three bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>The TWG thoroughly discussed Sections 1 to 14 of the bills.</p> <p>It was agreed during the meeting that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will be asked to comment on the proposal mandating government agencies with land surveying functions, such as the DENR, to provide free land surveying services to small farmers and microentrepreneurs provided that they do not own any residential land and the aggregate size of the land to be surveyed does not exceed three hectares.</p> <p>On the proposal to transfer a foreclosed agrarian-covered land to another qualified beneficiary, the TWG also agreed to study it further in order that it does not run counter to the objectives of RA 6657 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law.</p> <p>The Department of Finance (DOF) expressed its objection to the proposal to exempt rural banks from the payment of documentary stamp tax with regard to the foreclosure of mortgages covering loans and the execution of judgment involving real properties.</p>

Disaster Management (Technical Working Group)	HBs 3418, 3543 & 3922	Rep. Adiong, Deputy Speaker Hataman, and Rep. Balindong	Providing for monetary compensation for the loss or destruction of residential and commercial properties during the Marawi siege in the City of Marawi, Province of Lanao del Sur, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1<sup>st</sup> District, Lanao del Norte), agreed to come up with a substitute bill for the three bills with HB 3418 as the working draft.</p> <p>Reps. Ansaruddin Abdul Malik Adiong (1<sup>st</sup> District, Lanao del Sur) and Yasser Alonto Balindong (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Lanao del Sur), respective authors of HBs 3418 and 3922, and Rep. Amihilda Sangcopan (Party-List, AMIN), co-author of HB 3543, underscored the urgent need to enact a legislation that will provide relief to the Marawi siege victims through monetary compensation for the loss and damage of properties.</p> <p>Among the contentious issues that were discussed in the deliberation of the bills were the following: source of funds for the proposed monetary compensation; creation, composition and primary function of the proposed Marawi Compensation Board; period for filing of claims; sunset clause; and penalties.</p> <p>The TWG agreed that the payment of compensation should not only cover land owners but also renters of commercial establishments which were affected during the siege.</p> <p>Commission on Human Rights' (CHR) Officer-in-Charge of the Center for Crisis Conflict &amp; Humanitarian Rights Reinna Bermudez said that if a human rights-based approach will be applied, the coverage of the proposed law must go beyond property-related compensation and should likewise cover death and injury resulting from human rights violations committed during the Marawi siege.</p> <p>Rep. Sangcopan relayed to the body that Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Secretary and Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM) Chairperson Eduardo Del Rosario expressed his support for the bills.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills.</p>
Health (Technical Working Group)	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 technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Maricel Natividad-Nagaño (4<sup>th</sup> District, Nueva Ecija), terminated its deliberation on the Substitute Bill.</p> <p>The bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Natividad-Nagaño noted that the proposed law aims to provide relevant and immediate life support service system to patients with injuries and illness, or those in critical condition.</p>

Continuation... Health (Technical Working Group)				<p>As defined in the bill, EMSS is the arrangement and coordination of personnel, facilities, and equipment for the effective management and delivery of emergency medical services.</p> <p>The bill institutionalizes the use of 911 as the Nationwide Emergency Hotline Number, the operation of which shall be under the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). The bill also seeks to create the Emergency Medical Services Systems Council (EMSSC) which will be chaired by the DILG Secretary and co-chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH).</p> <p>Upon the recommendation of Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Albay), the TWG agreed to include a provision in the bill that will provide PhilHealth coverage to EMSS personnel.</p>
Local Government (Technical Working Group)	HBs 22, 165, 439, 536, 602, 670, 690, 763, 1304, 1366, 1787, 2700, 3159, 3985, 4096, 4271, 4395, 4575, 5003 & 5057	Deputy Speaker Escudero, Reps. Belmonte, Revilla, Paduano, Acop, Salo, Quimbo, Biazon, Deputy Speakers Villafuerte and Hernandez, Reps. Espino, Panotes, Tan-Tambut, Co (A.N.), Defensor (M.), Suarez (A.), Calixto, Rodriguez, Deputy Speaker Oaminal, and Rep. Agabas	Granting additional incentives and benefits to BHWs, amending for the purpose RA 7883, otherwise known as the Barangay Health Workers' Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Angelica Natasha Co (Party-List, BHW), terminated its deliberation on the 35 bills and agreed to come up with a consolidated bill incorporating therein the suggestions of the resource persons.</p> <p>Rep. Co said that in order to strengthen the government's universal healthcare program, the economic and physical wellness of barangay health workers (BHWs) should likewise be taken care of, being the frontliners of the national healthcare program.</p> <p>On the proposed retirement benefits of BHWs, Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Chief Legal Counsel Lucio Yu Jr. explained that to become a member of the GSIS and avail of the retirement benefits, BHWs should have a fixed monthly compensation that will be the basis for the payment of GSIS' monthly premium.</p>
	HBs 44, 2081, 4890, 5026 & 5342	Reps. Benitez, Sy-Alvarado, Olivarez, and Deputy Speaker Pimentel	Providing for a Magna Carta for Barangay Health Workers	<p>Rep. Dahlia Loyola (5<sup>th</sup> District, Cavite) requested the Department of Health (DOH) to submit the total number of BHWs in the country and their respective income so that the TWG may come up with an appropriate remuneration proposal, which will be included in the bill.</p>
	HBs 874, 1494, 1557, 3276, 3291, 3355, 3487, 3511, 3801 & 5496	Reps. Tiangco, Tan (A.), Baronda, Romualdez (Y.M.), Vargas, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Aragoness, Rodriguez, and Nieto	Mandating the appointment of barangay health workers (BHWs) in barangays, and providing for their duties and responsibilities, compensation and benefits	<p>The TWG is still awaiting the position paper of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) regarding the funding provision of the bills.</p>
Science and Technology (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 1674 & 2108	Deputy Speaker Villafuerte and Rep. Aumentado	Strengthening the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCPP) for the promotion of research work along scientific lines and appropriating funds therefor	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Faustino "Inno" Dy V (6 <sup>th</sup> District, Isabela), terminated its deliberation on the Substitute Bill to HBs 1674 and 2108.

