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## COMMITTEE MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Energy	Substitute Bill to HB 3031	Speaker Velasco	Ordaining the development of the Philippine downstream natural gas industry, consolidating for the purpose all laws relating to the transmission, distribution and supply of natural gas	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Pampanga), approved the Substitute Bill to House Bill 3031. The corresponding Committee Report was likewise approved.</p> <p>Rep. Arroyo said that the proposed law has been deliberated on extensively in two regular Committee meetings and three technical working group (TWG) meetings. Hence, all issues had been thoroughly discussed and properly addressed.</p> <p>Likewise, Rep. Sergio Dagooc (Party-List, APEC) confirmed that even minor concerns had been thoroughly discussed to ensure that the use of natural gas for power generation would not result in higher electricity rates.</p> <p>Rep. Arroyo expressed his appreciation to the members of the TWG and its head, Rep. Wilter "Sharky" Palma II (1<sup>st</sup> District, Zamboanga Sibugay), for the hard work in coming up with the substitute bill, which incorporated the relevant recommendations of the Members and stakeholders.</p> <p>The proposed law seeks to develop the Philippine Downstream Natural Gas Industry (PDNGI) as the country's ancillary power source considering the worldwide trend of shifting from fossil fuel to renewable natural gas as source of energy. It is also a means to achieve the country's sustainable development goals.</p> <p>The PDNGI refers to the "sectors of transmission, distribution, supply, and use of natural gas and their related activities, such as, but not limited to, importation, storing, regasification, transmission and distribution of natural gas to end-users."</p> <p>In the explanatory note to HB 3031, Speaker Lord Allan Jay Velasco (Marinduque) stated that "it is vital that we introduce a proper legislative framework that would provide favorable conditions towards establishing a healthy natural gas industry in the country." He added that this would in turn lead to rapid economic development while "practicing sustainable development towards a brighter future."</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Climate Change (Technical Working Group)	HBs 3136, 3315 & 5353	Rep. Acosta-Alba, Deputy Speaker Villar, and Rep. Castelo	Adopting integrated coastal and marine management as a national strategy to a holistic management, protection and conservation of ecosystems and resources from ridge to reef, establishing supporting mechanisms for its implementation, and providing funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Elisa “Olga” Kho (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Masbate), terminated its deliberation on the three bills. The Secretariat will prepare the substitute bill to be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>The proposed law seeks to adopt an integrated coastal and marine management as a strategy that will guide in regulating different human activities and their impact on social and ecological systems. This is to ensure the sustainable development of coastal and marine resources taking into consideration the interconnectivity of ecosystems from the watersheds to the coastal and marine areas.</p> <p>In today’s meeting, the TWG discussed thoroughly all the sections of House Bill 3136, which has been chosen as the reference bill.</p> <p>The TWG also took note of the comments and suggestions of the resource persons from the Department of Budget and Management, Biodiversity Management Bureau, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Reclamation Authority, League of Provinces of the Philippines, University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute, and Aksyon Klima Pilipinas.</p> <p>Among the recommendations that were agreed upon during the TWG meeting which will be incorporated in the substitute bill were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define “watershed, comprehensive development plan” in the proposed law;</li> <li>• Define “comprehensive land use development plan” and align the definition with that of the same term defined in RA 11201 or the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development Act;</li> <li>• Designate the Department of Agriculture as co-chair of the proposed National Coordinating Committee (NCC);</li> <li>• Include as members of the NCC the Department of Public Works and Highways and the local government unit alliances, such as the Leagues of Cities, Municipalities, and Provinces of the Philippines; and representatives coming from the private sector and the fisherfolk; and</li> <li>• Include a provision on capacity building and inter-provincial alliances for landlocked provinces and areas that support Marine Protected Area networking.</li> </ul>

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