



# Committee Daily Bulletin

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

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## ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<b>Strategic Intelligence</b> (Special Committee)	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Surigao del Sur), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Rep. Pimentel said that the newly-created Committee is mandated to monitor and evaluate the intelligence community and their activities related to collecting and analyzing information needed by top-level government decision makers. The aim, according to Rep. Pimentel, is to facilitate the creation and implementation of a responsive national security strategy that can better safeguard the nation.</p> <p>At present, the Committee has 12 members with 11 from the Majority and one from the Minority. Rep. Pimentel said he will make representations with the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader to fill-up the remaining slots in the Committee's membership as soon as possible.</p> <p>Under the House Rules, the Committee has jurisdiction over "all matters directly and principally relating to strategic intelligence initiatives, activities, and programs of the Philippine government including but not limited to counter-intelligence, counter terrorism, foreign intelligence, and economic intelligence."</p>

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
<b>Labor and Employment</b>	Substitute Bill to HBs 29, 273, 2025, 2240, 3465, 3688, 4203 & 7416	Deputy Speaker Escudero, Reps. Aglipay, Fernandez, Fortun, Villafuerte, Mendoza, Vargas, and Deputy Speaker Villanueva	Institutionalizing mechanisms for the recognition, integration and transition of workers, enterprises, and organizations in the informal economy to the formal economy and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee chaired by Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to the eight bills.
	HB 508	Rep. Castro (F.L.)	Providing for the period of probationary employment of teaching and non-teaching personnel in private schools, thereby amending for the purpose PD 442, otherwise known as the Labor Code of the Philippines, as amended	<p>The Committee will continue its deliberation on HBs 508 and 2627 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. France Castro (Party-List, ACT-TEACHERS), author of HB 508, said that her bill sets a six-month probationary period for teaching and non-teaching personnel in private schools in the basic and tertiary levels. She explained that in private higher education institutions (HEIs), the probationary period is way longer which takes a long time before teaching and non-teaching personnel are regularized and acquire security of tenure. She added that the Labor Code prescribes a six-month probationary period for employees and workers in the private sector which is enough for these workers to prove their competence and expertise.</p>
	HB 2627	Rep. Mendoza	Fixing the probationary period of employment of academic personnel in private schools, amending for the purpose PD 442, as amended	

<p>Continuation... Labor and Employment</p>				<p>Representatives from the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA) and the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) made their objections to the bills known.</p> <p>COCOPEA Managing Director Joseph Noel Estrada explained that the current probationary period of three academic school years for basic education or six consecutive semesters for higher education is governed by the 2011 Revised Manual of Regulations for Private Schools in Basic Education and the 2008 Manual of Regulations for Private Higher Education (MORPHE). He said this policy was adopted by the then Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) under the 1970 Manual of Regulations for Private Schools, and has been consistently and continuously adopted by the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) up to this time.</p> <p>Further, Estrada clarified that the three-year probationary period is the maximum, not the minimum period. This means that a private school can actually reduce this period and grant tenure to the teacher as soon as the latter meets all the requirements for permanency.</p> <p>ECOP Governor Antonio Abad Jr. likewise said that this is contrary to the right of the private school to set its own employment standards for teachers under the MORPHE. He claimed that countries such as the United States and the United Kingdom adopt a three-year probationary requirement or even more.</p> <p>Rep. Castro stressed that in public schools, academic personnel are regularized as soon as they meet the qualification requirements.</p> <p>Rep. Pineda agreed that setting a three-year probationary period, even if it is the maximum, may be too long to justify the time needed for assessing the quality of the service or performance rendered by the teacher.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, who is the Chair of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, recommended that the current maximum probationary period of three years be reduced to two years. He said this will be enough for the private school to assess the services of the teaching personnel and for the teacher to accomplish the requirements for permanency.</p>
<p><b>Public Works and Highways</b></p>	<p>HBs 28, 4756 &amp; 4872</p>	<p>Deputy Speaker Escudero, Rep. Nieto, and Deputy Speaker Rodriguez</p>	<p>Providing for the construction of public restrooms along national and provincial highways throughout the country, appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Romblon Rep. Eleandro Jesus Madrona, approved the bills. The Secretariat was directed to come up with a substitute bill.</p> <p>Deputy Speakers Evelina Escudero (1<sup>st</sup> District, Sorsogon) and Rufus Rodriguez (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Cagayan de Oro City) explained the need for the passage of the proposed law to ensure that these important sanitation facilities are in place when</p>

