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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food (Technical Working Group)	HBs 62, 102, 164, 301, 557, 2175, 2266, 2833, 3523, 4089, 4224 & 4286	Reps. Nograles (K.A.), Tan (A.), Belmonte (F.), Rocamora, Casilao, Santos-Recto, Bag-ao, Villarin, Pineda, Lee, Lobregat, and Deputy Speaker Garin	Establishing the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund and providing for its management and utilization	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Deputy Speaker Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), will deliberate further on the bills establishing a Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund in its next meeting.</p> <p>The members of the TWG used HB 6135 that was approved on third reading during the 16th Congress as their working draft.</p> <p>Among the agreements reached during the meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Committee shall determine which government bank will serve as the depository bank of the Trust Fund (Section 10); The composition of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Committee shall include six representatives from the coconut farmers organizations; two representatives from the coconut industry; and five from the government sector: the Secretaries of the Departments of Agriculture (DA), Finance (DOF), and Trade and Industry (DTI), the Cabinet Secretary, and the Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) (Section 12); and The Solicitor General shall be the ex-officio legal counsel of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Committee instead of the Secretary of Justice (Section 19). <p>Deputy Speaker Garin said that the agreements reached pertinent to Sections 10, 12, and 19 of the draft bill shall be subject to review and approval by the mother Committee.</p> <p>Commissioner Reynold Munsayac, acting chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), disclosed that</p>

Continuation... Agriculture and Food (Technical Working Group)				as of October 31, 2016, the coco levy fund amounts to P75.57 billion. This, according to Munsayac, should dismiss speculations by certain quarters like the coconut farmers' groups that the funds have been dissipated.
Health (Technical Working Group)	HBs 338 & 447	Reps. Villarín and Belmonte (J.C.)	Strengthening the provision of emergency health care service to patients, further amending Batas Pambansa Bilang 702, as amended, or the law prohibiting the demand of deposits or advance payments for the confinement or treatment of patients in hospitals and medical clinics in certain cases	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Tricia Nicole Velasco-Catera (Party-List, MATA), will draft a substitute bill to the two measures, incorporating therein the suggestions of the TWG members.</p> <p>Among the agreements reached during the meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The title of HB 447 shall be adopted as the title of the substitute bill; • In case a hospital or medical clinic lacks the facilities to care for the patient, the latter may be transferred to another hospital but only after the necessary emergency medical care has been administered; • The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) shall bear the cost of emergency care given to the indigent patient, whether the patient is a member or not; • Hospitals shall be required to post at their entrance their classification level according to the license issued by the Department of Health (DOH) and the list of medical services they are authorized to provide; and • The penalties, such as fine, for the violation of the law will depend on the frequency of violation.
Natural Resources (Technical Working Group)	HBs 54, 113,1665, 2633 & 2715	Reps. Bag-ao, Baguilat, Cosalan, Villarín, and Zarate	Regulating the rational exploration, development and utilization of mineral resources, and ensuring the equitable sharing of benefits for the State, indigenous peoples, and local communities	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate, will deliberate further on the five bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Zarate stressed the need to reexamine RA 7942 or the Mining Act of 1995 in light of the various issues and challenges confronting the mining industry, particularly the destruction of the environment, displacement of indigenous people, and the alleged killings of anti-mining advocates and environmentalists.</p> <p>Party-List Reps. Sarah Jane Elago (KABATAAN) and France Castro (ACT TEACHERS), co-authors of HB 2715, underscored the importance of legislating an alternative mining framework which will serve as guide for the development of the country's mining industry.</p> <p>Rep. Lawrence "Law" Fortun (1st District, Agusan del Norte), co-author of HB 113, also stressed the need for the passage of an alternative mining law that would safeguard the environment and protect the rights of affected communities.</p>

<p>Continuation... Natural Resources (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>Meanwhile, Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2nd District, Zambales) narrated the ill effects of mining in her province, pointing out that the existing mining law failed to balance the economic gains of mining and its detrimental effects on the environment.</p> <p>Legal Service Director (OIC) Larry Hernandez of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) emphasized the important role of the mining industry in the country's industrialization. However, he admitted that there are provisions in RA 7942 that need to be reconciled with the Constitution.</p> <p>Representatives from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM), Kalipunan ng mga Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas (KATRIBU), Advocates of Science and Technology for the People (AGHAM), ABS-CBN Foundation, IBON Foundation, Center for Environmental Concerns, and the National Council of Churches of the Philippines (NCCP) expressed support for the proposed law. They said that an alternative mining law should uphold patriotism and respect for human rights and the environment.</p> <p>The TWG agreed to invite in its next meeting the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Trade and Industry (DTI), Science and Technology (DOST), and Budget and Management (DBM), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to present their views on the proposed law.</p> <p>The resource persons present were requested to submit their position papers on the bills, and reports and studies relative to the implementation of RA 7942.</p>
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