Continuation... Science and Technology (Technical Working Group)				<p>The TWG will submit the substitute bill to the mother Committee upon the submission of position papers by the stakeholders.</p> <p>The NRCP will be the clearing house in basic research and shall provide the official listing and accreditation of researches nationwide.</p> <p>Satellite offices of the NRCP will be established in the regions in order to decentralize research efforts and empower the regions to conduct policy researches that will address region-specific concerns.</p> <p>Established by virtue of Act 4120, the NRCP is a collegial body of highly-trained scientists and researchers, cohesively addressing the growing demand for knowledge, skills, and innovations; sharing expertise with all sectors of the society; and effectively and efficiently contributing to the country's development and to the improvement of the quality of life of the Filipino people. (Source: NRCP website)</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Youth and Sports Development	Briefing by the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), Philippine Olympic Committee (POC), and other concerned government agencies on the status of implementation of RA 10699, otherwise known as the National Athletes and Coaches Benefits and Incentives Act	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Eric Martinez (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Valenzuela City), listened to the briefing of the PSC and POC on the status of implementation of RA 10699.</p> <p>PSC Executive Director Guillermo Iroy assured the Committee that national athletes and coaches will soon fully enjoy the benefits provided under Section 4 of RA 10699 once the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) issues the appropriate revenue regulation implementing this provision.</p> <p>The law grants 20% discount to national athletes and coaches in all transportation services, hotels, restaurants, and recreation centers, and in the purchase of medicines and sports equipment throughout the country. The same discount privilege applies to admission fees charged by theaters, movie houses and concert halls, and other places of culture, leisure and amusement.</p> <p>BIR Director Roberto Baquiran said that the BIR will be able to issue the guidelines within the week.</p> <p>The PSC was requested to submit the list of all national athletes, coaches, and trainers who are qualified to be beneficiaries of the privileges pursuant to RA 10699.</p>
	Briefing by the Philippine Paralympic Committee on its preparations for the 10 <sup>th</sup> Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Para Games	<p>The Committee listened to the briefing of National Paralympic Committee Philippines president Michael Barredo on the country's preparations for the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games which will be held on March 20 to 27, 2020.</p> <p>ASEAN Para Games is a biennial, multi-sport event organized by the ASEAN Para Sports Federation for athletes with physical disabilities. Participants will come from 11 countries in Southeast Asia.</p> <p>Barredo said that just like the 2019 Southeast Asian Games, the 2020 ASEAN Para Games will be held in three named</p>

Continuation... Youth and Development	Sports	<p>hubs; Subic, Manila, and Clark. This sports event, where about 1,500 athletes are expected to participate, was initially scheduled on January 18-24, 2020 but was moved to March.</p> <p>Barredo said that mobility of the athletes is one of the events' challenges, as he sought the assistance of the PSC and Congress in providing more buses to transport the athletes including the more than 400 athletes who use wheelchairs. Iroy said that the PSC allocated P100 million for the sports event's preparatory activities on top of the P450 million allocated under the 2020 General Appropriations Act (GAA).</p> <p>Rep. Martinez inquired on the measures that the PSC will put in place in light of the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak.</p> <p>PSC Philippine Sports Institute National Training Director Marc Velasco said that the PSC is coordinating with the Department of Health (DOH) and the World Health Organization (WHO) for the health protocol that the PSC will implement during the event.</p>
		<p>Briefing by the PSC and POC on their preparations for the 2020 Summer Olympics</p> <p>The Committee listened to the briefing of the PSC and POC on their preparations for the 2020 Summer Olympics which will be held from July 24 to August 9 in Tokyo, Japan.</p> <p>Velasco disclosed that three gold medalists have signified their interest to join the Summer Olympics this year. They are Hidilyn Diaz for weightlifting, Carlos Yulo for gymnastics, and Ernest Obiena for pole-vaulting.</p> <p>POC Secretary General Edwin Gastanes mentioned that there might be at least 15 more athletes who will qualify for the 2020 Summer Olympics. Gastanes added that under the 2020 GAA, P50 million will be used to finance the Philippine contingent to the sports event. Likewise, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) donated P100 million for the same purpose.</p> <p>The PSC was requested to submit the total budget allotted for the training of the Olympians, including the allowance of their respective coaches and trainers.</p>