



# Committee Daily Bulletin

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## COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
<b>Civil Service and Professional Regulation</b>	Substitute Bill on HB 2621	Rep. Mendoza	Strengthening the constitutional rights of government employees to self-organization, collective bargaining and negotiation and peaceful concerted activities and use of voluntary modes of dispute settlement	<p>The Committee, presided by Rep. Manuel Cabochan III (Party-List, MAGDALO), approved the Substitute Bill to House Bill 2621 subject to style. The corresponding Committee Report was likewise approved.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to transmit the Committee Report including the substitute bill to the Committees on Appropriations and Ways and Means for their comments on the proposed law's funding and tax provisions, respectively.</p> <p>Rep. Cabochan said that while the Constitution guarantees the employees' right to strike, there should also be a guarantee that the operations and services of government agencies shall not be "paralyzed" or adversely affected.</p> <p>Article XIII, Section 3 of the Constitution provides that the State "shall guarantee the rights of all workers to self-organization, collective bargaining and negotiations, and peaceful concerted activities, including the right to strike in accordance with law." Rep. Cabochan also cited Article IX-B Section 2(5) which provides that "the right to self-organization shall not be denied to government employees."</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair Rep. Raymond Democrito Mendoza (Party-List, TUCP), author of HB 2621, reassured the Committee that the proposed law's provision on the right to strike refers to the conduct of a "peaceful concerted activity" as stated in the Constitution.</p> <p>Rep. Ferdinand Gaité (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA) suggested the inclusion of a provision in the bill stating that disputes between the employees' union and government agency where the employees work shall be referred to the Public Sector Labor Relations Board (PSLRB) for resolution. In case the head or representative of the agency is part of the PSLRB, he or she should inhibit himself or herself from the proceedings.</p> <p>Likewise, Rep. Gaité suggested the inclusion of a provision empowering the proposed PSLRB to issue subpoenas.</p> <p>Rep. Mendoza agreed with Rep. Gaité's suggestions. Rep. Mendoza also said that Section 31, which pertains to the cycle of collective bargaining, will be refined to accommodate the suggestion of Rep. Gaité.</p>

Continuation... Civil Service and Professional Regulation				<p>Rep. France Castro (Party-List, ACT-TEACHERS) said that the proposed law will give a positive perspective on unionism in the government sector. She cited an incident in the past when teachers were dismissed for holding a peaceful movement which requested the government to pay the allowances due them.</p> <p>Rep. Gabriel Bordado Jr. (3rd District, Camarines Sur) supported the passage of the proposed legislation and manifested his intent to be a co-author of the bill.</p>
	HBs 6248, 8452 & 9484	Reps. Silverio, Romualdo, and Tambunting	Professionalizing paralegal practice in the Philippines, creating for this purpose a Professional Regulatory Board of Paralegals, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the four bills using HB 6248 as the lead bill.</p> <p>Rep. Mendoza was designated as the TWG Chair.</p>
	HB 5886	Rep. Nograles (J.F.F.)	Establishing the paralegal profession and codifying the paralegal professional conduct guidelines	<p>Rep. Lorna Silverio (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Bulacan), author of HB 6248, said that her bill gives due recognition to paralegals by professionalizing the practice and providing a level of accountability in the profession. As defined in HB 6248, a “paralegal” refers to “a person, who by education, training, or experience, perform substantive legal work requiring the recognition, evaluation, organization, analysis, and communication of relevant facts and legal concepts usually on behalf of lawyers and attorneys.”</p> <p>Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, author of HB 8452, acknowledged the substantive and significant work being done by paralegals especially in law firms. Hence, giving them due recognition through the enactment of the proposed law.</p> <p>Among those who expressed support and provided initial recommendations for the bills were the University of the Philippines Law Center Paralegal Training Program, Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Paralegal Training Program Alumni Association, Inc., Commission on Higher Education, Professional Regulation Commission, and Legal Education Board.</p> <p>Rep. Cabochan directed the resource persons to submit their position paper on the bills for the TWG’s consideration in the crafting of the substitute bill.</p>
<b>Housing and Urban Development</b>	Substitute Bill to HBs 151, 642, 2924, 4125, 4241, 6402 & 6542	Deputy Speaker Marcoleta, Reps. Tambunting, Castelo, Belmonte, Abaya, Vargas, and Nieto	Prescribing a code of conduct for the eviction of underprivileged and homeless citizens or the demolition of their dwellings, providing penalties for violation thereof, and appropriating funds therefor, amending for the purpose RA 7279, otherwise known as the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Francisco "Kiko" Benitez (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Negros Occidental), approved the substitute bill, subject to style and amendment, and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>The proposed law seeks to strengthen Section 28 of RA 7279 which provides that eviction or demolition as a practice shall be discouraged and that certain requirements must first be complied with prior to the dismantling of houses or structures and eviction of affected families. Under</p>

