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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Energy	HBs 182, 1220, 1527 & 2388	Reps. Olivarez, Umali, Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, and Rep. Abad	Institutionalizing energy efficiency and conservation (EEC), enhancing the efficient use of energy, and granting incentives to energy efficiency and conservation projects	<p>The Committee, chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the eight bills.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2nd District, Oriental Mindoro).</p>
	HB 812	Rep. Batocabe	Requiring all government and non-government offices and establishments to adopt policies for energy conservation and efficient energy utilization measures and for other purposes	Under HBs 1220 and 2388, "energy conservation" is defined as the "reduction of losses and wastage in various energy stages from energy production to energy consumption through the adoption of appropriate measures that are technologically feasible, economically sound and environmentally and socially affordable;" and "energy efficiency" is defined as "the way of managing and restraining the growth in energy consumption resulting in the delivery of more services for the same energy input or the same services for less energy input."
	HBs 970 & 2540	Reps. Romualdez and Tambunting	Requiring the use of energy-efficient lighting products, providing penalties for violations thereof, and for other purposes	Rep. Velasco stressed that being a signatory to the Paris Climate Change Agreement of 2016, the Philippines is duty-bound to pass a law on energy efficiency and conservation (EEC). He added that the Philippines' Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) has listed the EEC measure as one of its priority legislative agenda.
	HB 3040	Rep. Roque (H.)	Prohibiting the manufacture, importation, sale, and use of incandescent light bulbs, prescribing a phase-out period, and providing penalties for violations thereof	<p>The resource persons present expressed their support for the proposed law. However, representatives from the Departments of Finance (DOF) and Trade and Industry (DTI) object to the grant of tax incentives to EEC projects pending the enactment of the fiscal incentives rationalization measures which were referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.</p> <p>AKO-BICOL Party-List Rep. Rodel Batocabe, author of HB 812, was amenable to the removal of the provision on tax incentives so as not to delay the passage of the proposed law. However, Rep. Umali, author of HB 1220, maintained that such incentive is necessary to entice energy investors, developers, and service companies to engage in EEC projects.</p>
Games and Amusements	HR 546	Minority Leader Suarez	Investigation into the proliferation of illegal gambling in the country	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Gus Tambunting (2 nd District, Parañaque City), will deliberate further on the issues raised relative to HR 546 in its next meeting.

<p>Continuation... Games and Amusements</p>				<p>Alexander Balutan, general manager of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), informed the Committee that with the 2016 revised implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA 1169 or the PCSO Charter, the gross annual revenues generated from the operations of small-town lottery (STL) have substantially increased from P4.7 billion in 2015 to P6.5 billion in 2016.</p> <p>PCSO Chair Jose Jorge Corpuz added that with an increased participation of authorized agent corporations (AACs) from 18 to 56 this year, the projected STL revenues will reach P27 billion by the end of 2017.</p> <p>AACs are private corporations prequalified by PCSO, through the conduct of a public bidding, to operate STL in certain parts of the country.</p> <p>STL was intended to curb illegal numbers games around the country such as "jueteng," "jai alai," and "masiao" to raise additional revenues for the government for its charity and health care programs.</p> <p>On the query of Minority Leader Danilo Suarez (3rd District, Quezon), Corpuz admitted that STL has been used as cover for illegal gambling thereby denying the government of much-needed revenues. Corpuz, however, assured the members of the Committee that with the stricter provisions of the revised IRR, which provides for the cancellation of bond and imposition of penalties against erring AACs, the government may expect improved revenue collections from hereon.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Ferdinand Hernandez (2nd District, South Cotabato) asked about the efforts being undertaken by the Philippine National Police (PNP) to address illegal gambling in the country.</p> <p>Police Chief Superintendent Danilo Maligalig, deputy director of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG-PNP), answered that the PNP has already obtained a list of personalities who are behind the operation of illegal numbers games in certain localities around the country. He added that the PNP Chief, Director General Ronald dela Rosa, has already issued an order to intensify the PNP's campaign against illegal gambling.</p> <p>ABANG LINGKOD Party-List Rep. Joseph Stephen Paduano expressed dismay over PCSO's renewal of franchise of the original 18 AACs which he believes may have been into illegal numbers games, denying the government considerable amount of income. On Rep. Paduano's motion, the Committee agreed to urge the PCSO to defer the formal awarding ceremony for the AACs which were granted STL franchises.</p> <p>However, Corpuz protested that deferring the awarding of the STL franchise may send a "wrong signal" to the business community, stressing that the PCSO has already approved the franchise grants.</p>
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Continuation... Games and Amusements				<p>AKO BICOL Party-List Rep. Rodel Batocabe explained that the Committee, exercising its oversight function, adopted the motion to express its sentiment on the matter, adding that it is not meant to encroach on the powers and functions of the executive department.</p> <p>The Committee will invite resource persons from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Games and Amusements Board (GAB) to attend in its next meeting.</p>
Welfare of Children	Substitute Bill to HB 516	Rep. Herrera-Dy	Promoting positive and non-violent discipline of children and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Divina Grace Yu (1st District, Zamboanga Del Sur), agreed to adopt the bill, which has the same subject matter and was approved on third reading during the 16th Congress, as the Substitute Bill to HB 516 and thereafter approved the same.</p> <p>Bagong Henerasyon Party-List Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy said that her bill seeks to strengthen the country's laws, policies and programs promoting children's rights, human dignity, and physical integrity by prohibiting corporal punishment and all other forms of humiliating or degrading punishment of children. The intent of the bill also fulfills the Philippine government's obligation to the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child.</p> <p>Rep. Herrera-Dy asserts that corporal punishment is ineffective in disciplining children because, more often than not, it produces anger, resentment and low self-esteem among children.</p> <p>Professor Edith Liane Alampay of the Department of Psychology, Ateneo de Manila University, presented a research study on Filipino parenting and the context of corporal punishment.</p> <p>According to Alampay, the study reveals that Filipino parents' beliefs - on the nature of children as having no mind of their own, on the attitude that should be developed in children, and on the parents' authoritarian attitudes - contextualize the use of corporal punishment.</p> <p>She underscored the importance of shifting one's parental belief and behavior towards children by employing positive forms of discipline and developing positive parenting strategies.</p> <p>Alampay added that corporal punishment is not uncommon in the Philippines, citing the study's findings that 71% of girls and 77% of boys experienced physical punishment.</p> <p>Alampay disclosed that studies on parenting across cultures (PAC) revealed that more frequent and more severe use of corporal punishment is associated with more negative child outcomes. The PAC is the largest multi-country and longitudinal study on the biological, familial, and cultural processes in the development of children and adolescents.</p> <p>Representatives from various civil society organizations, such as the Plan International, Save</p>

