



ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Good Government and Public Accountability	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jose Antonio "Kuya Jonathan" Sy-Alvarado (1st District, Bulacan), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Internal Rules of Procedure for the 18th Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Rep. Sy-Alvarado said that under the Rules of the House, the Committee has jurisdiction over "all matters directly and principally relating to malfeasance, misfeasance and nonfeasance in office committed by officers and employees of the government and its political subdivisions and instrumentalities inclusive of investigations of any matter of public interest on its own initiative or upon order of the House."</p> <p>Committee Secretary Ma. Victoria Castillon reported to the body the accomplishments of the Committee for the 17th Congress, which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed/concluded its deliberations on 21 House Resolutions and conducted a <i>motu proprio</i> investigation;• Participated in Congressional inquiry pursuant to HR 2068, with the Committee on Dangerous Drugs as the lead Committee, to investigate the role of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) in preventing large-scale smuggling of illegal drugs into the country;• Responded to 21 letter-complaints, petitions and position papers involving various issues against public offices;• Conducted 84 public hearings and 2 ocular inspections; and• Filed 12 Committee Reports covering 18 measures. <p>The Committee also agreed to append the label, "House of Representatives' Blue Ribbon Committee" to its official name "Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability" in all its communications, correspondences, and notices of meeting.</p>
Population and Family Relations	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Guimaras Rep. Ma. Lucille Nava M.D., held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18th Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Rep. Nava said that among the Committee's legislative agenda for the 18th Congress are the passage of bills on the following subject matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Civil Effects of Church Annulment Decree;• Foreign Decree of Termination of Marriage;• Absolute Divorce;• Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention;• Local Population Development Office; and• Civil Registration System. <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee has jurisdiction over "all matters directly and principally relating to population growth and family planning, population census and statistics, and family relations."</p>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Basic Education and Culture	Substitute Resolution to HB 921	Rep. Fernando	Urging the Philippine government to promote the simple act of gracefully laying the palm of the right hand over the center of the chest with a simultaneous slight head nod as a customary Filipino gesture of goodwill and praise	The Committee, chaired by Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo, approved the Committee Report on the Resolution substituting HB 921.
	HRs 356, 357 & 358	Reps. Go (M.), Siao, and Romulo	Honoring Filipino teachers on the occasion of the 2019 National Teachers' Month	The Committee adopted the resolutions, as consolidated, and the corresponding Committee Report.
	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 1, 609, 721, 3970 & 4259	Speaker Cayetano, Reps. Acop, Torres-Gomez, Sy-Alvarado, and Silverio	Institutionalizing a national values, etiquette and moral uprightness program	The Committee will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting. The Department of Education (DepEd) was requested to submit the profile or description of the subject "Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao" for each grade level and the result of an ongoing review of the subject, which will serve as reference in crafting a more effective system of character formation among students from Kindergarten to Grade 12.
	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 917, 1586, 3992, & 4392	Deputy Speaker Gonzales (A.) and Reps. Romualdez (Y.M.), Agabas, and Robes	Institutionalizing the Alternative Learning System (ALS) in the basic education for out-of-school children, youth and adults, persons with disabilities (PWDs), indigenous peoples (IPs), and other marginalized sectors of society, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting.
Basic Education and Culture jt. w/ Youth and Sports Development	Substitute Bill to HBs 303, 545, 2545, 2867, 2875, 3277, 4013, 4084, 4128, 4248, 4249, 4344 & 4492	Reps. Yap (V.), Enverga, Deputy Speakers Villafuerte, Romero, and Puno, Reps. Romualdez (Y.), Villarica, Torres-Gomez, Tan (A.S.), Garcia (J.E.), Tambunting, and Velasco	Establishing a National Academy of Sports (NAS)	The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo, Chair of the Committee on Basic Education and Culture, and Rep. Eric Martinez (2 nd District, Valenzuela City), Chair of the Committee on Youth and Sports Development, approved the substitute bill subject to style and amendment.
