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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Dangerous Drugs	HR 456 & Privilege Speech Nos. 84 & 88	Rep. Jalosjos	Investigation into the illegal drug trading activities in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Robert "Ace" Barbers (2nd District, Surigao del Norte), will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 456 and Privilege Speech Nos. 84 and 88 in its next meeting.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Barbers emphasized that the objective of this investigation is to determine whether there is a need to come up with a remedial or amendatory law to strengthen the government's war on drugs.</p> <p>Rep. Seth Frederick Jalosjos (1st District, Zamboanga del Norte), author of the three measures, alleged that the top local chief executive and some police officials in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte are behind the proliferation of the illegal drug trade in the province.</p> <p>A witness, Rolly Daligdig, testified that he is a member of the so-called Team David that conducted illegal drug activities in the province. Team David, as alleged by Daligdig, is a "death squad" which is fully funded and supported by Zamboanga del Norte Governor Roberto Uy and the mayors of the Municipality of Polanco and of Dipolog City.</p> <p>Daligdig also named the chiefs of police of Dipolog City and of the Municipality of Polanco as among those also involved in these illegal activities.</p> <p>Daligdig added that he and three others were prompted to enter the Witness Protection Program of the government after learning that the members of Team David were being killed one after the other.</p> <p>The Committee requested the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to submit their official report on the results of their investigation relative to the allegations of Daligdig.</p> <p>The Committee also requested PNP Region 9 Director Police Chief Superintendent Billy Beltran to explain in writing why the PNP has not</p>

Continuation... Dangerous Drugs				<p>suspended or replaced Zamboanga del Norte PNP Provincial Director Edwin Wagan despite the unresolved crimes and illegal drug trade in Zamboanga del Norte.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to hold an executive session to hear the report of Atty. Ferdinand Lavin, spokesperson and chief of the International Operations Division of the NBI, relative to the illegal drug trade in Zamboanga del Norte.</p>
Science and Technology	Substitute Bill to HBs 1204, 2900, 4366 & 4628	Reps. Yu, Aumentado, Salceda and Nieto	Re-institutionalizing the Balik-Scientist Program	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Erico Aristotle Aumentado (2nd District, Bohol), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HBs 1204, 2900, 4366 and 4628 subject to style.
	HB 4581	Rep. Salceda	Establishing the Science for Change Program (S4CP)	<p>The Committee approved in principle HB 4581. It agreed to create a technical working group (TWG), to be chaired by Rep. Arlene Arcillas (1st District, Laguna), to fine-tune the bill and incorporate the comments and recommendations of the resource persons present during the meeting.</p> <p>Kalinga Rep. Allen Jesse Mangaoang took over as presiding officer in behalf of the Chair who had to attend to an urgent matter.</p> <p>Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), author of HB 4581, emphasized that his bill is a proposed "framework law" that highlights the role of science and technology (S&T) in nation building. He lamented that S&T, along with local scientists, innovators and inventors, has not been fully recognized as a major factor in effecting social and economic change in the country.</p> <p>Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Undersecretary Rowena Cristina Guevarra apprised the Committee of the objective and components of the S4CP as espoused in HB 4581.</p> <p>Guevarra said that the S4CP aims to accelerate science, technology and innovation (STI) in the country through a massive increase in investment on S&T, human resource development (HRD), and research and development (R&D).</p> <p>Guevarra discussed the four components of the S4CP, namely: program expansion in 10 areas; new programs in five areas; S&T human resource development; and accelerated R&D program for capacity building of research and development institutions and industrial competitiveness.</p> <p>Guevarra is confident that with the S4CP, the country will be able to achieve by 2022 the target of producing 380 researchers, scientists and engineers (RSEs) per million population, as established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). She added that without the S4CP's human development component, where a good number of graduate and post-graduate scholarships will be offered in the field of S&T, the UNESCO-set target</p>

