



# Committee Daily Bulletin

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## COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Ways and Means	Substitute Bill to HB 167	Rep. Tan (A.)	Strengthening the national program for the elimination of tuberculosis, amending for the purpose RA 10767, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Plan Act	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Albay), approved the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to HB 167.
Welfare of Children	Substitute Bill to HB 204	Rep. Garcia (J.E.)	Mandating the establishment and implementation of the parent effectiveness service by local government units (LGUs) and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, presided by Rep. Lourdes Acosta-Alba (1<sup>st</sup> District, Bukidnon), approved the Substitute Bill to HB 204 with amendments.</p> <p>The parent effectiveness service program, to be implemented by cities and municipalities through their respective social welfare development offices, is aimed at assisting parents and parent substitutes in strengthening their knowledge and skills in responding to their parental duties and responsibilities.</p> <p>The Substitute Bill will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for review of its funding provision.</p>
	HB 4158	Rep. Romualdez (Y.)	Providing safe haven for abandoned newborn infants	<p>The Committee instructed the Secretariat to come up with a substitute bill for HB 4158.</p> <p>The Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and its Inter-Country Adoption Board (ICAB), Association of Child Caring Agencies of the Philippines (ACCAP), Kaisang Buhay Foundation, Inc. (KBF), and the NORFIL Foundation, Inc. were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill for the Committee's reference in crafting the substitute bill.</p>

## AGENCY BRIEFING

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Ways and Means	<p>Briefing on the revenue collection performance of the following agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)</li></ul>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Albay), listened to the briefing on the performance of some of the government's revenue collection agencies.</p> <p>DFA Assistant Secretary Myla Macahilig reported that for 2019, the DFA generated non-tax revenues amounting to P9.29 billion which is lower than its 2018 collection of P9.51 billion. Macahilig said the income was derived from the collection of passport fees, visa fees, other service income, and other verification and authentication fees.</p> <p>Rep. Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA) inquired on what constitute verification and authentication fees. Macahilig replied that these are fees collected for the verification of documents from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) which are needed in the processing of passports.</p>

