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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Appropriations	Substitute Bill to HBs 1365, 1492, 1502, 1902, 2004, 3022 & 4651	Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Tan (A.), Chatto, Go (M.), Vargas, Palma, and Deputy Speaker Villafuerte	Authorizing the Department of Health (DOH) to set and approve the bed capacity and service capability of all DOH hospitals	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Isidro Ungab (3 rd District, Davao City), approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to the seven bills.
	HB 4796 in consolidation with HB 3424	Reps. Eriguel and Vargas	Establishing a comprehensive system for registration and licensing of social welfare and development agencies and accreditation of social welfare and development programs and services, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 4796 in consolidation with HB 3424.
	Substitute Bills to HBs 376, 393, 572, 628, 727, 842, 1156, 1446, 1619, 2005, 2122, 3263, 3628, 4265 & 4308	Reps. Olivarez, Ferrer (L.), Gasataya, Almario, Jalosjos, Biazon, Romualdez (Y.M.), Zubiri, Suarez (A.), Vargas, Chipeco, Veloso, Tolentino, Uy (J.), and Tan (A.)	Creating additional branches of the Regional Trial Court (RTC), Metropolitan Trial Court (MeTC), and Municipal Trial Court (MTC) in various parts of the country, and appropriating funds therefor, amending for the purpose Section 14 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, as amended	The Committee approved the 15 Substitute Bills.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 724, 4190 & 4714	Rep. Torres-Gomez	Creating four additional branches of the RTC in the Eighth Judicial Region and two additional branches of the MTC in the City of Ormoc, Province of Leyte, and appropriating funds therefor, amending for the purpose Sections 14(i) and 29 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, as amended	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 724, 4190 and 4714.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 3091 & 2243	Reps. Alvarez (P.) and Dujali	Creating ten additional branches of the RTC in the Eleventh Judicial Region and appropriating funds therefor, amending for the purpose Section 14(l) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, as amended	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 3091 and 2243.
Disaster Management	HB 3046	Rep. Tan (A.)	Establishing evacuation centers in every city and municipality and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez (4 th District, Leyte), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the seven bills.
	HBs 3450 & 4658	Deputy Speakers Santos-Recto and Villafuerte	Providing for the construction of multipurpose gyms in all municipalities and cities to serve as evacuation centers during times of calamity or disaster and appropriating funds therefor	Rep. Romeo Momo Sr. (Party-List, CWS) was designated as TWG Chair. He sat as the presiding officer during the second half of the meeting to allow the Chairperson to sponsor her bills.

Continuation... Disaster Management	HB 3691	Rep. Castelo	Mandating the construction of a permanent evacuation center in every natural disaster-prone locality	Rep. Torres-Gomez, author of HBs 4941 and 4942, informed the body that in the aftermath of Typhoon Yolanda, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) recommended the construction of life centers as opposed to the typical evacuation centers. Under the bill, a life center shall serve as an evacuation center equipped with a medical unit that can respond to trauma cases and provide medical care to the evacuees who are victims of calamities.
	HB 5259	Rep. Zarate	Establishing in every two to three contiguous barangays a permanent evacuation center (PEC) that is big enough to accommodate the target population, strong enough to withstand natural calamities and situated away from waters and landslide-prone areas, which shall likewise serve as the central disaster risk reduction management institution for each community	Echoing the statements of some Members of the Committee, Rep. Torres-Gomez said that schools should not become evacuation centers every time there are calamities or disasters as this would prevent schools from immediately resuming regular operations once the situation normalizes.