Disaster Management	HB 2389	Rep. Robes	Providing for free freight services in the transportation of relief goods to calamity-stricken areas	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez (4 th District, Leyte), approved HB 2389 with amendments. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.
	HB 3046	Rep. Tan (A.)	Establishing evacuation centers in every city and municipality and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee suspended its consideration of the four bills, pending the submission of position papers from concerned agencies.
	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. Vicente "Ching" Veloso III (3 rd District, Leyte), sponsored HBs 3046 and 3450 in behalf of the authors, Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4 th District, Quezon) and Deputy Speaker Vilma Santos-Recto (6 th District, Batangas), respectively.

Continuation... Disaster Management	HB 3691	Rep. Castelo	Mandating the construction of a permanent evacuation center in every natural disaster-prone locality	<p>According to Rep. Veloso, the bills seek to establish regular relief shelters and sites throughout the country to decongest temporary evacuation centers set up in public schools and private facilities in times of calamities.</p> <p>The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) reported that it has already constructed 197 evacuation centers nationwide. The maintenance of these centers is under the responsibility of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).</p> <p>The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) was requested to submit the list of evacuation centers already established and to be established, including the criteria for the selection of four locations in every region.</p>
Health	HB 167	Rep. Tan (A.)	Strengthening the national program for the elimination of tuberculosis as a public health problem, amending for the purpose RA 10767 or the Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Plan Act	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon), agreed to come up with a Substitute Bill to HB 167.</p> <p>Rep. Tan, author of HB 167, said that her bill seeks to amend RA 10767 by expanding efforts to eliminate tuberculosis (TB) as a public health problem in the country.</p> <p>DOH National TB Program Manager Celina Garfin and Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis (PhilCAT) President Cleotilde How, expressed their support for the bill.</p>
	HB 143	Rep. Roman	Converting the Orani District Hospital in the Municipality of Orani, Province of Bataan into a general hospital to be known as Antonio "Tony" P. Roman Memorial Hospital and increasing its bed capacity from 50 to 200 beds, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 143 subject to style and amendment, and compliance with the requirements set by the Department of Health (DOH) for the conversion of hospitals.
	HBs 570, 1668, 1986 & 2383	Reps. Gasataya, Villarica, Siao, and Robes	Establishing hospitals/mental health clinic in certain parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the four bills subject to style and amendment, and compliance with the requirements set by the DOH for the establishment of hospitals and health clinics.
	HBs 909, 1777, 3314, 4002, 4090, 4330 & 4394	Reps. Baronda, Eriguel, Villar, Reyes, Belmonte (J.C.), Alonto Balindong, and Tan (A.)	Increasing the bed capacity of certain hospitals in the country, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the seven bills subject to style and amendment, and compliance with the requirements set by the DOH for increasing the bed capacity of hospitals.
	HB 2498	Rep. Leachon	Converting the Oriental Mindoro Provincial Hospital in Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro into a regional hospital to be known as the MIMAROPA Regional Hospital and upgrading its facilities and bed capacity to 500 and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 2498 subject to style and amendment, and compliance with the requirements set by the DOH for the conversion of hospitals.
	HBs 2964 & 3462	Reps. Chungalao and Uy (J.)	Establishing extension hospitals in the Provinces of Ifugao and Misamis Oriental, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HBs 2964 and 3462 subject to style and amendment, and compliance with the requirements set by the

Continuation... Health				DOH for the establishment of extension hospitals.