Continuation... Ways and Means	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bureau of Immigration (BI)</li> <li>Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR)</li> <li>Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO)</li> <li>Land Transportation Office (LTO)</li> <li>National Telecommunications Commission (NTC)</li> </ul>	<p>On the query of Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1<sup>st</sup> District, Nueva Ecija), Macahilig said that the retained earnings of the DFA are used to cover expenses for personnel services (PS) and maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE).</p> <p>BI Deputy Commissioner Aldwin Alegre reported that for 2019, the Bureau's tax and non-tax revenues amounted to P7.47 billion which is higher than its 2018 collections of P7.11 billion. Alegre said that the revenues came from the collection of taxes on domestic goods and services, clearance fees, express lane fees, and other fees, penalties, other service income, interest income, and miscellaneous income. Alegre attributed the revenue increase mainly to the huge number of Chinese visitors last year.</p> <p>Rep. Suansing requested the BI to submit a detailed breakdown of the fees it collected.</p> <p>Rep. Virgilio Lacson (Party-List, MANILA TEACHERS) said that the overlapping functions of the different agencies in the issuance of visas resulted in the influx of Chinese nationals coming into the country who apply for tourist visa upon arrival but later convert it to a working visa. Most of these Chinese are working in the online gaming businesses of Philippine offshore gaming operators (POGOs), Rep. Lacson added.</p> <p>Alegre informed the Committee that an inter-agency task force has been created to harmonize the policies and guidelines on the issuance of visas to prospective foreign workers and to lay down policies that will ensure the payment of correct taxes by these foreign workers. The task force is composed of representatives from the DFA, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Finance (DOF), and Department of Health (DOH).</p> <p>PAGCOR's Vice President for Corporate Social Responsibility Group James Patrick Bondoc reported a P75.48 billion income for 2019 and a projection of P81.48 billion net income for 2020.</p> <p>Rep. Salceda inquired on whether PAGCOR still issues new franchises for POGOs. Bondoc answered in the negative, explaining that there is an existing moratorium on the issuance of such franchises.</p> <p>PCSO's Gender and Development Focal Point System (GAD-FPS) chairperson, Atty. Gay Alvor, reported that from 2015-2019, PCSO earned P237.57 billion from its numbers games such as the Lotto, Keno, Small Town Lottery, traditional and instant Sweepstakes, and <i>Peryahan</i>. PCSO reached its highest sales in 2018 amounting to P63.56 billion, followed by sales in 2017 of P53 billion, and sales in 2019 of P44 billion.</p> <p>Alvor said that PCSO also remitted P6.99 billion to various government agencies and institutions as mandatory contributions in compliance with various laws.</p> <p>The LTO chief, Assistant Secretary Edgar Galvante, said that the tax and non-tax revenues of LTO amounted to P6.94 billion in 2019 and its projected income for 2020 is P10.88 billion.</p> <p>Rep. Jesus "Bong" Suntay (4<sup>th</sup> District, Quezon City) requested Galvante to submit to the Committee a copy of LTO's regulations with regard to the operations and management of motor vehicle inspection centers (MVIC). Likewise, Rep. Salceda requested a copy of the business model of the MVICs as submitted by the MVIC project proponents.</p> <p>NTC Deputy Commissioner Edgardo Cabarios reported that in 2019, the NTC's income amounted to P7.33 billion which is higher than its 2018 income of P6.45 billion. This, he said, came from spectrum user fees (SUF), 64.42%; supervision and regulation fees (SRF), 19.99%; registration fees, 5.78%; licensing fees, 4.12%; inspection fees, 3.17%; and other fees, 2.60%.</p>
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FORUM		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Energy	Forum on the status of the gas sector in the Philippines, rationale for establishing liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals in the country, and the role and functions of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, held a forum on the status of the gas sector in the Philippines, the need for LNG terminals in the country, and the role of the JBIC in the sector on February 3 at the House of Representatives.</p> <p>Rep. Velasco said that the Committee invited the JBIC and consultancy firm WaterRock Energy Economics to know more about other prospects in the gas sector, including the establishment of LNG terminals, especially with the impending expiration of the government's service contract with the operators of the Malampaya gas-to-power project in Palawan and the depletion of its gas reserves.</p> <p>JBIC Asia and Pacific Regional Head Aso Kenichi and JBIC Manila representative Miyahara Ayako presented the role and function of the JBIC, its operations in the Philippines, and its financial support to various projects around the world.</p> <p>The JBIC is a policy-based financial institution wholly owned by the Japanese government with a mission of contributing to the sound development of Japan, the international economy, and society as a whole. Ayako further said that the JBIC has been extending financial support to oil, natural gas, and LNG-related projects around the world for about 10 years now. The JBIC, she added, supports the establishment of LNG terminals in the Philippines, acknowledging the country's increasing demand for gas and its decreasing upstream gas reserves.</p> <p>Meanwhile, WaterRock Energy Economics Director Liutong Zhang presented the benefits of gas-fired power plants over coal-fired power plants, the importance of LNG terminals in ensuring the supply and availability of gas in the country, and the LNG regulatory and legal framework in other countries. In the Philippines, Zhang discussed what actions the government has to take to support the gas sector and the implementation of LNG terminal projects, such as the provision of tax and fiscal incentives, tightening of environmental regulations, and review and clarification of laws and regulations affecting the sector.</p> <p>WaterRock Energy Economics is a market and economics consultancy focusing on power and gas sector in Greater China region, Singapore, the Philippines, and other Asian countries.</p> <p>JBIC Chief Representative Hidehiro Nakagawi said that building LNG terminals and infrastructure is highly capital intensive which requires huge financial support from government and private financial institutions.</p> <p>Rep. Jericho Jonas Nograles (Party-List, PBA) asked the Department of Energy (DOE) to review its policies on developing renewable and non-renewable sources of energy, identifying which sector to prioritize in terms of benefits and cost.</p>