	HBs 4941 & 4942	Rep. Torres-Gomez	Establishing a life center that will serve as a disaster and emergency center in each of the City of Ormoc and Municipalities of Palompon, Albueria, Merida, Kananga and Matag-ob in the Province of Leyte, and appropriating funds therefor	Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4 th District, Quezon) asked about the requirements for the construction of evacuation centers including the funds needed. Planning and Programming Division Chief Dominador Aquino of the Bureau of Maintenance, Department of Public Works and Highways (BOM-DPWH), said that for 2020, a budget of P3.74 billion was proposed by the DPWH for the construction of six evacuation centers per region for the country's 15 regions, excluding the National Capital Region which failed to meet the 3,000-square meter minimum land area requirement for an evacuation center. Other requirements include an endorsement of the project by the concerned local government unit (LGU) and a certification from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Aquino added that 197 evacuation centers were already constructed nationwide since 2016. Rep. Geraldine Roman (1 st District, Bataan) asked the DPWH to reassess the minimum land area requirement for evacuation centers in order to accommodate more regions. She also suggested to the DPWH to look into the possibility of constructing flood-proof or elevated evacuation centers in areas prone to flooding. Rep. Momo added that the DPWH should have an alternative design for evacuation centers in regions that are unable to meet the minimum land area requirement.
Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples	Consolidated Bill on HBs 1738, 1823, 3758, 3919 & 4429	Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Chatto, Rodriguez, Cagas, and Deputy Speaker Savellano	Establishing resource centers for indigenous cultural communities/ indigenous peoples (ICCs/IPs) to enhance and ensure delivery of essential services, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Kalinga Rep. Allen Jesse Mangaoang, approved the consolidated bill and the corresponding Committee Report.

Continuation... Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 639 & 2281	Deputy Speaker Legarda and Rep. Acosta- Alba	Recognizing the ICC/IP community conserved territories and areas (ICCA), establishing for the purpose the National ICCA registry, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee agreed to refer back to the technical working group (TWG) the draft substitute bill to incorporate therein the suggestions made by the House Members during the meeting. One of the suggestions came from Quirino Rep. Junie Cua who recommended the removal of one of the prohibited acts listed in Section 25 of the bill, which is: "Logging by non-members of the IP community." Rep. Cua said that this gives the impression that members of the IP community are allowed to conduct logging activities within the ICCAs which are mostly watershed or protected areas.
	HBs 1742 & 1886	Deputy Speaker Villafuerte and Rep. Vargas	Strengthening the health care system in cultural and indigenous communities by institutionalizing the training and employment of indigenous peoples health workers	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to consolidate the two bills. It was agreed upon that the term "tribal health workers" in the title of the two bills be changed to "indigenous peoples health workers."
Ways and Means	HB 168 in consolidation with HBs 440 & 2728	Reps. Tan (A.), Revilla, and Rodriguez	Establishing the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) Hospital and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2 nd District, Albay), approved the tax provision of the consolidated bill.
	HB 5267	Rep. Salceda	Taxing taxpayers engaged in Philippine offshore gaming operations, amending for the purpose Sections 22, 25, and 119 of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997, as amended	The Committee approved HB 5267 subject to style and amendment. The Committee agreed that a foreigner who is a permanent resident of a foreign country and who is employed and assigned in the Philippines by an offshore gaming licensee shall pay a tax of 25% of the salaries, wages, annuities, compensation, remuneration, and other emoluments. Likewise, the minimum gross income, for purposes of tax computation, was likewise increased to \$1,000.00 per month instead of P250,000.00 annually.
	HBs 288, 560, 2557 & 4874	Reps. Suansing (E.), Abellanos, Garin (S.), and Rodriguez	Establishing the fiscal regime for mining industry	The Committee approved the bills and adopted the version of the substitute bill that was approved on Third Reading during the 17 th Congress. Rep. Salceda invoked Sec. 48, Rule 10 of the Rules of the House which states that priority measures which were previously filed in the immediately preceding Congress and approved on third reading may be disposed of as matters already reported, upon the approval of majority of the Members of the Committee present.