Continuation... Housing and Urban Development				<p>the proposed law, a pre-demolition conference shall be conducted to coordinate related activities of various stakeholders including government agencies tasked to provide the basic needs of the informal settler families (ISFs). This is to ensure that all forms of aggressions related to demolition and eviction are reduced, if not eliminated.</p> <p>Rep. Jose "Jun" Ong Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Northern Samar) asked if the proposed law covers both public and private lands. He also raised concern on the provision of the proposed law that prohibits courts from issuing an "execution of judgment" pending an appeal to stay (or suspend) the execution of an eviction or demolition order if the affected party is an underprivileged and homeless citizen. He said this might further delay the decision of the courts.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP), author of HB 151, assured Rep. Ong that the litigant or the landowner will be able to exhaust all legal means in pursuing his claim on the land under the proposed law.</p> <p>Navotas City Rep. John Reynald Tiangco, Chair of the technical working group (TWG) that was tasked to draft the substitute bill, stated that the proposed law covers both private and public lands. He also reiterated that the main objective of the proposed law is to come up with safe procedures on eviction to prevent unfortunate incidents from happening during demolitions and ensure the protection of human rights.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 3891, 6131 & 7080	Reps. Benitez, Yap (V.), and Villafuerte	Providing for the development of sustainable cities and communities in the country	<p>The Committee approved the substitute bill, subject to style and amendment, and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>The proposed law provides a roadmap in building and managing cities towards economic prosperity, social inclusion, cultural diversity, ecological balance, and climate resilience.</p> <p>Rep. Faustino "Inno" Dy (6<sup>th</sup> District, Isabela), Chair of the TWG that was tasked to draft the substitute bill to the three bills, assured the body that all the stakeholders were given the opportunity to present their respective views and inputs to the proposed law during the TWG meetings.</p>
	HB 8338	Rep. Villafuerte	Providing for a moratorium on rental payment and eviction during disasters and other emergencies	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to study further the two bills and come up with a substitute bill.
	HB 8516	Rep. Zubiri	Prohibiting the increase of rental rates on residential and commercial units and spaces for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic	<p>According to Rep. Benitez, the passage of the proposed bills will provide financial relief to lessees or sublessees who have been adversely affected by the pandemic as well as disasters and other emergencies.</p> <p>HB 8338 provides for a moratorium on the enforcement of all fees, charges, and costs</p>

