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COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Good Government and Public Accountability	HR 823 & 870	Rep. Yap (E.) and Aumentado	Inquiry into the alleged mishandling or anomalies in the implementation of the Social Amelioration Program (SAP)	The Committee, chaired by Rep. "Kuya" Jose Antonio Sy-Alvarado (1st District, Bulacan), will continue its inquiry into the implementation of the SAP in its next meeting. Deputy Speaker Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte Jr. (2nd District, Camarines Sur) asked the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for an update on the first and second tranche distribution of the emergency subsidy under the SAP. DSWD Secretary Rolando Joselito Bautista reported that 99.4% of the first tranche were already released to the intended beneficiaries. Under the second tranche, DSWD Undersecretary for Social Welfare and Development Danilo Pamonag reported that the SAP subsidy will be distributed to some 12 million low income families in areas still under the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) and five million waitlisted families, who were left out during the first tranche. Based on the latest data of the DSWD, 1.3 million beneficiaries have already received the second tranche of the SAP. Deputy Speaker Villafuerte expressed his disappointment at the slow pace of distribution of the second tranche of the SAP and asked the DSWD to explain the cause of the delay. Pamonag replied that this is due to the late submission of the list of beneficiaries by the local government units (LGUs) and the long process of validation and "deduplication" (determination as to whether the beneficiaries received more than one form of assistance from the government). The Committee agreed to issue a subpoena duces tecum to the DSWD, requiring it to submit the following documents: list of all Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiaries and list of all beneficiaries of the first tranche of the SAP. A subpoena ad testificandum will also be issued to each of the invited resource persons who failed to attend today's meeting. On resorting to digital means to fast-track the distribution of the second tranche, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte expressed his concern that the production and issuance of digital cash cards as conduits of the SAP will take up more

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Labor and Employment	HBs 274, 4236, 5590, 5754 & 6190	Reps. Aglipay, Nieto, Noel, Elago, and Castelo	Ensuring the welfare and protection of business process outsourcing (BPO) workers in the Philippines	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN), agreed to refer the five bills to the Subcommittee on Labor Standards for consolidation. Rep. Raymond Democrito Mendoza (Party-List, TUCP) heads the Subcommittee. Rep. Michael Edgar Aglipay (Party-List, DIWA), who initially presided over the meeting and is the author of HB 274, said that the Philippines has consistently ranked among the top five outsourcing destinations in the world. With 1.3 million workers, the BPO industry is the country's second largest net foreign exchange earner, next to overseas Filipino workers (OFW). Considering the contribution of the BPO industry to the country's economy, Rep. Aglipay said that it is imperative for Congress to pass a law protecting the rights and welfare of BPO employees Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), author of HB 6190, said that her bill likewise seeks to guarantee the safe and humane working conditions of BPO employees, especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Resource persons present in the meeting were divided as to whether or not the proposed law would be beneficial to the growth of the BPO industry. IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP), Inc. President Rey Untal expressed reservations on the proposed law, explaining that it might turn out to be counterproductive in terms of the country's global competitiveness against competitors like India and Vietnam which are offering fiscal and non-fiscal incentives to attract more BPO investors. According to Untal, existing laws and regulations are more than enough to protect the health and safety of workers in the industry. He assured the Committee that BPOs are fully committed to ensuring the welfare of their employees whether in time of pandemic or not. Business Process Outsourcing Industry Employees Network (BIEN) President Mylene Cabalona and several other resource persons expressed their support for the bills citing unfair labor practices and other issues confronting the BPO industry in the middle of the pandemic. According to Cabalona, mass testing needs to be conducted in the BPO industry to ensure the safety of those who are asked to return to performing on-site duties. There is also a need for companies to be transparent with regard to

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