	HB 1687	Deputy Speaker Villafuerte	Establishing a uniform taxation of metallic mining operations	
	HB 4541	Deputy Speaker Santos-Recto	Increasing the excise tax on minerals, mineral products, and quarry resources, amending for the purpose certain sections of the NIRC of 1997, as amended	
	HB 5022	Rep. Salceda	Establishing the fiscal regime for mining industry, amending for this purpose Sections 34(b) and 151 and adding a new section 151-a, all under the NIRC of 1997, as amended	
	HB 5253	Rep. Quimbo	Establishing the fiscal regime and revenue sharing arrangement for large-scale metallic mining	

PUBLIC HEARING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Constitutional Amendments	HB 788	Rep. Biazon	Providing for the selection of an acting President and acting Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines in case of a failure of election	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rufus Rodriguez (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), held a public hearing at the University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines (USTP) Gymnasium in Cagayan de Oro City (CDO) on November 15 in relation to the measures proposing amendments to, or revision of, the Constitution.</p> <p>Aside from Rep. Rodriguez, other House Members present during the public hearing were Rep. Alyssa Sheena Tan (4th District, Isabela) and Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA).</p> <p>Center for Federalism and Constitutional Reform members Gary Olivar and Ramon Casiple explained the economic and political impact of the measures.</p> <p>On the other hand, Rep. Zarate laid out the concerns of the opposition regarding the measures.</p> <p>Also present during the meeting were representatives from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), business sector, academe, non-government organizations (NGOs), and the local government of Cagayan de Oro.</p> <p>An open forum followed after the resource persons gave their respective presentations. The Committee distributed to the people present in the public hearing a survey questionnaire to get their sentiments on the proposal to amend or revise the Constitution.</p>
	Resolution of Both Houses (RBH) 1	Rep. Rodriguez	Constituting the Senate and the House of Representatives into a constituent assembly to propose revisions of the 1987 Constitution by adopting a federal form of government	
	RBHs 2 & 3	Reps. Velasco and Haresco	Proposing amendments to certain economic provisions of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines	
	House Joint Resolution (HJR) 3	Rep. Cabochan	Proposing amendment to Section 16, Article VII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution in order to limit the confirmation process of the Commission on Appointments for members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to the positions of Chief-of-Staff of the AFP and service commanders of the Army, Air Force, and Navy only	
	HJR 4	Deputy Speaker Gonzales (A.)	Calling upon members of Congress to convene for the purpose of considering proposals to amend or revise the Constitution, upon a vote of three-fourths of all members	
	HJR 20	Deputy Speaker Oaminal	Convening both Houses of Congress into a constituent assembly for the purpose of proposing amendments to, or revision of, the Constitution to provide a mechanism for the election of Senators by region based on proportional representation	
	HJR 21	Deputy Speaker Oaminal	Convening both Houses of Congress into a constituent assembly for the purpose of proposing amendments to, or revision of, the Constitution to remove certain restrictive economic provisions thereof	
	House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 1	Rep. Rodriguez	Proposing amendments to certain provisions of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines particularly on Articles VI, X, XII, XIV, and XVI	

AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Games and Amusements	Briefing by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) on its mandate, accomplishments, and plans and programs	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Eric Go Yap (Party-List, ACT-CIS), listened to the presentation of PAGCOR on its mandate, accomplishments, and plans and programs.

<p>Continuation... Games and Amusements</p>		<p>PAGCOR Vice President for Corporate Social Responsibility Group James Patrick Bondoc presented PAGCOR's mission, vision and organizational structure. Bondoc also said that PAGCOR is mandated to regulate, operate, authorize and license games of chance, games of cards, and games of numbers, particularly casino gaming in the Philippines; generate revenues for the government's socio-civic and national development programs; and help promote the Philippine tourism industry.</p> <p>PAGCOR Assistant Vice President for Accounting Sharon Quintanilla reported the agency's accomplishments for 2014 to October 2019, highlighting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income generated from PAGCOR-owned and operated casinos increased from P31.48 billion in 2014 to P73.90 billion in 2018. As of October 31 of this year, income from its casinos already reached P36.96 billion. • The total income of PAGCOR for 2018 reached P104.13 billion and as of October 31, it is already P64.98 billion. • PAGCOR's contributions to national government agencies (NGAs), as mandated by specific laws, amounted to P1.53 billion as of October 31. <p>On the offshore gaming operations, Quintanilla said that PAGCOR conceptualized this to enable the Philippine government to capture a greater share in the revenues of the growing, yet previously unregulated, online gaming. Quintanilla said that to date, there are 60 registered Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGO) with a combined income of P13.77 billion generated in a span of four years (since 2016).