Continuation... Public Works and Highways				the tourism sector bounces back after the pandemic.
	HBs 730, 4053, 4326, 4789, 5575, 5577, 5578, 5676, 6530, 6581, 6583 & 6584	Rep. Dalog Deputy Speaker Teves, Reps. Abueg-Zaldivar, Bulut, and Madrona	Converting provincial roads into national roads in certain parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the 12 bills.  Rep. Madrona mentioned that the bills were not endorsed by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) because the road projects fall short of the minimum requirements based on DPWH Department Order No. 110. However, the Committee took into consideration the favorable endorsement by the concerned district engineers and regional offices of the DPWH. The DPWH also noted that their comments are not intended to interfere or derail the plans and intentions of the legislators to push through with their projects for the development of their respective districts.
	HBs 630 & 3545	Reps. Almario and Robes	Appropriating funds for the construction of a four-lane viaduct/skyway in Davao City and in the City of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, respectively	The Committee approved the 18 bills.  Rep. Madrona manifested that the projects covered by HBs 630, 2799, 2824, 2825, 3269, 3528, 3862, 5269 and 7145 are all ongoing projects, hence the approval and enactment of the bills will just formalize the implementation of these projects.
	HBs 912, 4126 & 6065	Reps. Gonzales (A.), Guico, and Mercado	Providing for the construction of service/arterial/circumferential roads in the Provinces of Pampanga, Pangasinan and Southern Leyte, respectively, and appropriating funds therefor	As to HBs 912, 2152, 3545, 3863, 4737 and 6065, the DPWH poses no objection to the measures but noted that the projects' viability is yet to be confirmed.
	HBs 2152, 2799, 3269, 3528, 3862, 3863, 4737, 5269, 7166 & 7187	Rep. Dimaporo (A.), Deputy Speaker Rodriguez, Reps. Suarez (A.), Ouano-Dizon, Almario, Dimaporo (M.K.), and Deloso-Montalla	Providing for the construction of national highways/superhighways/expressways/interchange in certain parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	Meanwhile, HBs 4126, 7166 and 7187 were also approved subject to the submission of additional documentary requirements to the DPWH.
	HBs 2824 & 2825	Deputy Speaker Rodriguez	Providing for the completion of the J.R. Borja extension road and the Cagayan de Oro diversion road	
	HB 7145	Rep. Vargas	Mandating the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to prioritize the construction of the necessary infrastructure for the accessibility of all tourism sites in the country, and appropriating funds therefor	
<b>Rural Development</b>	HR 1421	Rep. Kho (E.)	Urging the House leadership to extend the implementation of the Department of Agriculture's (DA) Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program for six years from 2023 to 2028	The Committee, presided by its Senior Vice Chair Rep. Alfred delos Santos (Party-List, ANG PROBINSYANO), agreed to create a technical working group to fine-tune the resolution.  Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Western Samar) was designated as head of the TWG.  At the outset, Rep. Delos Santos said that the measure seeks to extend the DA-SAAD Program for another six years from 2023 to 2028 so as not to disrupt the implementation of the

