



Committee Daily Bulletin

18th Congress
Third Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. III No. 108
November 29, 2021

COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Persons with Disabilities (Special Committee)	HB 7753	Rep. Vargas	Declaring the last full week of September of every year as the "National Week of the Deaf" and September 23 as the "Filipino Sign Language Day"	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ma. Lourdes Arroyo (5 th District, Negros Occidental), approved the Committee Report on House Bill 7753.
	HB 8922	Rep. Zarate	Providing for interpreters in all judicial, quasi-judicial, investigative proceedings, and public hearings involving deaf individuals	<p>The Committee approved HB 8922. The Secretariat was tasked to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA), author of HB 8922, lamented the injustice being done to the deaf as a result of the lack of interpreters in judicial, quasi-judicial, investigative proceedings, and public hearings involving deaf individuals. He said that this scenario restrains the deaf from fully expressing themselves during government investigative proceedings, hence, they are unjustly convicted of a crime.</p> <p>HB 8922 provides that all courts, quasi-judicial bodies, and government institutions conducting investigations and public hearings shall hire interpreters for deaf individuals. The concerned body that hired the services of the interpreter shall pay the latter for the services he/she rendered on a per appearance basis as well as other expenses such as travel and board and lodging.</p>
	HR 955	Rep. Arroyo (M. L.)	Directing the Inter-Agency Council created under RA 11106 or the Filipino Sign Language Act, to submit to the House of Representatives a comprehensive report on the monitoring and implementation of this Act; calling for an inquiry into the delay in the issuance of the law's implementing rules and regulations with the end in view of ensuring the rights of the deaf community in the country, such as access to information, education, and health services, under RA 11106 during the COVID-19 crisis	<p>The Committee adopted House Resolution 955. The Secretariat was tasked to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Arroyo, author of HR 955, stressed the need to immediately promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 11106 to facilitate the implementation of this law aimed at alleviating the plight of the deaf community. She said that this pandemic has underscored the urgency of addressing the problems and difficulties being encountered by the deaf community, particularly on access to information and communication. In today's meeting, she said it is important to discuss the reasons behind the delay in the promulgation of the IRR, as well as provide solutions to resolve the matter.</p> <p>Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) Commissioner Benjamin Mendillo recognizes that the KWF is the lead agency tasked to craft the IRR of RA 11106, in coordination with various government agencies and</p>

