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COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food	HB 7477	Rep. Duavit	State Managed Farming Law of the Philippines	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Wilfrido Mark Enverga (1st District, Quezon), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on House Bill 7477.</p> <p>Rep. Michael John Duavit (1st District, Rizal) was designated as the TWG Chair.</p> <p>Rep. Enverga said that the bill allows government agencies, local government units, state universities and colleges, and government-owned and controlled corporations to engage in the business of agriculture and its value chain without limit to the size of the land used. They are also authorized to possess, utilize, control and manage all public lands for agricultural business, including all lands titled in their names regardless of the land classification by the cities and municipalities.</p> <p>Rep. Duavit, author of HB 7477, said that his bill seeks to provide a legal framework wherein unused and uncategorized lands that are not included in the country's farm land inventory, including those owned by agrarian reform beneficiaries, should be utilized for agricultural production. Rep. Duavit said that the proposed law is in line with the Department of Agriculture's (DA) land consolidation program.</p> <p>Department of Agrarian Reform legal counsel Paul Webster Mariano said that the operational definition of "state managed farming" should be provided in the bill. Mariano also voiced his objection to Section 10 of HB 7477, which authorizes the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to represent the indigenous cultural communities (ICC) in entering into a lease agreement with government offices, regarding the utilization, control, and management of ancestral lands for agricultural business purposes. He maintained that the ICCs should be given such authority as they are the owners of the ancestral lands.</p> <p>NCIP Region XI Director Gerry Aguio said that the Commission is still reviewing the effects of the proposed law on the indigenous peoples (IPs). Nevertheless, he suggested that the bill be harmonized with the provisions of RA 8371, or The Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997, in order to protect the rights of the IPs over their ancestral lands.</p> <p>Rep. Eufemia "Ka Femia" Cullamat (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA) likewise said that authorizing</p>

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Basic Education and Culture	HB 6175	Deputy Speaker Yu	Separating the Dulop National High School-Bag-ong Valencia Extension in Barangay Bag-ong Valencia, Municipality of Dumingag, Province of Zamboanga Del Sur from the Dulop National High School, converting it into an independent national high school to be known as Bag-ong Valencia Agricultural National High School and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo, approved House Bill 6175, subject to style and amendment, and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>The Department of Education (DepEd) expressed its support for the bill.</p> <p>Acting Committee Secretary Rommel Reyes also confirmed that all the documentary requirements for the conversion of the Dulop National High School - Bag-ong Valencia Extension into an independent national high school, were already complied with by the school.</p>
	HB 7450	Rep. Delos Santos	Providing national support for the growth of local culture and history	The Committee will deliberate further on HB 7450 and confer with the bill's author the

<p>Continuation... Basic Education and Culture</p>				<p>recommendations of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) which were presented during the meeting.</p> <p>HB 7450 seeks to create the position of Local Culture and History Officer (LCHO) in every province who shall be responsible for the creation of the cultural and historical account of the province. The LCHO shall publish and disseminate such account to all public schools in the province and shall plan the conduct of festivals, trade fairs, cultural events, and similar activities that promote the local history and culture of the province. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) in partnership with the NHCP, will be tasked to create the set of guidelines for the contents of the detailed cultural and historical account of each province.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bill were the Commission on Higher Education and Department of Tourism.</p> <p>On the other hand, NHCP OIC-Deputy Executive Director for Programs and Projects Alvin Alcid said that the bill should be studied further since Local Culture and Arts Councils (LCACs) in local government units (LGUs) have already been created by virtue of Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 2002-81, which was revised by MC 2017-133. He said some of the proposed functions of the LCHO are already being performed by the LCAC, such as spearheading cultural events like cultural festivals, competitions, lectures, seminars, and symposia. The composition of the LCAC also includes a local cultural officer as provided for in MC 2017-133.</p> <p>Further, Alcid said that under Republic Act 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, the Sangguniang Bayan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, and Sangguniang Panlalawigan have the power to approve ordinances that will establish local councils whose purpose is to promote culture and the arts.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill.</p> <p>The DILG, NCCA, Leagues of Cities and Municipalities of the Philippines, and Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines will be invited to attend the Committee's next meeting to give their comments on the bill.</p>
	<p>HB 7621</p>	<p>Rep. De Venecia</p>	<p>Establishing a framework for funding the development and operations of the National Museum of the Philippines through the annual General Appropriations Act to complement and support the development of K-12 education in the country</p>	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 7621 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Christopher de Venecia (4th District, Pangasinan), author of HB 7621, said that his bill seeks to provide a stable and adequate funding for the National Museum of the Philippines to ensure that it will continue to operate more effectively and achieve its</p>