Continuation... Science and Technology				<p>might be achieved by the Philippines in 2040.</p> <p>National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) Acting President Fabian Dayrit discussed the powers, functions, and mandate of the NAST pursuant to PD 1003-A which created it in 1976.</p> <p>Dayrit said that the NAST, which is an attached agency of the DOST, is the country's premier recognition and advisory body on science and technology. At present, the NAST is composed of national scientists, academicians in various fields of sciences, and outstanding youth scientists.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Arlene Arcillas (1st District, Laguna) on the status of the Philippine Science Heritage Center, Dayrit said that the Center continues to conduct orientations, seminars, symposia, and exhibits to showcase the country's achievements in the field of science and technology. The Philippine Science Heritage Center is the main repository of the contributions, achievements, and accomplishments of Filipino scientists. The NAST manages, operates and maintains the Center.</p>
	HBs 3578, 3717, 4509, 4320 & 4368	Reps. Jalosjos, Yu, Aumentado, Nieto, and Salceda	Strengthening the national measurement infrastructure system (NMIS), amending for the purpose RA 9236, otherwise known as the National Metrology Act of 2003	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG, to be chaired by Rep. Divina Grace Yu (1st District, Zamboanga del Sur), to consolidate the five bills and incorporate the comments and recommendations of the resource persons present during the meeting.</p> <p>The proposed measures seek to harmonize the national metrological standards with international standards, mutual recognition arrangements, and statistical control as envisioned in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Integration, World Trade Organization (WTO), and international agreements and covenants.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Overseas Workers Affairs (Technical Working Group)	HBs 227, 288, 543, 822, 1936 & 2334	Deputy Speaker Singson, Reps. Romero, Arenas, Yap (A.), Villar, and Cojuangco	Establishing the Department of Overseas Filipino Workers (DOFW), defining its powers and functions, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), co-presided by Rep. Aniceto "John" Bertiz III (Party-List, ACTS-OFW), for the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY), for the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs, agreed to consolidate the eight bills, using HB 192 as the working draft.</p> <p>The Secretariat was instructed to draft the consolidated bill which shall be presented in the next TWG meeting.</p> <p>Party-List Reps. Teodoro Montoro (AASENSO) and Mark Sambar (PBA) expressed their support for the bill.</p> <p>Also supporting the bills are the representatives from the Association of Marine Officers and</p>
	HBs 192 & 3255	Reps. Bertiz and Aglipay-Villar	Creating the Department of Migration and Development, defining its powers and functions, and appropriating funds therefor	

<p>Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ Overseas Workers Affairs (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>Ratings, Inc. (AMOR-SEAMAN) and <i>Kabalikat ng Migranteng Pilipino, Inc.</i> (KAMPI).</p> <p>On the other hand, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Assistant Secretary Joji Aragon conveyed the executive department's stand against the creation of a new office to handle concerns relating to overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). First, she said, migration or overseas employment is not a priority policy of the government because of its enormous social cost. Second, she said the government's focus is to improve existing organizational structures concerned with advancing the welfare and protecting the rights of OFWs and Filipino migrants and their families.</p> <p>Aragon added that in her conversations with Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Benjamin Diokno, the latter made it clear that the government's current policy direction is geared towards right-sizing and streamlining of the bureaucracy.</p>
<p>Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous People (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>HB 115</p>	<p>Rep. Baguilat</p>	<p>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>	<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>Based on the suggestions of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB), the following sections of the bill will be revised by the TWG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2 (Declaration of Policy); • Section 4 (Definition of Terms); • Section 6 (Protection/Privileges of ICCAs); and • Section 7 (Zones). <p>The TWG also agreed to add a new section in the bill stating the scope and coverage of the proposed law.</p> <p>Maricel Hilario, project institutional development associate of the Philippines ICCA Consortium, suggested that the proposed definition of some terms should be carefully reviewed by the TWG, because some of them were based on the proposed Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas (E-NIPAS) law currently referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.</p> <p>Reynaldo Dingal, chief administrative officer of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), said that the TWG may instead adopt the definitions used in RA 8371 or the Indigenous People's Rights Act of 1997 to ensure uniformity in purpose.</p> <p>When asked to comment on the proposed bill, Jennifer Tauli Corpuz, legal coordinator of Tebtebba Foundation, underscored the need to ensure that the ICCA registry will be accessible to the IPs and local communities. She also suggested that the records and documents in the registry be written in a language that IPs could easily understand.</p>

Continuation... Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous People (Technical Working Group)				The resource persons present were again invited to attend the next TWG meeting.
Revision of Laws (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 388, 878, 972, 1520 3398, 3478, 3498, 4112 & 4206	Reps. Ocampo, Lopez (B.), Fortun, Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, Reps. Brosas, Escudero, Vargas, Lazatin, and Barbers	Amending Republic Act 8972, otherwise known as the "Solo Parents Welfare Act of 2000," providing for additional benefits and privileges to solo parents and their children, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Lawrence "Law" Fortun (1st District, Agusan del Norte), terminated its deliberations on the draft substitute bill to the nine measures. The bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Among the agreements reached during the meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local social welfare officer will be tasked to assess the solo parents eligible for assistance under the proposed law; • The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), Department of Justice (DOJ), Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), and Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), will be included in the list of agencies that will develop the comprehensive package of social development and welfare services for solo parents and their families; • The Inter-Agency Committee, which is tasked to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Solo Parents Welfare Act, shall have the following agencies as its additional members: PCW, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Civil Service Commission (CSC), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP); and • A portion of the annual budget for gender and development programs may be utilized by government agencies to assist solo parents and their families, subject to prescribed guidelines. <p>The Committee Secretariat was tasked to fine-tune the penalty provision of the draft substitute bill and the provision on the grant of a 15% discount on baby's milk, food, food supplement, medicines, and other micronutrients.</p>