<p>Continuation... Housing and Urban Development</p>				<p>relating to the rental of residential units, whether covered by a lease or sub-lease contract, for the entire duration of the national or local state of calamity or emergency and for 30 days from the termination of the state of calamity or emergency. This may also be applied to commercial or office space rental of micro, small and medium enterprises at the discretion of the Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).</p> <p>Meanwhile, HB 8516 seeks to prohibit the increase in rental rates of residential and commercial units for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic and recession in the country.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bills were the DTI, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, Department of the Interior and Local Government, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor, Philippine Guarantee Corporation, City Government of Valenzuela - Housing and Resettlement Office, Ayala Land, Inc., and SM Development Corporation.</p> <p>NEDA Director Girlie Grace Casimiro-Igtiben suggested that HB 8338 should specify a time frame for the moratorium on rental payment. For HB 8516, she recommended that a limited increase on rental especially in residential units with rental rate of above P10,000 should be allowed to avoid any adverse impact on the rental market.</p>
	<p>HBs 9762 &amp; 9771</p>	<p>Reps. Villafuerte and Deloso-Montalla</p>	<p>Strengthening the National Housing Authority (NHA), extending its corporate term, and amending for this purpose Presidential Decree No. 757, entitled "Creating the National Housing Authority and dissolving the existing housing agencies, defining its powers and functions, providing funds therefor, and for other purposes"</p>	<p>The Committee agreed to refer the two bills to the TWG that was previously created to consolidate the bills seeking to strengthen the NHA.</p>
<p><b>Metro Manila Development jt. w/ Public Works and Highways</b></p>	<p>HB 8075</p>	<p>Rep. Quimbo</p>	<p>Institutionalizing a 10-year Masterplan for Flood Management, increasing penalties for violations of environmental laws, appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The joint Committee, co-presided by Rep. Manuel Luis Lopez (1<sup>st</sup> District, Manila), Chair of the Committee on Metro Manila Development, and Romblon Rep. Eleandro Jesus Madrona, Chair of the Committee on Public Works and Highways, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine tune House Bill 8075.</p> <p>Rep. Romeo Momo Sr. (Party-List, CWS) was designated as TWG Chair.</p> <p>According to Rep. Lopez, the reason why the country is always experiencing floods during heavy rains and typhoons is because the country lacks the necessary flood prevention infrastructures which is further aggravated by environmentally destructive human activities.</p> <p>For his part, Rep. Madrona underscored the importance of coming up with a law that ensures</p>

<p>Continuation... Metro Manila Development jt. w/ Public Works and Highways</p>				<p>the proper implementation and management of flood control programs of the government. He also pointed out that the country already has sufficient technical experts on the matter, thus creating an international panel of experts, as the bill proposes, might not be necessary.</p> <p>Rep. Stella Luz Quimbo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Marikina City), author of HB 8075, explained that the international panel of experts will only provide technical support to the Inter-Agency Task Force for Flood Management which will be created under the bill and will be tasked to implement the National Flood Management Masterplan. She also explained that her bill proposes that the Masterplan will be formulated by the Infrastructure Committee (INFRACOM) of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board. The INFRACOM shall also undertake a review and assessment of the current Flood Management Masterplan for Metro Manila and surrounding areas that the NEDA Board approved in 2012 and shall expand the Masterplan to cover other areas of Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.</p> <p>Further, Rep. Quimbo said that her bill seeks to enhance the enforcement of environmental laws by increasing the penalties for illegal quarrying and cutting, gathering, and collecting timber or other forest products without license. She also said that under her bill, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall have the exclusive authority to grant quarrying permits, currently being issued by the provincial/city mining regulatory board pursuant to Republic Act 7942 or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.</p> <p>Rep. Quimbo stressed the importance of her proposed measure in preventing massive loss to life and property during extreme weather conditions. She cited the agricultural damage wreaked by Typhoons Rolly, Quinta, and Ulysses valued at P7.3 billion and the evacuation of about 13,000 people in Marikina City due to severe floods brought about by the monsoon rains in July.</p> <p>Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo echoed the same concern stating that his constituents are still suffering from perennial flooding since the onslaught of Typhoon Ondoy in 2009. He said NEDA's 2012 Flood Management Masterplan did not completely address the problem of flooding in Metro Manila over the years.</p> <p>Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Flood Control Management Cluster Engineer Lydia Aguilar informed the body that NEDA's 2012 Flood Management Masterplan comprises 11 foreign-funded priority projects covering both structural and non-structural interventions as well as locally funded projects amounting to P352 billion. She said all the projects under the Masterplan are expected to be</p>
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<p>Continuation... Metro Manila Development jt. w/ Public Works and Highways</p>				<p>finished by 2035. Out of the P352 billion, she reported that P123 billion or 35% of the budget has already been utilized or spent to date. According to Aguilar, the 11 priority projects which cover river, floodway, drainage improvements and land raising projects are funded through Official Development Assistance (ODA) agreements with the World Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.</p> <p>University of the Philippines National Institute of Geological Sciences Professor Carlo Arcilla pointed out that the only way to mitigate the flood water that goes down to the Cities of Marikina and Pasig is to control or manage the excess water in the upstream, originating from the Montalban watershed. He said NEDA should have focused the projects on managing the water in the upstream rather than the downstream. He also argued that NEDA, in the formulation of the 2012 Flood Management Masterplan, did not use the most accurate topography data such as the ones being used by the Department of Science and Technology's Project NOAH (Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards).</p> <p>Project NOAH is the government's flagship program for disaster prevention and mitigation which aims to create a disaster-free Philippines by providing tools and information to mitigate or avert disasters caused by natural hazards. (Source: DOST website)</p> <p>The Members of the two Committees brought to the attention of the DPWH issues and concerns relating to flood control and management in their respective districts.</p> <p>The DPWH was requested to submit the list of completed projects under the 2012 Flood Management Masterplan; and its reply to the comments of Arcilla, which were also the subject of his article entitled "P350-B Flood Control Project Flawed" that was published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer in November 2015.</p>
<p><b>Public Works and Highways</b></p>	<p>Substitute Bill to HB 8151</p>	<p>Rep. Momo</p>	<p>Adopting a 30-year National Infrastructure Program</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Romblon Rep. Eleanro Jesus Madrona, approved the Substitute Bill to House Bill 8151 and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Romeo Momo Sr. (Party-List, CWS), author of HB 8151, presented the salient features of the substitute bill as well as the important amendments that were made. He explained that the bill seeks to adopt a 30-year National Infrastructure Program covering transport and logistics, energy, water resources, information and communications technology, social, and agri-fisheries modernization and logistics infrastructure. This is to reinforce the long-term vision of AmBisyon Natin 2040 and provide continuity in vital infrastructure projects across administrations.</p>