<p>Continuation... Basic Education and Culture</p>			<p>development goals. He said this is in accordance with the DepEd's mandate to protect and promote the right of every Filipino to quality, equitable, culture-based, and complete basic education.</p> <p>According to Rep. De Venecia, the National Museum needs to have a bigger budget so that it could better contribute to the promotion of culture, history, and arts in basic education; expand its network through the creation of more museums across the country; and provide museum education and development programs to public and private museums. As stated in the bill, the annual budget of the National Museum under the General Appropriations Act (GAA) shall not be less than 5% of the total budget of DepEd for each fiscal year.</p> <p>In a short presentation, Rep. De Venecia showed figures which confirm that the country spends very little for the development of its museums as compared to other countries. He said this needs to be addressed, considering that museums play a vital role in cultivating the creative spirits of students which can lead to a career in the creative sector.</p> <p>National Museum Director Jeremy Barns expressed support for the bill. He said an increased budget would be a big help to the National Museum especially in funding its maintenance and operating expenses. He added that the Department of Budget and Management only approves 30-35% of the National Museum's proposed budget every year.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go commented that the proposed budget of 5% of DepEd's total annual budget may be a bit too much. He said the ongoing pandemic should be taken into account which necessitated the DepEd to undertake new measures, including the implementation of the distance learning program, where most of its budget and resources went.</p> <p>Barns replied that the proposed budget is reasonable considering that the National Museum will be tasked to develop and assist in the implementation of the programs of other museums and establish more museums throughout the country. He also informed the body that for the year 2020, the National Museum only had a total fund of P537.44 million, of which P493.08 million was appropriated under the 2020 GAA and the rest were revenues coming from donations and the lease of its property.</p> <p>Rep. Romulo acknowledged that the annual budget of the National Museum should be increased so that it can effectively fulfill its mandate and have more significant contributions to the basic education sector.</p> <p>DepEd Assistant Secretary for Finance Ramon Fiel Abcede said that while he supports the</p>
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Continuation... Basic Education and Culture				<p>augmentation of the budget of the National Museum, he agrees with Rep. Go that the proposed budget of the National Museum representing 5% of the DepEd's budget is way too big. He added that the current budget of DepEd is actually even insufficient to finance some of its own programs.</p> <p>The National Museum was requested to submit the list of locations where new museums will be established, the cost of establishing a museum, and the maintenance cost for each museum.</p>
Energy	HB 9544	Deputy Speaker Rodriguez	Creating the Philippine Renewable Energy Corporation, defining its powers and functions, providing funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on House Bill 9544.</p> <p>The TWG will be co-chaired by Committee Vice Chairpersons Rep. Presley de Jesus (Party-List, PHILRECA) and Catanduanes Rep. Hector Sanchez.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Rufus Rodriguez (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro), author of HB 9544, said that it is imperative for the government to take a more active role in the exploration and development of renewable resources to reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuels and mitigate the impact of climate change. Hence, he sought for the immediate approval of the bill.</p> <p>Expressing support for the bill were Deputy Speaker Rose Marie "Baby" Arenas (3rd District, Pangasinan) as well as Reps. De Jesus, Sanchez, Rosanna "Ria" Vergara (3rd District, Nueva Ecija), Jericho Jonas Nograles (Party-List, PBA), Jonathan Keith Flores (2nd District, Bukidnon), and Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA).</p> <p>Likewise, the resource persons from the Department of Energy (DOE), Governance Commission for Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations, and Philippine National Oil Company Renewables Corporation (PNOC-RC) manifested their support for the bill. The Department of Budget and Management and Department of Finance promised to submit to the Committee their official position paper on the bill.</p> <p>PNOC-RC President John Arenas said that the proposed law will help address the rotational power interruptions in the country, lower the cost of electricity, and reduce carbon emission. He added that it is high time for the government to have an agency that will implement renewable energy projects especially in unserved and underserved missionary areas that are unattractive to private investors.</p> <p>Rep. Sergio Dagooc (Party-List, APEC) suggested that a provision be added in the bill mandating the proposed Philippine Renewable Energy Corporation (PREC) to set a minimum amount of renewable energy that should be</p>