</p> <p>Replying to the query of Deputy Speaker Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), Atty. Victor Padilla, senior manager of PAGCOR's Offshore Gaming and Licensing Department, said that the monthly regulatory fee collected from POGOs is based on a \$150,000 cap or 2% of the monthly minimum guarantee fee (MGF) on the income of POGOs, whichever is higher. Padilla said that PAGCOR hired an independent audit team to monitor the income of POGOs to assure the accuracy of the monthly payment of fees.</p> <p>Rep. Jose "Bonito" Singson Jr. (Party- List, PROBINSYANO AKO) requested PAGCOR to submit to the Committee documents pertinent to the bidding for the outsourcing of this auditing job.</p> <p>Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN) requested the Bureau of Immigration (BI) to submit a list of POGO workers issued with special work permits and to furnish the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) with a copy of such list to allow DOLE to verify it against its own list of POGO workers who were issued alien employment permits (AEPs). Rep. Pineda also said that PAGCOR, being the main regulatory body for offshore gaming services, should not only monitor POGOs' operation but also monitor if POGO personnel are paying correct taxes.</p> <p>The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) was asked to validate if the POGO workers who have been issued AEPs have tax identification number to ensure that these workers are registered with the BIR and as such, are paying income taxes to the government.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Yap asked about the status of PAGCOR's medical assistance program which was temporarily suspended last week pending the investigation of a fraud committed by a couple who submitted fake documents for fictitious medical cases.</p> <p>Padilla said that PAGCOR has resumed accepting requests for medical assistance. The request will first be endorsed to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) which will confirm whether a request has been issued a PCSO guarantee letter. PAGCOR will act on requests with PCSO-issued guarantee letters.</p>
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DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Poverty Alleviation	Discussion with the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) on the draft implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA 11291 or the Magna Carta of the Poor	<p>The Committee, presided by Rep. Paul Ruiz Daza (1st District, Northern Samar), will discuss further the draft IRR of RA 11291 on November 27.</p> <p>NAPC Research Unit Head Fernando Cao presented the draft IRR of RA 11291, which according to him, was made simpler and concise. He reported that the draft IRR is still subject for consultation with the inter-agency technical working group composed of the Human Development and Poverty Reduction (HDPR) Cabinet Cluster and the National Economic and Development Authority-Social Development Committee (NEDA-SDC).</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP) called the attention of NAPC for deleting from the draft IRR the “Transparency and Accountability” clause which provides that public officials and private individuals who violate the provisions of the IRR shall be investigated and shall be held liable under existing laws, rules, and regulations. This, the Deputy Speaker said, will give more teeth to the law.</p> <p>Cao explained that the NAPC deleted the provision from the previous draft because it was not specified in RA 11291. Nevertheless, Cao said the NAPC will consider restoring the provision on transparency and accountability.</p> <p>On another query of Deputy Speaker Marcoleta, Cao explained that considering manpower and budgetary constraints, consultations with local government units (LGU) and the basic sectors will be conducted at the provincial level through NAPC’s Provincial Consultative Bodies and the results will be cascaded down to the targeted communities up to the barangay level.</p> <p>Rep. Raul del Mar (1st District, Cebu City) said that Section 12 (Other Rights of the Poor) should be deleted because the law only covers five fundamental rights of the poor, namely: the right to adequate food, right to decent work, right to relevant and quality education, right to adequate housing, and right to highest attainable standard of health. Rep. Del Mar said that it is better to focus government’s efforts and resources towards promoting these fundamental rights to ensure the successful implementation of the law.</p> <p>Rep. Manuel Zubiri (3rd District, Bukidnon) suggested that the IRR should indicate the classification of the municipality where the law will be implemented, adding that fourth and fifth class municipalities should be given priority.</p> <p>Cao confirmed that NAPC intends to start implementation in the 40 poorest provinces, 10 poorest municipalities per province, and 10 poorest barangays per municipality based on poverty incidence and climate change vulnerability.</p>