Continuation... Public Works and Highways				<p>The AmBisyon Natin 2040 represents the collective long-term vision and aspirations of the Filipino people for themselves and for the country in the next 25 years. It describes the kind of life that people want to live and how the country will be by 2040. As such, it is an anchor for development planning across at least four administrations. [Source: National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) website]</p> <p>According to Rep. Momo, the recommendations of the resource persons were duly considered in drafting the substitute bill. He also mentioned that the bill has a counterpart measure in the Senate filed by Senator Emmanuel "Manny" Pacquiao.</p>
	HBs 282, 283, 590-592, 2524-2530, 3605, 4029-4033, 4037, 6164, 8250, 8655, 8732, & 9032-9037	Reps. Albano, Mangaoang, Bolilia, Agabas, Dujali, Deputy Speakers Oaminal, Singson-Meehan, and Escudero	Converting local/provincial roads into national roads in various parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved the 29 bills.</p> <p>The Chair requested the authors to submit the documentary requirements relative to their bills to fast-track the preparation of the Committee Reports.</p>
	HB 9141	Rep. Sarmiento	Renaming the Laboyao Bridge located in Brgy. Lonoy, Calbayog City, Province of Samar as Mayor Ronaldo P. Aquino Bridge	<p>The Committee approved the two bills subject to the submission of local resolutions stating the support of the constituents for the proposed renaming of the Laboyao Bridge and and the Urdaneta City bypass road.</p>
	HB 9251	Rep. Guico	Renaming the Urdaneta City bypass road in the City of Urdaneta, Pangasinan to Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. Avenue	<p>At the outset, the Chair informed the body that the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) is not supportive of the two bills because they do not conform to the NHCP's Revised Guidelines on the Naming and Renaming of Streets, Public Schools, Plazas, Building, Bridges and other Public Structures.</p> <p>Under the Revised Guidelines, "no public place should be named or renamed after a person within ten years of his death except for highly exceptional reasons (e.g. death was due to assassination in the service of the country, he/she gave exceptional service to the nation, death happened while trying to save others, death was a result of his patriotism or while in performance of one's duty)."</p> <p>However, the Chair believes that the bills can be categorized under the "highly exceptional reasons" as verified by the authors. He also said that the Committee takes into consideration the strong support of the constituents for the bills' passage.</p> <p>Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1<sup>st</sup> District, Samar) thanked the Chair for the consideration of his bill. He attested that Mayor Ronaldo Aquino was an admirable leader who gave exceptional service to the locality where he served. Unfortunately, Rep. Sarmiento said the good Mayor was ambushed on March 8 which became the subject of</p>