Continuation... Energy				<p>harnessed and utilized to help defray the high cost of ancillary service.</p> <p>Under RA 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (EPIRA), ancillary services are “services that are necessary to support the transmission of capacity and energy from resources to loads while maintaining reliable operation of the transmission subsystem in accordance with good utility practice and the Grid Code.”</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Nograles proposed that the Agus-Pulangi hydropower complex be placed under the ownership of and be operated by the PREC. Deputy Speaker Arenas and Reps. Dagooc and Flores supported Rep. Nograles’ proposal.</p> <p>The Agus-Pulangi hydropower complex is presently owned by the government through the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) and operated by the National Power Corporation. However, the EPIRA provides that the hydropower complex may be privatized not earlier than 10 years from 2001. The privatization shall be left to the discretion of PSALM, in consultation with Congress.</p> <p>The DOE was requested to submit the following: Updated Philippine Energy Plan; Energy Master Plan; and data on available renewable energy resources in the country.</p> <p>Upon the suggestion of Rep. Sanchez, the Energy Regulatory Commission and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will be invited to attend the TWG meetings.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HB 7968	Rep. Roman	Establishing a barangay microfinance system and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Christian Unabia (1st District, Misamis Oriental), will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>The proposed law seeks to create a Barangay Microfinance Cooperative (BMC) in each barangay that shall serve as a lending or credit cooperative, as recognized by the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA). The BMC shall be monitored and supervised by a Barangay Microfinance Office which the proposed law also proposes to establish in every barangay.</p> <p>During the discussion of the draft substitute bill, the TWG took note of the comments and suggestions of the resource persons from the CDA, Department of Trade and Industry,</p>

<p>Continuation... Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>Department of Finance (DOF), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Securities and Exchange Commission, Small Business Corporation, and Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR).</p> <p>Among the proposed amendments to the draft substitute bill that were approved during the TWG meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rename the short title of the proposed law from “Barangay Microfinance Act” to “Barangay Microfinance Cooperative Act”; • Specify the requirements for the registration of BMCs with the CDA in Section 3 (Barangay Microfinance Cooperative) of the bill; and • Align the tax exemption provision of the bill with the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law. <p>Rep. Geraldine Roman (1st District, Bataan), author of House Bill 7968, expressed her frustration over the absence in the meeting of a representative from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), despite the latter’s confirmation that a representative will be present in today’s TWG meeting. She requested the Committee to write a letter of reprimand to the DILG for its failure to honor the Committee’s invitation and to compel the presence of its representative in the next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Unabia agreed with the suggestion of Rep. Roman. He then directed the Committee Secretary to draft a letter addressed to the DILG for this purpose.</p> <p>The LBP and DBP were asked to submit their position papers on the provision of the bill prescribing the interest rate on loans to be extended to BMCs by government agencies and government financial institutions.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the DOF and PAGCOR were asked to submit their respective recommendations on the appropriate language for the tax exemption and funding provisions of the bill, respectively.</p>
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