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PUBLIC HEARING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples	HR 409	Rep. Villanueva	Investigation into the harassment of Aeta indigenous peoples (IPs) by members of the 710th Special Operations Wing (SPOW) of the Philippine Air Force (PAF) by prohibiting the ingress of construction materials to be used by the Aeta IPs for house repairs and the egress of forest and agricultural products bound for the market, and other unlawful acts committed by the PAF such as erecting permanent structures within the area covered by the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claims (CADC)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Nancy Catamco (2nd District, North Cotabato), held a public hearing in Barangay Sta. Juliana, Capas, Tarlac on April 19, 2017 in relation to HR 409.</p> <p>The hearing aims to get the sentiments of the Aetas living in Capas, Tarlac who are adversely affected by the restrictions imposed on them by the PAF based in the area.</p> <p>Aside from Rep. Catamco, Rep. Noel Villanueva (3rd District, Tarlac), author of HR 409, also attended the public hearing.</p> <p>Also present in the hearing were Capas Mayor Reynaldo Catacutan and other local officials; Aeta Chieftain Lito Diaz; officials of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) led by Commissioner Ramcy Astoveza; General Laurcris Tumanda, wing commander of the 710th SPOW of the PAF; and representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).</p> <p>During the public hearing, the local government of Capas and the representatives of the Aeta IPs and the PAF agreed to convene a technical working group (TWG) to discuss and resolve the issues.</p> <p>The next day, April 20, 2017, the Committee conducted an ocular inspection of the ancestral domain of the Aeta IPs in Brgy. Maruglo, Capas, Tarlac.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Technical Working Group/Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (Ways and Means)	Draft Substitute Bill to HB 4774	Rep. Cua	Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Act	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>The TWG focused its discussion on the provisions of the bill amending the following sections of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 6 (Power of the Commissioner)

<p>Continuation... Technical Working Group/Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (Ways and Means)</p>				<p>to Make Assessments and Prescribe Additional Requirements for Tax Administration and Enforcement);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 22 (Definitions); • Section 24 (Income Tax Rates); and • Section 25 (Tax on Nonresident Alien Individual). <p>Rep. Arthur Defensor Jr. (3rd District, Iloilo) expressed reservation on the provision of the bill authorizing the Commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to “spontaneously” exchange tax information of specific taxpayer with a foreign tax authority (FTA).</p> <p>Greg Buhain, head of the BIR’s Regular Large Taxpayers Audit Division III, explained that the term “spontaneous” shall mean that the Philippine government may voluntarily offer tax data or information needed by the FTA, without any formal request which is required under the present NIRC, based on the principle of reciprocity under existing bilateral agreements or international treaties.</p> <p>Atty. Nina Asuncion, legal counsel of BIR, stressed that by 2018, tax data/information exchanges between FTAs will already be done “automatically and spontaneously” pursuant to the agreements reached during the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) global forum.</p> <p>However, Rep. Antonio Tinio (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS) argued that only treaties or international agreements ratified by the President and concurred in by the Senate should be binding to the country. He said the agreements in the OECD global forum have not undergone such process yet and, thus, are not enforceable.</p> <p>Executive Director Trinidad Rodriguez of the National Tax Research Center (NTRC) suggested that the adjustment of the rates of the taxable income levels be made every five years, instead of the proposed three years, for reasons of efficiency and practicality.</p> <p>Rep. Arthur Yap (3rd District, Bohol), however, said that a shorter period is better in order to make the tax system more responsive to prevailing conditions.</p>
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