

Senate of the Philippines

Linkages Report

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The **Linkages Report** is a digest of news report regarding or related to legislation that is aimed to inform the public on various concerns and to report the accomplishments of the Senate during the First, Second and Third Regular Sessions of the Fourteenth (14th) Congress (July 3, 2007 – June 4, 2010). In this issue, we are also presenting the accomplishments of the permanent and oversight/special committees.

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Source: Performance of the Senate
for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd
Regular Session of the
Fourteenth Congress

The Institutional Linkages Service is under the External Affairs and Relations headed by Deputy Secretary Peter Paul L. Pineda.

Accomplishments of the Various Senate Committees for the 14th Congress

Below are the accomplishments/performances of the various committees for the 14th Congress covering the July 23, 2007 to June 4, 2010. The committees include permanent committees and special/oversight committees.

A. THE PERMANENT COMMITTEES

The cumulative accomplishments of the permanent committees as to public hearings, meetings, consultations, conferences, and Technical Working Groups (TWGs) conducted were as follows:

First Regular Session (July 23, 2007 – June 11, 2008)	348
Second Regular Session (July 28, 2008 – June 3, 2009)	248
Third Regular Session (July 27, 2009 – June 4, 2010)	190

The numerical accomplishments of the most active permanent committees in terms of hearings, meetings, consultations, bicameral conferences and TWGs conducted for the First, Second and Third Regular Session were as follows:

A.1 First Regular Session

Thirty four (34) Standing Committees conducted public hearings, meetings, consultations, bicameral conferences and TWGs. Among the active committees were as follows:

<u>Committees</u>	<u>Numerical Accomplishments</u> (hearings/meetings/ consultations/ conferences/TWGs conducted)
Committee on Finance	10
Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations	22
Committee on Education, Arts and Culture	22
Committee on Justice and Human Rights	18
Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies	18
Committee on Foreign Relations	15
Committee on National Defense and Security	15
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources	14
Committee on Health and Demography	14
Committee on Ways and Means	12
Committee on Trade and Commerce	12
Committee on Cooperatives	12
Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement	11
Committee on Agrarian Reform	10

Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs	10
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A.2 Second Regular Session

Thirty five (35) Standing Committees conducted meetings, hearings and briefings. The most active committees were as follows:

<u>Committees</u>	<u>Numerical Accomplishments</u> (hearings/meetings/ consultations/ conferences/TWGs conducted)
Committee on Finance	46
Committee on Health	17
Committee on National Defense and Security	15
Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies	17
Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes & Law	10
Committee on Education, Arts and Culture	10
Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises	10
Committee on Ways and Means	10

A.3 Third Regular Session

Thirty one (31) of the permanent committees conducted meetings, hearings, briefings, TWGs, and conferences. Below were the most active committees:

<u>Committees</u>	<u>Numerical Accomplishments</u> (hearings/meetings/ consultations/ conferences/TWGs conducted)
Committee on Finance	23
Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations	9
Committee on National Defense and Security	9
Committee of the Whole	9
Committee on Climate Change	8
Committee on Economic Affairs	8
Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises	8
Committee on Justice & Human Rights	7
Committee on Cooperatives	7
Committee on Agriculture and Food	6
Committee on Cultural Communities	6
Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs	6

Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies	5
Committee on Public Information and Mass Media	5
Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development	5
Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes & Laws	4
Committee on Foreign Relations	4
Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resource Development	4
Committee on Trade and Commerce	4
Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations	3
Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement	3
Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization	3
Committee on Games, Amusement and Sports	3

B. THE SPECIAL/OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES

The cumulative accomplishments of the special/oversight committees as to meetings, hearings, briefings and conferences conducted were as follows:

First Regular Session (July 23, 2007 – June 11, 2008)	24
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Second Regular Session (July 28, 2008 – June 3, 2009)	39
Third Regular Session (July 27, 2009 – June 4, 2010)	18

The numerical accomplishments of the most active special/oversight committees in terms of meetings, hearings and briefings were as follows:

B.1 First Regular Session

Of the seventeen (17) oversight/special committees, ten (10) conducted meetings, hearings, en banc sessions and briefing. The most active committees were as follows:

<u>Oversight Committees</u>	<u>Cumulative Accomplishments</u> (meetings/hearings/briefings conducted)
Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Automated Election System	4
Joint Congressional Commission on Power	4
Congressional Oversight Commission on Science and Technology	4
Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization	4
Joint Congressional Commission on Labor	2

Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program	2
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B.2 Second Regular Session

There are twenty one (21) oversight committees of which sixteen (16) conducted meetings, hearings and briefings and the most active oversight committees were as follows:

<u>Oversight Committees</u>	<u>Cumulative Accomplishments</u> (meetings/hearings/briefings conducted)
Joint Congressional Oversight Commission on Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization	3
Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the Clean Air Act	1
Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines Act	2
Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Science and Technology	3
Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Quality Affordable Medicines	3

It also worth to mention that the sub-committee of the Finance Committee conducted 33 budget hearings out of the 46 hearings conducted by the mother committee.

B.3 Third Regular Session

Of the twenty-one (21) oversight committees, eight (8) conducted meetings, hearings, sessions and briefings and the most active oversight committees were as follows:

<u>Oversight Committees</u>	<u>Cumulative Accomplishments</u> (meetings/hearings/briefings conducted)
Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Cooperatives	7
Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Automated Election System	4
Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Comprehensive Tax Reform	2
Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the Clean Water Act	1
Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Science and Technology	1
The Oversight Committee on UFA	1
Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Quality Affordable Medicines	1
Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Agrarian Reform	1

Brief Comment:

It is worth to mention that the accomplishments of the Senate reflect its leadership and the long tedious process of lawmaking. On the other hand, crafting sound, timely and relevant legislations to address national issues particularly on education, health, employment, and security are responsibilities of our Senators. However, in the end, it is the people who will measure the accomplishment of Senate and who shall judge its performance.

J. Cervo

The Senate As an Institution

The Senate of the Philippines is one of the pillars of the country's lawmaking body, the other one is the House of Representatives. It is composed of 24 elected Senators whose terms of office shall be six (6) years. This dynamic institution is established to balance our economic, social and political environment and whose concerns are national in scope.

As the bastion of democracy, its action is centered on consensus and consultation with the end purpose of serving the best interest of the Filipino people.

The **Senate** also values the importance of having productive and harmonious relationship with other institutions, from the government and the private sector, to create an environment where rapport and goodwill among institutions prevail. Its main objective is the passage of good, implementable and doable laws in pursuit of democratic ideals that would truly serve the national interest and the welfare of the people.

We will be happy to receive inquiry, comments, suggestions and recommendations on a particular law or Senate bill. You may send your letter to the address stated below:

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