Continuation... Public Works and Highways				investigation of the National Bureau of Investigation. He added that there is already a local resolution supporting the renaming of Laboyao Bridge to Mayor Ronaldo P. Aquino Bridge.
	HBs 129 & 4995	Reps. Zubiri and Agabas	Mandating the national government to allocate funds for potable water access and the construction of water systems in all barangays	The Committee directed the Secretariat to prepare the substitute bill for the eight bills, providing for potable water systems in the barangays around the country. The substitute bill will be presented to the Committee in its next meeting for consideration and approval.
	HBs 1769, 1924, 2012, 3820, 4135 & 6225	Reps. Villafuerte, Sy-Alvarado, Vargas, Deputy Speaker Rodriguez, Reps. Espino, and De Los Santos	Promoting rural health by providing for an accelerated program for the construction of a potable water supply system in every barangay in the country within three years	
<b>Welfare of Children</b>	Substitute Bill to HBs 5609, 5651, 5684, 8295, 8534, & 1239	Deputy Speakers Alonte and Herrera-Dy, Reps. Aragonés, Villafuerte, and Violago	Strengthening the policies on anti-trafficking in persons, amending for the purpose RA 9208, otherwise known as the Anti-Trafficking Act of 2003, as amended by RA 10364, otherwise known as the Expanded Anti-Trafficking Act of 2012	<p>The Committee, presided by Rep. Joy Myra Tambunting (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Paranaque City), approved the substitute bill, subject to style. The corresponding Committee Report was likewise approved.</p> <p>The proposed law will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for consideration of its funding provision.</p> <p>Rep. Tambunting underscored the importance of enacting the proposed law, which seeks to redefine trafficking in persons by including online sexual abuse and exploitation of children, as among the acts that constitute trafficking in person.</p> <p>The proposed law, according to Rep. Tambunting expanded qualified trafficking in persons by including the following acts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the crime is committed during a crisis, disaster, pandemic, or emergency situation, or when the trafficked person is a survivor of a disaster or a human-induced conflict;</li> <li>• When the trafficked person belongs to an indigenous community and is considered an indigenous person;</li> <li>• When the trafficked person is a person with disability;</li> <li>• When the crime has resulted in pregnancy; or,</li> <li>• When the act is committed by or through the use of information and communications technology or using any computer system.</li> </ul> <p>To facilitate the investigation and prosecution of cases involving foreign nationals, the bill states that the law enforcement agencies shall initiate bilateral or multi-lateral agreements with their counterparts in other countries. Interception of communications is allowed in cases involving child trafficking, upon a written order from the</p>

<p>Continuation... Welfare of Children</p>				<p>authorizing court.</p> <p>Rep. Tambunting also informed the Committee that various government agencies have been tasked to implement programs that address trafficking in persons, including the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). Rep. Tambunting also said that aside from the existing member-agencies of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), the following agencies/entities should also be added as members: Department of Health, Department of Information and Communications Technology, Department of Transportation, Department of Education, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, National Bureau of Investigation, Council for the Welfare of Children, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Anti-Money Laundering Council, and the Leagues of Provinces, Municipalities, and Cities.</p> <p>Expressing support for the bills were representatives from the Department of Justice (DOJ), Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), Philippine National Police (PNP), and the NBI.</p> <p>DOJ Undersecretary Emmeline Aglipay-Villar said that the interception of communication is essential in the conduct of investigation on child trafficking cases. She explained that the information gathered can be used as evidence in the prosecution of child trafficking cases. She disclosed that many cases of child trafficking were dismissed because of lack of evidence.</p> <p>Representatives from the NBI and PNP requested the deletion of the provision in the bill, which requires the law enforcement agencies to get hold of a judicial authorization prior to the interception of any communication, to facilitate a speedy investigation.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Department of Budget and Management's Organization, Position, Classification and Compensation Bureau Director Jocelyn dela Cruz recommended that the DOJ, instead of DBM, shall coordinate with the IACAT members in creating the new organizational structure, with the corresponding plantilla positions, of the IACAT. The organizational structure should be submitted to the DBM for evaluation and approval, Dela Cruz added.</p>
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