<p>Continuation... Rural Development</p>				<p>agricultural programs intended to address poverty in the rural areas.</p> <p>DA-SAAD Program Director Myer Mula presented that the Program, which started in 2017 and will end in 2022, aims to help alleviate poverty among the marginalized and poorest of the poor communities in the agriculture and fisheries sectors. The Program's beneficiaries come from the 30 identified priority provinces based on the Philippine Statistics Authority's (PSA) 2012 and 2015 poverty incidence data as well as the areas covered by Executive Order No. 70 series of 2018.</p> <p>EO 70 institutionalizes the whole-of-nation approach in attaining inclusive and sustainable peace, creating a National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC), and directing the adoption of a national peace framework. There are 337 barangays identified as ELCAC barangays which are part of the SAAD Program.</p> <p>In addition, Mula said that the Program aims to increase food production for household consumption and establish community enterprises by providing support services not only to farmers and fisherfolk but also to the beneficiaries of the Department of Social Welfare and Development's Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (DSWDs-4Ps) and the indigenous peoples (IP) who are not recipients of the DA's regular programs in the last two years.</p> <p>For the period 2017-2020, Mula reported that the program received a total funding allocation of P4.43 billion, of which P4.22 billion has been obligated while P2.20 billion has been disbursed. Mula said that for 2021, the budget given to SAAD under the General Appropriations Act amounts to P1.49 million which will fund the implementation of 570 livelihood projects.</p> <p>Moving forward, Mula suggested that the SAAD Program, if extended, should cover the poorest provinces and municipalities based on PSA's 2021 data. He likewise suggested the following: purchase of motor vehicles to transport the area coordinators to remote areas where most of the beneficiaries reside; provide incentive to partner local government units/stakeholders; and create co-terminus positions for the workers handling the program.</p> <p>Several program beneficiaries from both the agriculture and the fisheries sectors, who were invited to the meeting, gave their respective testimonials on the effectiveness of the SAAD Program and on the benefits they received from it.</p> <p>Reps. Sarmiento, Leonardo Babasa Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Zamboanga del Sur), and Godofredo Guya (Party-List, RECOBODA) pointed out the importance of evaluating the effectiveness of the</p>
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<p>Continuation... Rural Development</p>				<p>Program, particularly on its impact on the lives of the individual beneficiaries, to determine whether or not the program should be extended, as well as to know the gaps that should be given more attention to.</p> <p>The representatives from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) both agreed that an assessment of the program is necessary.</p> <p>NEDA Senior Economic Development Specialist Ralph Mariano said that the result of the assessment would firm up the basis for the proposed extension of the Program and help determine any additional budget requirement.</p> <p>DBM Budget and Management Bureau E Acting Supervisor Mary Ann Ricohermosa noted that the Program is already on its fifth year of implementation. She suggested that the DA-SAAD should have a catch-up plan citing the Program's low disbursement rate of 52% as compared to the obligation rate of 95%.</p> <p>Expressing support for the proposed program extension were representatives from the DSWD and PSA. Restituto Macuto, DSWD National Program Manager of SLP and Concurrent National Program Manager of Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty, said that the extension of the Program beyond 2022 will further help the poor, vulnerable, and disadvantaged sectors who are greatly affected by the pandemic.</p> <p>The Committee requested the DA-SAAD to submit the reports and documents required by the Members.</p>
<p><b>Social Services</b></p>	<p>Substitute Bill to HB 4469</p>	<p>Rep. Panotes</p>	<p>Institutionalizing the granting of Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) Program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Alfredo Vargas III (5<sup>th</sup> District, Quezon City), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on the substitute bill.</p> <p>Rep. Diego Ty (1<sup>st</sup> District, Misamis Occidental) was designated as head of the TWG.</p> <p>Rep. Marisol Panotes (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Camarines Norte), author of HB 4469, explained that his bill seeks to institutionalize the AICS Program of the DSWD so that despite changes in administrations, the grant of AICS will remain, assuring marginalized sectors of continued financial assistance from the government.</p> <p>Expressing support for the proposed law were representatives from the DSWD, Department of Health (DOH), National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), and the League of Provinces of the Philippines. They likewise gave their inputs and recommendations to improve the proposed law.</p>

Continuation... Social Services				<p>However, Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Bureau B Assistant Director Jane Abella said that the DBM is not inclined to support the bill due to financial constraints on the part of the government, specifically with the effect of the impending implementation of the Supreme Court ruling in the Mandanas vs. Ochoa case starting with the 2022 budget. Under the SC ruling, the revenue shares of the LGUs are expected to significantly increase, which will result in a sizable decrease in available resources intended for the projects and programs of national government agencies, like the DSWD.</p> <p>Based on the Supreme Court ruling on the Mandanas case, the just share of LGUs from the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) must be computed based on all national taxes, and not just from National Internal Revenue Taxes (NIRT). This includes other taxes such as those collected by the Bureau of Customs and agencies that are authorized by law to collect NIRT.</p> <p>Moreover, Abella said that the AICS is one of the programs being proposed for devolution. As planned, the DSWD will maintain its crisis intervention services only for vulnerable and marginalized individuals as part of their regular protective services program.</p>
<b>Ways and Means</b>	Substitute Bill to HBs 1527, 2019, 3219, 3951, 6132 & 7790	Reps. Salceda, Vargas, Deputy Speaker Villanueva, Reps. De Venecia, Yap (V.), and Villafuerte	Providing protection for freelancers	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Albay), approved the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to the six bills.
	HB 7415	Deputy Speaker Villanueva	Providing for simplified registration, filing of returns, and payment of income and percentage taxes and providing tax relief for micro-enterprises, amending for the purpose Sections 74, 128 & 236 of RA 8424, as amended	<p>The Committee approved with amendments HBs 7415 and 7881. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the substitute bill to the two bills and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Salceda, author of HB 7881, gave a presentation on the salient features of his bill. He said his bill seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enact a policy appropriate to a taxpayer's capacity to comply;</li> <li>• Promote tax administration organization consistent with segmentation and responsive to the needs and practices of various taxpayer segments;</li> <li>• Maximize tax collection effort and resource allocation;</li> <li>• Liberalize the rules on filing and payment of taxes by separating the acts of filing from payment (The bill does not remove the old rules but simply relaxes the rules, thus taxpayers still have the option to pay as they file);</li> <li>• Remove restriction of venue when filing and paying (This means that taxpayers</li> </ul>
	HB 7881	Rep. Salceda	Introducing administrative tax reforms, amending Sections 21, 22, 51, 56, 58, 77, 81, 90, 91, 103, 106, 108, 110, 113, 114, 128, 200, 236, 237, 238, 245, & 264, and adding Sections 291 and 292 of RA 8424, otherwise known as the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997, as amended	

