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AMCHAM PHILIPPINES
The American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc.

**THE ARANGKADA PHILIPPINES PROJECT
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To: Emil Francis de Quiros, AOR, USAID-OEDG

From: 
John Forbes, Senior Adviser, TAPP

Subject: TAPP Legislative Tracker for September 2018

On September 26, AmCham held its monthly legislative committee meeting. The executive director of the Public-Private Partnership Center, Ferdinand Pecson discussed the bill amending the Build-Operate-Transfer law, which was recently passed at committee level in the House. One of the salient features of the bill to extend the Swiss challenge period for unsolicited proposals from 60 days to 6 months. Other reforms include streamlining of permits and other measures to ease red tape at the local government level to expedite PPP projects. Committee co-chairperson Atty. Elaine Collado gave a presentation (see attached) on the JFC-PBG meeting with Senate President Sen. Vicente Sotto III on September 11 and explained the status of the priority legislation discussed during the meeting.

The updated AmCham Legislative Tracker and List of Legislative Priorities for the 17th Congress were distributed. The first 22 bills in the tracker are the priority bills identified by the JFC-PBG after a series of legislative fora in 2016. Other bills are priority business and economic reform measures and bills requiring substantial reconsideration for monitoring by TAPP (see attached tracker).

The House approved on second reading the Creation of the Department of Disaster Resilience and on third reading Tax Reform Package 2 (TRABAHO).

The House Justice Committee reported out the bill on Agricultural Free Patent while the Senate Labor Committee reported out the bill granting additional annual leave.

The House Ways and Means Committee conducted hearings on the Fiscal Regime for Mining bills (TRAIN 3) and the Tax Reform Package for the Financial Sector (TRAIN 4) while the Senate Ways and Means heard the Tax Reform 2 Package (TRABAHO).

Attachments:

1. Presentation of Atty. Elaine Collado on JFC-PBG Meeting with Sen. Vicente Sotto III
2. September 2018 Legislative Tracker, updated as of 09/27/18
3. Status of Priority Bills of Business Sector, updated as of 09/27/18