<p>Continuation... Persons with Disabilities (Special Committee)</p>				<p>representatives of the deaf community. He reported that the Commission has initially drafted an IRR that was disseminated to concerned agencies for their comments. However, some government agencies have not yet submitted their comments which are vital inputs to the IRR, thus the delay in the issuance of the final IRR. He named such agencies as the Department of Justice, Supreme Court, Professional Regulation Commission, Philippine Statistics Authority, National Commission on Muslim Filipinos, and Movie and Television Review and Classification Board. Should these agencies submit their comments this week, the KWF will be able to integrate the comments by the second week of December, Mendillo further said.</p> <p>Reps. France Castro (Party-List, ACT-TEACHERS) and Dahlia Loyola (5th District, Cavite) stressed that the promulgation of the IRR is already long overdue considering that it has been three years since 2018 when RA 11106 was enacted into law. They urged the agencies that have not yet submitted their comments to the KWF to immediately comply with the request of the KWF.</p> <p>The Chair then asked the concerned agencies to submit their comments on the IRR to the KWF as soon as possible and to furnish the Committee a copy as well.</p>
	<p>HB 3796</p>	<p>Deputy Speaker Rodriguez</p>	<p>Providing communication accessibility to Filipino deaf and hard of hearing for full inclusion into the mainstream of society</p>	<p>The Committee deferred consideration of HB 3796 to confer with the author the comments and suggestions made by the resource persons.</p> <p>As stated in the bill, the proposed law seeks to realize the rights of all Filipino deaf and hard of hearing to full and equal participation in society by guaranteeing accessibility and eliminating all forms of discrimination in all public interactions and transactions.</p> <p>Expressing support for the bill were representatives from the KWF, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Government Service Insurance System, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Department of Health, Philippine Deaf Resource Center, and Philippine Federation of the Deaf. They also gave their respective comments and recommendations on the proposed law.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Department of Budget and Management's Supervising Budget and Management Specialist Edelita Ocampo suggested that the bill's funding provision should clearly state the base amount of the proposed appropriations.</p> <p>Under Section 13 (Appropriations) of HB 3796, the proposed law "shall derive its funding from the 1% appropriations for persons with disabilities as provided in the General Appropriations Act."</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Persons with Disabilities (Special Committee)</p>				<p>Rep. Castro suggested that DepEd should also employ experienced interpreters, preferably those who are members of or accredited by deaf organizations, to become interpreters in schools. This was in relation to the earlier manifestation of Director Liza Martinez of the Philippine Deaf Resource Center that teachers who are being trained to be sign language interpreters are also teachers in Special Education and other subjects.</p> <p>DepEd supported Rep. Castro's suggestion, saying that it is already part of DepEd's Manual of Operations.</p>
<p>Ways and Means</p>	<p>Substitute Bill to HBs 1903 & 3040</p>	<p>Reps. Go and Suansing (E.)</p>	<p>Increasing the rate of discount granted to senior citizens on their monthly electric and water consumption, amending for the purpose RA 7432, as amended, otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), approved without amendments the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to House Bills 1903 and 3040.</p> <p>Rep. Rodolfo Ordanes (Party-List, SENIOR CITIZENS), Chair of the Special Committee on Senior Citizens where the substitute bill originated, said that the proposed law promotes the well-being of senior citizens and intends to provide them the needed relief from financial difficulties because of the pandemic.</p> <p>The Committee on Ways and Means' Senior Vice Chair, Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija), who is also the author of HB 3040, said that the proposed law seeks to increase to 10% the discount given to senior citizens on their monthly electric and water bills, provided that the monthly consumption does not exceed 150 kilowatt-hour (kWh) and 30 cubic meters of water, respectively.</p> <p>Currently, Rep. Suansing said senior citizens are entitled to a 5% discount on their monthly electric and water consumption not exceeding 100 kWh and 30 cubic meters of water, respectively. In addition, she said the proposed law also exempts senior citizens from the payment of the value-added tax (VAT) for these utilities.</p> <p>Department of Finance's (DOF) Strategy, Economics, and Results Group Division Chief Lyonel Tanganco commented that the proposed law may be inconsistent with the objective of the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) law of improving the efficiency of the VAT system as it provides tax exemptions to a specific group of individuals. He also said that it could result to tax leakages and abuses, and a more complicated tax administration. He explained that one possible tax leakage or abuse is when a household continues to enjoy the discount or tax exemption privilege even if the senior citizen under whose name the utilities are registered is no longer living.</p> <p>According to Tanganco, the best course of action is to continue the collection of the VAT and for the government to just allocate part of the revenues to social services such as the Social</p>

Continuation... Ways and Means				<p>Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens Program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.</p> <p>The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) concurred with the position of the DOF.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA) regarding the estimated revenue loss for the government if the bill will be passed into law, Tanganco answered that it will be about P5.5 billion (P5.3 billion from VAT and P2.65 million from corporate income tax).</p>
	Substitute Bill to HB 2496	Rep. Dalipe	Creating the Zamboanga International Airport Authority, and providing funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved without amendment the non-tax revenue provisions – Section 4 (g), 7(e), and 13 – of the Substitute Bill to HB 2496. However, the Committee did not consider Section 14 of the substitute bill which exempts ZIAA from the payment of real property tax, considering that such tax is being imposed by the local government units and is therefore within the purview of the Committee on Local Government.</p> <p>In sponsoring the measure, Rep. Manuel Jose “Mannix” Dalipe (2nd District, Zamboanga City), author of HB 2496, explained that the establishment of the Zamboanga International Airport Authority (ZIAA) is needed to efficiently manage and administer the operations of the Zamboanga International Airport, one of the major airports in Mindanao. He said the airport caters to thousands of travelers not only from Zamboanga City but also from the rest of Western Mindanao.</p> <p>The DOF stated that the proposed ZIAA may duplicate the functions of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP). He explained that the proposed function of the ZIAA to develop, operate, and maintain the Zamboanga International Airport is already within the ambit of the CAAP.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 5782, 9956 & 10024	Rep. Fortun, Deputy Speaker Villanueva, and Rep. Tambunting	Granting distinctive honors and privileges to national athletes, creating a National Endowment Fund for Sports Heroes, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved with amendments the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to the three bills.</p> <p>Rep. Faustino Michael Carlos Dy III (5th District, Isabela), Chair of the Committee on Youth and Sports Development where the substitute bill originated, said that the proposed law seeks to recognize the exemplary contributions of the country’s national athletes and accord them distinctive honors and privileges for their outstanding achievements. The awards that may be given include the National Medal of Excellence in Sports, Balangay Medal for Sportsmanship, and the Order of National Athletes which will be the same level of recognition as those being given to national artists and scientists. National coaches will also be recognized by conferring them the Coaching Excellence Medal.</p>