<p>Continuation... Ways and Means</p>				<p>can file and pay even outside their revenue district);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove the requirement of audit prior to the closure of a business establishment or retirement from the practice of profession;</li> <li>• Remove the requirement to secure an authority from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to print receipts or sales or commercial invoices by all persons engaged in business or the practice of a profession;</li> <li>• Mandate the creation of registration facilities that will be available to taxpayers residing abroad;</li> <li>• Ease the penalty imposition on non-medium and non-large taxpayers (none for first offense, 50% for second offense and full rate for third offense); and</li> <li>• Create the Taxpayer's Advocate Office that will champion not only the rights of taxpayers but also to foster further cooperation between the tax administrator and the taxpayers.</li> </ul> <p>Rep. Salceda underscored that the proposed law will provide a healthy environment for the tax paying public that protects and safeguards taxpayer rights and welfare. It shall likewise modernize and improve tax system and administration by adopting best practices to replace antiquated procedures and providing mechanisms that encourage proper and easy compliance at the least cost possible.</p> <p>Expressing their support to the bills were the Department of Finance (DOF) and the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) of the Philippines, Inc.</p> <p>Among the amendments to HB 7881 that were approved during the meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modify Section 16, which amends Section 113 of the NIRC pertaining to the invoicing and accounting requirements for value-added tax (VAT)-registered persons, to apply the regime only to small taxpayers;</li> <li>• Delete Section 22 which removes the requirement to secure authority from the BIR to print receipts or sales or commercial invoices; and</li> <li>• Insert a new Section amending Section 248 of the NIRC which penalizes one's failure to pay the tax due at the proper venue, given the proposal to remove the venue restriction under the bill.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair said that further amendments to the bill may be raised during the plenary deliberations, including the proposal of Baguio City Rep. Mark Go to no longer separate the act of filing from the act of payment of taxes.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Social Services	Briefing by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on the granting of assistance under the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) Program and on the implementation of the Social Amelioration Program (SAP)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Alfredo Vargas III (5<sup>th</sup> District, Quezon City), listened to the presentation of the DSWD on the granting of assistance under the AICS Program and on the implementation of the SAP.</p> <p>DSWD Undersecretary and National Project Director of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Aimee Torrefranca-Neri reported that the AICS is a key program of DSWD that provides immediate cash assistance to individuals and/or families in need, who may not necessarily be indigent. For the past five years (2016-2020), the rate of accomplishment of the AICS Program has increased by an average of 279%, Neri added.</p> <p>On the implementation of SAP under the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act (Bayanihan 1), Neri said that the DSWD disbursed P99.5 billion to 17.6 million families for the first tranche of the subsidy assistance; and another P84.4 billion to 14.14 million families for the second tranche. Under the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act (Bayanihan 2), the DSWD is currently implementing the Emergency Subsidy Program (ESP) with an allocation of P4.05 billion; out of which P2.85 billion has already been disbursed. DSWD shall likewise provide livelihood assistance grants under Bayanihan 2 in the amount of P985 million; out of which, P984 million has already been disbursed.</p> <p>Neri also enumerated the various challenges that the DSWD encountered in the implementation of Bayanihan 1 and 2, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of an updated database on the beneficiaries' profile on the part of the national government and the local government units (LGUs);</li> <li>• Weather disturbances causing the postponement of payouts;</li> <li>• COVID-19 infections compelling implementers to undergo the mandatory 14-day quarantine period;</li> <li>• Limited number of special disbursing officers (SDOs;) and</li> <li>• Incomplete submission of beneficiary information.</li> </ul> <p>Rep. Vargas asked the DSWD on its plans to improve SAP distribution so as to prevent further delay in the cash payout. He also inquired on how DSWD would address the problems on the master list of SAP beneficiaries, such as the non-inclusion of some vulnerable sectors as well as the questionable identity of those in the list.</p> <p>Neri said that the DSWD has already sought the help of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to help fast-track and expedite the implementation of SAP digital payout. With regard to verifying the beneficiaries in the master list, Neri said that the DSWD will seek the help of the LGUs to re-identify the beneficiaries.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Dahlia Loyola (5<sup>th</sup> District, Cavite), Neri said that 99% of the beneficiaries under the second tranche of SAP have already received their subsidies. For those who have not received their payouts yet, Neri requested the list of names which she can check and verify in the DSWD's system.</p> <p>Rep. Diego Ty (1<sup>st</sup> District, Misamis Occidental) suggested that the funds for the implementation of SAP should be downloaded to the LGUs through the local social welfare officers. This will spare the beneficiaries from going to the bank or other payment conduits to withdraw the cash aid.</p>