	HB 8	Speaker Cayetano	Establishing the national health passport system and strengthening the primary healthcare system, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the four bills and come up with a substitute bill.</p> <p>Under HB 8, the national health passport system will provide each Filipino individual with a document reflecting his/her full medical history and other relevant data, providing both the medical practitioner and the patient a full picture of the latter's condition. This will be a handy tool in the event of emergencies and thus can be essential in saving more lives.</p> <p>The proposed Philippine eHealth system and services will provide an organized and structured application of electronic health (eHealth) integrated in the regular workflow of healthcare facilities. It seeks to utilize information and communication technologies (ICT) to improve the delivery of health services especially in rural and other medically underserved areas.</p> <p>DOH Knowledge Management and Information Technology Service Director Enrique Tayag expressed support for the bills. According to Tayag, using ICT for health services will be a cost efficient and sustainable innovation to the comprehensive approach to Universal Health Care (UMC) Program.</p> <p>Other government agencies, hospitals and associations expressing their support for the bills were the following: Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi), Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC), Philippine Medical Association (PMA), Philippine Nurses Association (PNA), and Philippine Hospital Association (PHA).</p>
	HBs 61, 171 & 665	Reps. Yap (V.), Tan (A.), and Salo	Establishing the Philippine eHealth system and services in the delivery of health services with the use of information and communications technology, and appropriating funds therefor	
	HBs 170, 296 & 4011	Reps. Tan (A.), Yap (V.), Villarica, and Roman	Modernizing/strengthening the regulation of health facilities and services, and appropriating funds therefor, repealing for the purpose RA 4226, otherwise known as the Hospital Licensure Act	
	HB 4264	Rep. Roman	Standardizing the classification of hospitals in the Philippines, amending for the purpose RA 4226	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to consolidate the four bills and come up with a substitute bill.
Suffrage and Electoral Reforms	Substitute Bill to HBs 47, 396, 420, 625, 905, 1029, 1071, 1354, 1571, 2060,	Reps. Dy (F.), Erice, Rodriguez, Almario, Deputy Speaker Pimentel, Reps. Salceda,	Postponing the May 2020 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections, amending for the purpose RA 9164, as amended	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Juliet Marie de Leon Ferrer (4th District, Negros Occidental), approved the substitute bill and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Postponing the May 2020 barangay and SK elections is one of the legislative priorities of</p>

Continuation... Suffrage and Electoral Reforms	2175, 2276, 2386, 2483, 2531, 2551, 2608, 2647, 2727, 2874, 2888, 2890, 2959, 3037, 3100, 3187, 3268, 3316, 3500, 3515, 3652, 3670, 3937, 3959, 4042, 4606, 4682 & 4738	Velasco, Castelo, Deputy Speaker Abu, Reps. Villa, Abellanos, Deputy Speaker Gonzales (A.), Reps. Robes, Suansing (E.), Ty, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Bolilia, Deloso- Montalla, Gatchalian, Fortuno, Sarmiento, Nieto, Arroyo (J.M.), Hofer, Revilla, Chatto, Go (M.), Del Mar, Sy- Alvarado, Deputy Speaker Romero, Reps. Alvarez (G.), Geron, Garcia (V.), Ferrer (J.M.), Deputy Speakers Hernandez and Oaminal, Reps. Romualdez (Y.) and Dimaporo (M.K.)		President Rodrigo Duterte, as he mentioned during his State of the Nation Address (SONA) last July 22.
Trade and Industry	HB 386	Rep. Zamora (M.)	Carpark Regulation Law of 2019	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Wes Gatchalian (1st District, Valenzuela City), will deliberate further on the 13 bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Gatchalian said that the National Building Code requires offices, schools, hospitals, and business establishments such as malls, hotels, restaurants and the like, to put up adequate parking spaces for their customers or patrons. However, the Building Code failed to specify whether parking should be offered for free or not. As a result, some establishments now charge exorbitant parking fees and even waive liability for loss or theft and damage to parked vehicles.</p> <p>Rep. Gatchalian, together with the other authors, said that the proposed law intends to regulate the collection of parking fees in order to strike a balance between the right of business owners/operators to a reasonable return on their investment and the adequate safety and security of the customers and their vehicles at an acceptable cost.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Manuel Luis Lopez (1st District, Manila), author of HB 450, advocated</p>
	HB 450	Rep. Lopez (M.L.)	Exempting the patrons or the clientele of tenants and lessees of shopping malls, markets, shops, fairs, hospitals, and all other similar establishments from the payment of parking fees on a validation basis and providing penalties for violation thereof	
	HB 1037	Rep. Tambunting	Regulating the conduct of business between parking station proprietors and their customers	
	HBs 506, 2125, 3215, 3262, 3540, 3559 & 4335	Rep. Barbers, Deputy Speaker Marcoleta, Reps. Herrera- Dy, Gatchalian, Violago, Pancho, and Nieto	Regulating the imposition of fees for the use of parking spaces and facilities in shopping malls, hospitals, schools, hotels and similar establishments and prescribing penalties for violation thereof	
	HB 2214	Rep. Reyes	Mandating all commercial/business establishments, hospitals, government buildings, and other similar establishments to provide free parking spaces for bicycles, and providing penalties for violation thereof	

Continuation... Trade and Industry	HB 2923	Rep. Castelo	Promoting a two-hour free parking policy in shopping malls, schools, hospitals, hotels, and similar establishments and prescribing penalties for violations thereof	a balanced public policy approach and stressed that business establishments, especially those earning huge income, must consider waiving the payment of parking fees.
