



Committee Daily Bulletin

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Overseas Workers Affair	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Raymond Democrito Mendoza (Party-List, TUCP), 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 on the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of overseas Filipino workers (OFW) and their families."</p>

COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Overseas Workers Affairs	HBs 2, 335, 526, 1439, 1449, 2067, 2207, 2216, 2317, 2319, 2368, 2409, 2412, 2425, 2547, 2850, 2982, 3168, 3246, 3274, 3313, 3440, 3514, 3637, 3663, 3888, 3940, 4065, 4165, 4173 & 4189	<p>Speaker Cayetano, Deputy Speaker Arenas, Reps. Aglipay, Campos, Singson-Meehan, Salceda, Deputy Speakers Pichay and Romero, Reps. Gonzalez, Yap (E.), Deloso-Montalla, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Castelo, Vargas, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Villaraza-Suarez, Tan (A.S.), Deputy Speaker Gonzales (A.), Reps. Romualdez (Y.), Villar, Deputy Speaker Santos-Recto, Reps. Torres-Gomez, Sy-Alvarado, Bolilia, Tambunting, Pacquiao, Salo, Lim, Haresco, and Olivarez</p>	<p>Creating the Department of Overseas Filipino Workers and Foreign Employment, defining its powers and functions, appropriating funds therefor, rationalizing the organization and functions of government agencies related to migration</p>	<p>The Joint Committee, co-presided by Rep. Mario Vittorio "Marvey" Mariño (5th District, Batangas), Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Raymond Democrito Mendoza (Party-List, TUCP), Chair of the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs, will deliberate further on the 31 bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Mariño explained that the objectives of the proposed law are not so much about sustaining the economy, but more of protecting and promoting the rights and welfare of all Filipinos working overseas, while broadening socio-economic opportunities for them in the country.</p> <p>House Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano (1st District, Taguig City-Pateros), author of HB 2, said that under the proposed law, the Secretary of the Department of OFW and Foreign Employment will be primarily responsible in addressing the employment concerns of OFWs. He also stated that the creation of a separate department is "not a cure-all but a giant step in the right direction."</p> <p>The Speaker suggested the creation of a technical working group (TWG) to discuss and harmonize the 31 bills all seeking to create a department that will manage and monitor foreign employment of OFWs.</p> <p>Similarly, Rep. Mendoza said that the creation of a separate department for OFWs would result in the synchronization of all existing OFW programs and policies.</p>

Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ Overseas Workers Affairs				<p>Rep. Mendoza also suggested the retention and safeguarding of the OWWA Fund which is sourced from the \$25 membership fee collected from each OFW. Membership in the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) is mandatory for all OFWs which entitles them to life insurance coverage and other social benefits being implemented by OWWA. Rep. Mendoza said that the annual average collections from OFWs amount to approximately P19 billion.</p> <p>Majority Leader Ferdinand Martin Romualdez (1st District, Leyte) as well as the bills' authors present in the meeting expressed their support for the immediate passage of the proposed law.</p> <p>Stakeholders and OFWs present also expressed their support for the passage of the bills and gave their respective recommendations.</p> <p>Another provision of the proposed law is the transfer of the following agencies to the proposed Department of OFW: OWWA, Philippine Overseas Employment Welfare Administration (POEA), Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), International Labor Affairs Bureau of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO)</p>
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