Continuation... Ways and Means				<p>Further, Rep. Dy said a National Endowment Fund for Sports Heroes will be established to fund the benefits provided for in the proposed law and to ensure the continuous training, development, and participation of all awardees in prestigious international competitions. He accepted the recommendation of the Committee to amend the provision pertaining to the National Endowment Fund, which will now be stated as:</p> <p>“Contribution to the fund shall be considered as allowable deduction from gross income for purposes of computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997, as amended.”</p> <p>The DOF and BIR were in agreement that the provision on the National Endowment Fund is aligned with the Tax Code.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HB 6578	Rep. Tan (A.)	Creating the Lamon Bay Development Authority, defining its powers, functions, and duties, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved with amendments the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to HB 6578.</p> <p>Rep. Garin sponsored the bill on behalf of the author, Rep. Angelina “Helen” Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon), and manifested that the explanatory note of HB 6578 be considered as the author’s sponsorship speech.</p> <p>The proposed law seeks to create the Lamon Bay Development Authority which shall be tasked to craft and implement the comprehensive development plan for Lamon Bay.</p> <p>Rep. Garin accepted the recommendations of the Committee pertaining to Section 15 of the substitute bill, which will now be stated as:</p> <p>“The Authority may avail of the tax expenditure subsidy administered by the Fiscal Incentives Review Board (FIRB), subject to the provisions of Title XIII (Tax Incentives) of the NIRC of 1997, as amended, Executive Order No. 93, as amended, and the General Appropriations Act.”</p> <p>Executive Order No. 93 expanded the powers of the FIRB to include the following: restore tax and/or duty exemptions withdrawn in whole or in part; revise the scope and coverage of tax and/or duty exemption that may be restored; impose conditions for the restoration of tax and/or duty exemption; and formulate and submit to the President for approval, a complete system for the grant of subsidies to deserving beneficiaries.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HB 7968	Rep. Roman	Establishing the barangay microfinance system, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved the revenue provision under Section 6(c) of the Substitute Bill to HB 7968 without amendment, and the tax provision under Section 9 of the same bill with amendments.</p> <p>Rep. Virgilio Lacson (Party-List, MANILA TEACHERS), Chair of the Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development where the substitute originated, said that the</p>