	HB 4621	Rep. Peña	Requiring hospitals to waive parking fees for their patients and prescribing penalties for violation thereof	<p>Resource persons from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Land Transportation Office (LTO), Philippine National Police (PNP), Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), and Hataw Padyak Bikers Association, Inc. (PADYAK) interposed no objections to the bills.</p> <p>Minority Leader Bienvenido Abante Jr. (6th District, Manila) and several other lawmakers were dismayed at the absence of the owners/operators of big malls and other business establishments during the meeting despite due notice. He recommended that punitive action be imposed on them.</p> <p>However, the Committee agreed to give mall owners another chance to appear and be heard. They will be notified through phone call as well as electronic and registered mail to exact their attendance.</p> <p>Entrepreneurs engaged in the parking space business and other stakeholders will also be invited to attend the Committee's next meeting.</p>
Ways and Means	HBs 1294, 3006, 4223 & 4695	Deputy Speaker Villafuerte and Rep. Salceda	Amending RA 8794, otherwise known as the Motor Vehicle User's Charge (MVUC) Act of 2000 (by applying a single rate for all types of motor vehicles whether private, government, or for hire)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), will deliberate further on the bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Salceda, who is also the author of HB 4695, said that his bill will increase the motor vehicle road users' tax on all types of vehicles (except motorcycles) by an average of 33%, a reasonable imposition considering that the motor vehicle user's charge (MVUC) has not been adjusted since 2004. The increase in the tax rate, according to Rep. Salceda, will generate funds that will help finance the modernization of public utility vehicles and the implementation of the Universal Health Care (UHC) Law.</p> <p>Under Rep. Salceda's bill, the increase in the road users' tax will be implemented on a staggered basis from 2020 to 2022 using different rates for each type and weight of vehicle. However, effective January 1, 2023, a unitary rate at P1.40 per kilogram of gross vehicle weight for all types of vehicles will be in place. Rep. Salceda expects that revenues from the collection of the road users' tax would reach P11 billion by 2022.</p> <p>Representatives from the Departments of Health (DOH), Finance (DOF), Transportation (DOTr), and Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), and the Land Transportation Office (LTO) expressed their support for the bills.</p>
	HB 3616	Rep. Vargas	Exempting green vehicles from the MVUC, amending for the purpose Section 2 of RA 8794	

AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Energy	<p>Briefing by the following agencies/entities on the state of the electricity market and power transmission in the country:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philippine Electricity Market Corporation (PEMC) Independent Electricity Market Operator of the Philippines (IEMOP) National Transmission Commission (TransCo) 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, listened to the briefing conducted by agencies/entities involved in the electricity market and power transmission in the country.</p> <p>PEMC President Oscar Ala apprised the Committee of the mission, vision, core values, and functions of PEMC.</p> <p>Ala said that part of PEMC's governance functions is to conduct market assessment and monitoring of price spikes and implement mitigating measures; ensure enforcement and compliance with the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) rules; and enhance market design and develop other markets to manage price movements in the WESM.</p> <p>Ala highlighted the role of PEMC as the governing body of WESM which serves as a venue for trading electricity as a commodity to ensure balance between generation and demand. He said that WESM currently operates in Luzon and Visayas and will operate in Mindanao by the end of 2020.</p> <p>IEMOP President Jose Bigornia gave an overview of the historical perspective of IEMOP. Bigornia said that IEMOP, a non-stock, non-profit corporation, serves as the market operator of WESM and the central registration body for the retail competition and open access (RCOA) of WESM.</p> <p>IEMOP Chief Corporate Strategy and Communications Officer Isidro Cacho highlighted the factors which affect the price of electricity in the market, such as, supply-demand condition; forced and planned outage of generating plants; deration (lowered capacity) of hydro plants; delayed operation of new plants; and transmission line congestion.</p> <p>Cacho said that 271 participants composed of generation companies and customers in Luzon and Visayas are registered with the WESM, while 1,495 participants are registered with the RCOA. IEMOP expects about 87 participants to come from Mindanao, Cacho said.