Continuation... Welfare of Children				<p>the Children, World Vision, Center for Family Ministries, Child Rights Network, and the Philippine Action for Youth Offenders, expressed support for the bill.</p> <p>Department of Education (DepEd) Undersecretary Alberto Muyot said that DepEd issued Department Order 40 in 2012, providing policy guidelines in protecting children in school from abuse, violence, exploitation, discrimination, bullying and other forms of abuse, citing a drastic increase in reported cases of child abuse in schools. However, according to Muyot, the DepEd realized that such prohibition is not enough as reported cases of child abuse in schools continued to rise.</p> <p>In a bid to improve the way teachers manage their classes, Muyot said that the DepEd worked with the Save the Children Foundation in coming up with a manual for teacher, entitled "Positive Discipline In Everyday Teaching." The manual provides basic framework on how to address the misbehavior of children in school without resorting to physical punishment as a form of discipline.</p> <p>On the query of Mandaluyong Rep. Alexandria Gonzales on the steps undertaken by the DepEd with regard to cases involving erring teachers, Muyot said that appropriate cases were filed resulting in either suspension or dismissal from the service.</p> <p>Representatives from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Health (DOH), Technical Educational and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) expressed their support for the bill. They were requested to submit to the Committee their respective position papers.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples (Technical Working Group)	HB 115	Rep. Baguilat	Recognizing, protecting and strengthening the indigenous peoples and local communities conserved areas and territories (ICCA) acknowledging their contribution to biodiversity conservation and protection of key biodiversity areas, establishing for the purpose the National ICCA Registry, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Ifugao Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr., will deliberate further on HB 115 in its next meeting.</p> <p>The members of the TWG agreed, among others, on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To delineate clearly the duties and jurisdiction of indigenous peoples (IPs) and local communities with regard to conservation efforts to avoid conflicts; and • To define the term "local communities" in Section 4 (Definition of Terms) of the bill. <p><i>Koalisyon ng mga Katutubong Samahan ng Pilipinas (KASAPI, Inc.)</i> Secretary General Giovanni Reyes suggested that Section 8 (ICCAs in Key Biodiversity Areas) of the bill should provide</p>

Continuation... Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples (Technical Working Group)				<p>that IPs and local communities are allowed to identify and restore key biodiversity areas, ensuring the protection and conservation of wildlife in these areas.</p> <p>Rep. Baguilat said that HB 115 and the proposed Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas (E-NIPAS) law should not have conflicting provisions. The measures on E-NIPAS, HBs 133 and 177 authored by Reps. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL) and Josephine Ramirez-Sato (Occidental Mindoro), respectively, are currently referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.</p> <p>Norma Molinyawe, head of the Biodiversity Management Division, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), said that she can be sure that HB 115 conforms to the existing NIPAS law.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Human Rights jt. w/ Justice (Technical Working Group)	Oversight on the implementation of the Anti-Torture Law (RA 9745)	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Committee on Human Rights Committee Secretary Fely Parcon and Committee on Justice secretariat staff Atty. Rene Delorino, requested the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to present to the Oversight Committee on February 14, 2017 the 2015 Report on the implementation of the Anti-Torture Act of 2009 (RA 9745). The report will serve as basis for the formulation of an action plan that will address the issues and concerns hampering the implementation of the law.</p> <p>The report, which was presented to the United Nations Committee Against Torture (CAT), highlighted the efforts that the Philippine Government has taken and will continue to do in connection with its human rights obligations, which include: the Philippine's anti-torture campaign, the creation of an inter-agency committee monitoring the status of human rights violations including cases of torture; and the status of implementation of key legislative enactments for the protection and promotion of human rights as embodied in the Philippine Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2017.</p> <p>Section 20 of RA 9745 provides for the creation of an Oversight Committee that shall periodically oversee the implementation of this Act. The Oversight Committee is headed by the Commissioner of the CHR, with the following as members: the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights, the respective Chairpersons of the House of Representatives' Committees on Justice and Human Rights, and the Minority Leader of both Houses or their respective representatives.</p> <p>The United Nations Committee Against Torture convenes periodically to examine the mechanisms adopted by various state parties in the punishment and prevention of acts of torture as well as to discuss national efforts to implement the rights enshrined in the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment. The Philippines is a signatory to the convention.</p>