Continuation... Ways and Means				<p>proposed law seeks to create one or more Barangay Microfinance Cooperative (BMC) in each barangay that shall serve as a lending or credit cooperative to be placed under the supervision of the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA). He emphasized that the objective is to create a credit system that will reach the grassroots in order to help the poor and protect them from predatory lending practices especially during this time of the pandemic.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the proposed law were the CDA, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Land Bank of the Philippines, and Small Business Corporation.</p> <p>Rep. Lacson accepted the recommendations of the Committee on Section 9 of the substitute bill, which will now be stated as:</p> <p>“All BMCs shall be exempt from tax for income arising from their operations subject to the conditions set under Articles 60 and 61 of Republic Act No. 9520, otherwise known as the Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008: Provided, that the filing of returns and reportorial requirements to the existing laws must be complied: Provided, further, that failure to comply with these requirements shall subject the BMCs to the suspension of their CDA registration for a period not exceeding one (1) year, as provided in the IRR (Implementing Rules and Regulations). As defined in the IRR, all other benefits and privileges being enjoyed by cooperatives under RA 9520 and section 109 of the NIRC of 1997, as amended, shall also be granted to BMCs as applicable.”</p>
Youth and Sports Development	HBs 1962 & 9338	Reps. Cabochan and Tambunting	Granting retirement, health care, and death benefits to professional Filipino athletes who win world championship titles in international professional sports competitions or in other equally prestigious international games and providing funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Faustino Michael Carlos Dy III (5th District, Isabela), approved House Bills 1962 and 9338, subject to style and amendment. The Secretariat will prepare the substitute bill.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Dy informed the body that similar measures have already been approved in the House and the Senate during the administration of President Benigno Simeon Aquino III but was vetoed by the latter in May 2013 due to lack of government funds. He said the goal of today’s meeting is to harmonize the provisions of the two bills such as on whether to adopt a retroactive application of the proposed law. He explained that HB 9338 proposes to also cover all living professional Filipino athletes who won in any international professional sports competition recognized and accredited by the Games and Amusements Board (GAB) prior to the date of enactment of the proposed law.</p> <p>Rep. Manuel Cabochan III (Party-List, MAGDALO), author of HB 1962, underscored that professional Filipino athletes deserve more than just short-lived adulation and that adequate support must be extended to them in the form of</p>

<p>Continuation... Youth and Sports Development</p>				<p>health care and retirement pensions, and even death benefits, to signify and symbolize the collective expression of gratitude for the honor and glory that they brought to the country.</p> <p>The author of HB 9338, Rep. Joy Myra Tambunting (2nd District, Parañaque City), said that her bill recognizes the honor, glory, and pride that professional Filipino athletes have given the country and assures them that their efforts are not forgotten.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bills were the GAB and the Department of Health (DOH).</p> <p>GAB Legal Division representative Ermar Benitez suggested the inclusion in the bill of the definition of “professional athletes” as stated in Philippine Sports Commission (PSC)-GAB-DOH Joint Administrative Order No. 2020–0001 (<i>Guidelines on the Conduct of Health-Enhancing Physical Activities and Sports during the COVID-19 Pandemic</i>) to clearly distinguish professional from amateur sports.</p> <p>Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) Legislative Liaison Officer Gay Alvor objected to the provision in the bills requiring the PCSO, through its Individual Medical Assistance Program, to shoulder the amount in excess of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) benefit in case of hospitalization of professional Filipino athletes. She explained that the PCSO is already burdened with too many mandatory contributions and that the use of its funds is being prioritized for health programs and services to respond to the ongoing pandemic. She recommended that the PhilHealth should just come up with a special benefit package for professional Filipino athletes, considering that the PCSO as well as the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation are already contributing funds for the implementation of the Universal Health Care Act (Republic Act 11223).</p> <p>Reps. Cabochan and Tambunting said that they are amenable to the suggestion of Alvor. They also agreed to exclude Filipinos with dual citizenship as beneficiaries of the proposed law.</p> <p>The PhilHealth will be submitting its position paper relative to the creation of a special benefit package for professional Filipino athletes as proposed by the PCSO.</p> <p>The Committee also decided, by a majority vote, that the proposed law shall adopt a retroactive application.</p>
	<p>HB 9339</p>	<p>Rep. Tambunting</p>	<p>Institutionalizing sustainability in government-funded sports facilities and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Committee approved HB 9339 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Tambunting, author of HB 9339, said that her bill seeks to institutionalize the formulation of sustainability plans for all future and existing</p>