</p> <p>TransCo President and Chief Executive Officer Melvin Matibag presented the role of Transco in the transmission network services.</p> <p>Matibag said that, based on RA 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) of 2001, TransCo assumed the electrical transmission function of the National Power Corporation (NPC) including the planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of high voltage transmission facilities, grid interconnections, and ancillary services.</p> <p>Matibag clarified that while the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) has acquired the rights to the transmission business through a congressional franchise granted to it under RA 9511, the government, through TransCo, retains the ownership of the transmission assets.</p> <p>Matibag also reported on the status of the petition filed by NGCP with the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) requesting the extension of the period for listing NGCP's shares of stocks required under RA 9511. A motion for reconsideration was filed</p>

<p>Continuation... Energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) 	<p>by the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM) and TransCo asking the ERC to enforce the law. Section 8 (Dispersal of Ownership) of RA 9511 provides that the grantee (NGCP) shall list and make an initial public offering (IPO) of its shares representing at least 20% of its outstanding capital stock within 10 years from the commencement of its operations. NGCP commenced operations in 15 January 2009.</p> <p>NGCP Transmission Planning Department head Redi Allan Remoroza presented the scope of operations and role of NGCP in the energy industry. Remoroza said that, with the passage of RA 9136, the transmission functions of TransCo were assumed by the NGCP.</p> <p>NGCP, a privately-owned corporation, is in charge of operating, maintaining and developing the country's state-owned grid, and in controlling power supply and demand. It holds a 25-year concession agreement with the government to operate and maintain the transmission business.</p> <p>As of December 2018, Remoroza said that NGCP connects to 381 customers nationwide consisting of power generators, private utilities, electric cooperatives, and direct customers.</p> <p>Rep. Presley de Jesus (Party-List, PHILRECA) inquired on the reason for the delay in the public offering of the shares of stocks of NGCP.</p> <p>NGCP Assistant Corporate Secretary Ronaldo Concepcion explained that the delay is due to the current market condition which is not suitable for the listing of its shares and pending the determination of the price control set by the ERC.</p> <p>Rep. Isagani Amatong (3rd District, Zamboanga del Norte) decried the frequent power outages in Mindanao attributing these to poor service due to the monopoly in the power industry. He stressed that free competition should prevail in the industry so that there will be better quality of service.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Sergio Dagooc (Party-List, APEC) on the charges imposed by the NGCP, Concepcion said that it collects transmission, systems operations, and metering charges. Rep. Dagooc chided the NGCP for charging generation cost and systems loss to customers, which constitute double charge due to NGCP's inefficiency in the delivery of services.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to conduct another meeting to review the performance of the NGCP and to be updated on NGCP's dispute with TransCo.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit documents required by the Members of the Committee.</p>
<p>Higher and Technical Education</p>	<p>Briefing by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) on the status of implementation of the tertiary education subsidy (TES) under RA 10931, otherwise known as the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, listened to the briefing conducted by CHED Chairperson J. Prospero "Popoy" de Vera III on the status of implementation of the TES.</p> <p>Rep. Go said that there are reports that many poor students, especially those enrolled in the <i>Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino</i> Program (4Ps) were not included as TES beneficiaries. He said there may be a need to improve CHED's mechanisms to ensure that the provisions of the law are properly implemented.</p> <p>TES provides free tuition fees to students enrolled in state universities and colleges (SUCs), local universities and colleges</p>

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education		<p>(LUCs), and all accredited technical-vocational education and training programs</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija), De Vera said that under RA 10931, the TES gives priority to the following types of beneficiaries: scholars under the Expanded Student Grant Program for Poverty Alleviation (ESGPPA); poor but deserving students who are enrolled in SUCs and LUCs and included in the <i>Listahanan</i> of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD); and students enrolled in private higher education institutions (HEIs) in cities and municipalities where there are no public universities.</p> <p>Rep. Stella Luz Quimbo (2nd District, Marikina City) asked about the reasons behind the delay in the approval of scholarship grants.</p> <p>De Vera cited the following possible reasons: incomplete submission of requirements by the applicants; lack of manpower to process the huge number of grant applications; and the slow downloading of funds from the CHED Office.</p> <p>Upon knowing that CHED has less than a thousand employees processing about 800,000 applications for scholarship grants, Rep. Quimbo asked CHED to conduct a time-motion study to determine how many more employees need to be hired by CHED to efficiently and effectively undertake this task.</p> <p>Rep. Paul Ruiz Daza (1st District, Northern Samar) asked how a student can apply for TES scholarship and what the requirements are. De Vera said that students can apply online and during the application process, the system will determine if the student is in the <i>Listahanan</i> and therefore qualified to be a beneficiary under TES.</p>
	Briefing by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on the <i>Listahanan</i> , or the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR)	<p>DSWD-NHTS head Andrew Ambubuyog explained that the NHTS-PR is an information management system that identifies who and where the poor are in the country. This information is used in the identification and selection of potential beneficiaries for various poverty alleviation and social protection programs of the government.</p> <p>The DSWD will update the <i>Listahanan</i> starting next month. The updated listing, which is expected to be released by July 2020, will help address complaints about qualified students not being included in the list of beneficiaries under the scholarship programs of the government.</p>
Labor and Employment	Briefing on the mandate, programs, and accomplishments of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), including current labor trends and statistics on labor and employment	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN), listened to the briefing on the mandate, programs, and accomplishments of the DOLE, as well as current trends and statistics on labor and employment.</p> <p>DOLE Secretary Silvestre Bello III was present during the meeting but it was Assistant Secretary for Regional Operations and Special Concerns Benjo Benavidez who conducted the presentation.</p> <p>Benavidez discussed DOLE's mandate, programs and services, and legislative agenda for the 18th Congress which include the creation of the Department of Overseas Filipino Workers and the Security of Tenure. He also updated the Members of the deployment of land and sea-based workers overseas. According to Benavidez, Saudi Arabia has the most number of Filipino workers at 117,696 followed by Qatar with 38,910 Filipino workers.</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Labor and Employment</p>		<p>With regard to the Department's accomplishments, Benavidez said that out of the 42,237 labor-related cases in 2019, the Department was able to dispense with 34,575 cases. Likewise, out of the 124,740 profiled child laborers, 32,467 have been referred to other government offices for assistance and 8,885 were provided with actual services by DOLE.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Reps. Maria Fe Abunda (Eastern Samar) and Mark Go (Baguio) pertaining to the proposed creation of a Department of OFW, Bello said that the DOLE is supportive of the proposal.</p> <p>Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Administrator Hans Leo Cacdac also expressed his support for the proposal to create a Department of OFW, but suggested that OWWA become an attached agency of the proposed Department instead of abolishing it.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Ma. Theresa Collantes (3rd District, Batangas) on DOLE's courses of action in addressing the increasing number of Chinese workers in the Philippine Offshore Gaming Operation (POGO), Bello said that there is an inter-agency agreement pertaining to the regulation of the entry of illegal Chinese workers in the country.</p> <p>Through a Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) signed by the Departments of Justice (DOJ), Foreign Affairs (DFA), and Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), DOLE, Bureau of Immigration (BI), Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), and National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA), appropriate sanctions including deportation, will be imposed on foreign workers who violate the provisions of the JMC.</p>