<p>Continuation... Youth and Sports Development</p>				<p>government-funded sports facilities, venues, and other sports-related infrastructures.</p> <p>Under the bill, the operators of these sports facilities and infrastructures are mandated to formulate a sustainability plan which shall be submitted to the PSC. The latter shall formulate an annual report summarizing and consolidating the sustainability plans of all covered sports facilities and the level of compliance of operators to their respective sustainability plans and to the proposed law. This report shall be submitted to Congress and be made available to the public.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bill were the PSC, GAB, Department of Public Works and Highways, and Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA).</p> <p>Although supportive of the bill, PSC Commissioner Ramon Fernandez said that the added responsibility will be a challenge for the PSC due to lack of manpower. He suggested the creation of a new office or division within the current structure of the PSC which shall be mandated to monitor the implementation of the sustainability plan. He also proposed an allocation of P50 million for the maintenance and other operating expenditures of this new office.</p>
	<p>HRs 1497, 1580, 1594 & 1659</p>	<p>Reps. Gonzalez (S.), Vargas, Dalipe, and Deputy Speaker Legarda</p>	<p>Congratulating and commending the recipients of The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of the Philippines 2020 Award given by the Junior Chamber International-Philippines Inc. (Philippine Jaycees, Inc.), TOYM Foundation Inc., Gerry Roxas Foundation Inc., Advantage Management Consulting Philippines Inc., and PLDT Home Fibr</p>	<p>The Committee adopted House Resolutions 1497, 1580, 1594 and 1659, subject to style.</p> <p>Rep. Macnell Lusotan (Party-List, MARINO), co-author of HR 1497, congratulated Pasig City Mayor Victor Ma. "Vico" Sotto for being among the 2020 TOYM awardees who was recognized for his steadfast leadership as a public servant. Based on HR 1497, Sotto and George Royeca, co-founder of the motorcycle ride-hailing platform <i>Angkas</i> and also a TOYM awardee (honoree for business entrepreneurship in pioneering industries), were instrumental in the efforts of the MARINO Party-List to deliver services to seafarers and their families in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The TOYM Award is an annual project organized by the Philippine Jaycees, Inc. and supported by the TOYM Foundation Inc., Gerry Roxas Foundation, Inc., and PLDT Inc., among others. It gives recognition to young men and women whose selfless dedication to their profession and fields of endeavor significantly contributed to Philippine growth thereby benefiting the Filipino people.</p> <p>Aside from Sotto and Royeca, the other recipients of the 2020 TOYM Award are as follows: Multisys Technologies Corporation Founder and Chief Executive Officer David Almirol (honoree for science technology and engineering); Department of Education Master Teacher I Edgar Elago (honoree for community development/education); World Bank Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist Lesley</p>

Continuation... Youth and Sports Development				Jeanne Cordero (honoree for political and social sciences); National Telehealth Center Director Raymond Francis Sarmiento of the University of the Philippines Manila - National Institutes of Health (honoree for medicine); and Army Captain Ron Villarosa Jr. (honoree for community development/military service).
	HR 2188	Rep. Vargas	Congratulating and commending Ernest John 'EJ' Obiena for winning the silver medal at the Paris Diamond League	The Committee adopted HRs 2188, 2205, and 2224, subject to style.
	HRs 2205 & 2224	Reps. Delos Santos and Dy (F.M.C.)	Congratulating and commending Ernest John 'EJ' Obiena for winning the gold medal in pole vault at the 17th International Golden Roof Challenge held in Austria on September 11, 2021	
	HR 2230	Rep. Tambunting	Commending the Filipino Paralympians who represented the Philippines in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games for their unwavering performance and dedication in their field of Para Sports	The Committee agreed to consolidate HR 2230 with the Substitute Resolution to HRs 2005 and 2124, which was previously adopted last August 31. The Substitute Resolution commends the Filipino athletes who qualified in the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics as well as the people behind their exemplary performance.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Transportation (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 4823, 7428 & 9578	Reps. Aglipay, Lopez (M.L.), and Canama	Providing for a just and equitable public utility modernization program, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Michael Edgar Aglipay (Party-List, DIWA), terminated its deliberations on the substitute bill. The final version of the substitute bill will be forwarded to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>At the start of the meeting, Rep. Aglipay explained that the proposed law aims to create a national policy that will promote adequate, safe, reliable, efficient, and environment-friendly public land transport. He added that the proposed law recognizes and supports the government's Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program (PUVMP) and the need to implement the program better by providing a socially just, economically and ecologically feasible, and public service-oriented transportation framework.</p> <p>Under the PUVMP, transport operators are required to form cooperatives or corporations to become eligible for financial assistance for the upgrading of their fleet, consisting of units that have low-carbon emission and are safe and efficient.</p> <p>The TWG discussed all the sections of the substitute bill. The resource persons gave their respective comments and suggestions to further improve the proposed law.</p> <p>Rep. Aglipay said that the proposed law shall cover all kinds of PUVs and registered as such</p>