<p>Population and Family Relations</p>	<p>Briefing by the following government agencies on their respective plans and programs and legislative priorities relative to population and family relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Guimaras Rep. Ma. Lucille Nava M.D., listened to the briefing of the DSWD and PSA on their plans and programs as well as legislative priorities relative to population and family relations.</p> <p>DSWD Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) Regional Director Janet Armas presented the Department's 2018 accomplishments and its programs and services for the poor, which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps); • Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP); • Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (Kalahi-CIDSS) Project; • Community Empowerment Activity Cycle (CEAC); • Supplementary Feeding Program; • Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens; • Recognition for Centenarians; and • Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation. <p>Armas sought the help of Congress for the passage of the Domestic Administrative Adoption Bill which seeks to make the adoption process purely an administrative proceeding in lieu of the tedious and costly court adoption process. Likewise, Armas advocated the enactment of the Anti-Elder Abuse Bill which seeks to penalize abuses against senior citizens and institutionalizes protocols in responding to cases of elder abuse.</p> <p>Several Members inquired regarding the status of implementation of the Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens which grants a P500 monthly stipend to indigent senior citizens to help augment their daily subsistence and medical needs.</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Population and Family Relations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) 	<p>DSWD Assistant Secretary Glenda Relova disclosed that there have been cases wherein senior citizens have been deleted from the list of beneficiaries following the directive from the Office of the President (OP) to clear the database of unqualified grantees. Nevertheless, Relova explained that a grievance desk was created to revalidate and address complaints of those who were excluded from the list yet are qualified. She also said that the DSWD is committed to improve its system of identifying qualified beneficiaries.</p> <p>Relova added that the DSWD is coordinating with the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) in expediting the processing and release of the pension of senior citizens.</p> <p>PSA Legal Service OIC Henedine Palabras presented the agency's legislative priorities, one of which is the Comprehensive Civil Registration Act that aims to provide solutions for a more efficient and effective civil registration system and to ensure that the system meets international standards.</p> <p>Other legislative priorities of the PSA are bills on the PSA Reorganization and the Magna Carta for Statistical, Civil Registration, and Philippine Education System Workers.</p> <p>On the implementation of the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys), PSA Deputy National Statistician Lourdines dela Cruz reported that the registration for the PhilSys is still in the pilot testing phase to ensure the functionality, efficiency, and security of the system. Dela Cruz also said that the PSA targets the full registration of all Filipino citizens and resident aliens by 2022.</p> <p>A summary of the pilot testing as of September 30 showed that 540 persons were registered with an average processing time of 10 minutes and 22 seconds per registrant.</p> <p>PhilSys is the government's central identification platform for all citizen and resident aliens of the Philippines. It was created by virtue of RA 11055 or the Philippine Identification System Act which aims to provide a valid proof of identity for all citizens and resident aliens as a means of simplifying public and private transactions.</p>
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DISCUSSIONS WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Disaster Management	Update on the rehabilitation of victims of Super Typhoon Yolanda by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez (4th District, Leyte), listened to the report made by NEDA on the government's rehabilitation efforts for Typhoon Yolanda victims.</p> <p>NEDA Regional Development Director Remedios Endencia informed the body that initially, NEDA was designated in April 2015 to monitor the rehabilitation and recovery program for the typhoon victims. However, the said function was transferred to the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Unified Implementation and Monitoring of Rehabilitation and Recovery Projects and Programs in the Yolanda-Affected Areas (IATF-Yolanda) by virtue of Administrative Order No. 5 last August 2017.</p> <p>Endencia enumerated the programs on infrastructure, resettlement, social services, and livelihood which were implemented in Yolanda-affected areas.</p>