<p>Continuation... Transportation (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>under the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), including public utility buses and shuttle buses.</p> <p>Based on the substitute bill, the Department of Transportation (DOTr), in consultation with concerned agencies, shall review and continue the implementation of the existing PUVMP. Likewise, the DOTr shall implement the Transition Plan within three years from the effectivity of the proposed law, which will start with the pilot implementation in Metro Manila and other highly urbanized areas during the first two years. The Transition Plan will provide a blueprint for the migration of high greenhouse gas (GHG)-emitting PUVs to Euro 4-compliant vehicles, which have better performing engines. During the transition period, the PUVs are also proposed to be modified to comply with safe boarding and alighting requirements, equipped with global positioning system (GPS), closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras, and automatic fare collection system (AFCS).</p> <p>Move as One Coalition Convenor Robert Siy manifested that sufficient funding should be allocated for the implementation of the proposed law considering that a lot of the PUVs in operation need to be modernized.</p> <p>Provincial Bus Operators Association Executive Director Alex Yague suggested that public utility buses be temporarily exempted from the coverage of the proposed law explaining that this will entail a huge cost on the part of the bus operators. He added that despite the bus operators' willingness to purchase new units to modernize their fleet, they do not have the capital to do so. Yague further said that requiring PUVs to be equipped with GPS, CCTV, and AFCS may not be effective due to the problem of internet connectivity in the country. Likewise, Yague warned that the implementation of the AFCS might result in the loss of job for most bus conductors.</p> <p>Rep. Aglipay stressed that the proposed law does not intend to adversely affect the operations of the public utility buses. He suggested that the DOTr and LTFRB conduct dialogues with bus operators to discuss the matter more thoroughly.</p> <p>To protect PUV operators from possible profiteering or overpricing of new PUV units, Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) Assistant Vice President and Program Management Department Head Generoso David pointed out the need to impose a price control on modern PUV units.</p> <p>However, Rep. Aglipay explained that putting a price ceiling is anti-competitive. Nevertheless, he said that PUV operators may avail themselves of the financing services being offered by</p>
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<p>Continuation... Transportation (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>government financial institutions, such as the LBP and the Development Bank of the Philippines, in modernizing their fleet.</p> <p>To help the transport sector in the transition process, the TWG agreed to maintain the provision in the substitute bill which states that a government equity subsidy of P400,000 shall be provided as financial aid to PUV drivers or operators who shall modernize their units or purchase new vehicles under the PUV modernization program.</p> <p>On the grant of a fuel subsidy, DOTr Road Sector Senior Consultant Alberto Suansing agreed that this will only be implemented in case of a fuel crisis and as authorized by the President. Under the proposed law, the DOTr shall pay for a portion of the fuel consumed by affected drivers and operators on a bi-weekly basis. Suansing explained that at present, the fuel subsidy is given to the PUV operators for distribution to their drivers.</p> <p>Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Operators Nationwide (PISTON) President Modesto Floranda suggested that the subsidy should be given directly to the drivers instead.</p> <p>Pasang Masda President Robert Martin agreed with Floranda, adding that there had been cases where operators do not use the fuel subsidy to purchase fuel. Moreover, there are still drivers who are not yet members of the transport cooperative, hence could not avail of the subsidy.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Move as One Coalition member Reycel Hyacenth Bendaña suggested that the bill should also include the provision of social security benefits to long-standing drivers and other transport workers.</p> <p>Suansing agreed with Bendaña, adding that the operator should pay the employer's share of the social security contribution.</p> <p>The resource persons were given three days to submit to the Secretariat their respective position papers on the proposed law, for consideration by the TWG in the finalization of the substitute bill.</p>
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