Continuation... Disaster Management		<p>Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso III (3rd District, Leyte) inquired about the financial assistance provided by NEDA for the victims from 2014 to 2017. Endencia clarified that NEDA did not have a program extending financial assistance to victims. She said it is the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) which extends financial assistance to families whose homes were partially or totally destroyed by the typhoon.</p> <p>Rep. Torres-Gomez requested the NEDA to submit its Accomplishment Report for the period April 2015 to August 2017 when it was in charge with monitoring the rehabilitation and recovery programs for Yolanda-affected areas.</p> <p>In the Committee's next meeting, the following agencies will be invited to answer the queries of the Members: Departments of Budget and Management (DBM), Finance (DOF), Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Agriculture (DA), Trade and Industry (DTI), Health (DOH), Education (DepEd), and the Interior and Local Government (DILG), DSWD, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Commission on Audit (COA), National Housing Authority (NHA), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), and utility companies.</p> <p>Rep. Torres-Gomez advised the invited agencies to send officials who will have the authority to speak in behalf of their respective agencies.</p> <p>On another matter, the Committee designated Rep. Ansaruddin Abdul Malik Adiong (1st District, Lanao del Sur) as chair of the Sub-Committee on Rehabilitation and Recovery Efforts for Marawi City, which was created by the Committee in its previous meeting.</p>
Metro Development	Manila Discussion on the worsening traffic problem in Metro Manila, particularly along Epifanio Delos Santos Avenue (EDSA) and Commonwealth Avenue	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Manuel Luis Lopez (1st District, Manila), will continue with its discussion on the interminable and worsening traffic problems in Metro Manila, particularly along EDSA and Commonwealth Avenue, in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Edgar Erice (2nd District, Caloocan City) explained the basis for his proposal to ban private vehicles from passing through EDSA, the longest and the most congested highway in the metropolis, from 6 to 9 a.m. and from 6 to 9 p.m. He cited a 2019 study by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) which ranked Metro Manila as the most congested city out of 278 cities in Asia. The study also found that in cities with a population greater than five million, Metro Manila's transport system impeded mobility of commuters the most.</p> <p>Rep. Erice believes that his proposal will help achieve the President's promise to reduce the travel time from Cubao to Makati to five minutes.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon supported the proposal but suggested that alternative roads and those leading to and from EDSA should be accessible and free from obstructions.</p> <p>Rep. Bayani Fernando (1st District, Marikina City) asked the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to conduct a study on Rep. Erice's proposal backed by statistics and to submit its own suggestions on how to decongest traffic in EDSA.</p> <p>MMDA General Manager Jose Arturo Garcia Jr. suggested that the penalties for violations of traffic regulations be increased,</p>

<p>Continuation... Metro Manila Development</p>		<p>adding that the current penalties are too low to deter potential violators.</p> <p>Alliance of Transport Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines (ALTODAP) president Melencio “Boy” Vargas asked if the proposed ban on EDSA includes transport network vehicle service (TNVS). Rep. Erice replied in the affirmative.</p> <p>Inter-Agency Council for Traffic (I-ACT) Head Manuel Gonzales informed the Committee that the agency has been conducting anti-colorum and vehicle road worthiness campaigns to improve the traffic flow in Metro Manila.</p> <p>On the traffic congestion on Commonwealth Avenue, Garcia said that although the on-going construction of the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) System Line 7 contributes to the traffic slowdown, the congestion is largely due to the increased volume of vehicles plying the road. He promised to follow-up with San Miguel Corporation (SMC) and EEI Corporation the construction of elevated u-turn slots they agreed to build to address traffic congestion in the area. The SMC is the private proponent of the MRT-7 project and EEI Corporation is its engineering, procurement and construction contractor.</p> <p>Also during the meeting, the Committee allowed Manuel Relos Sy, a concerned citizen, to present his views on how to solve the traffic problem in Metro Manila, including EDSA. His main suggestion is to grant emergency powers to the President to expeditiously address the perennial traffic problems in Metro Manila.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to conduct a <i>motu proprio</i> inquiry into the continued operation of <i>colorum</i> public utility vehicles (PUVs) and the inability of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to address the problem.</p>
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