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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Games and Amusements (Technical Working Group)	HR 546	Minority Leader Suarez	Inquiry into the proliferation of illegal gambling	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Gus Tambunting (2 nd District, Parañaque City), will deliberate further on the issues raised relative to the three resolutions in its next meeting.
	HRs 712 & 715	Reps. Manalo and Batocabe	Inquiry into the alleged failure of the small town lottery (STL) operations of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) in generating its projected income resulting in the loss of billions of pesos in revenues on the part of the national government and the possible use of STL operations as fronts for <i>jueteng</i> and other illegal numbers game in the country	<p>At the outset, PCSO's Assets and Supply Management Department Manager Reena Yumina Yason-San Agustin conveyed the sincerest apologies of the PCSO Board for not being able to attend today's meeting but also relayed the Board members' commitment to attend the Committee's next meeting. She also gave assurance that the TWG's concerns will be promptly relayed to the PCSO officials.</p> <p>Minority Leader Danilo Suarez (3rd District, Quezon) reminded PCSO that it does not have the authority to issue franchises for STL operations. The power to issue franchises rests solely with the House of Representatives, he said, echoing the statement of Speaker Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez (1st District, Davao del Norte) in the Committee's previous meeting. Rep. Suarez also relayed Speaker Alvarez' request for PCSO to submit a list of new small town lottery (STL) authorized agent corporations (AACs).</p> <p>Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City) opined that legalizing <i>jueteng</i> will generate more employment opportunities especially for the underprivileged.</p> <p>Quezon City Councilor Ranulfo Ludovica, who admitted to being a gambling lord until 2002, shared his past experiences as a <i>jueteng</i> operator in Quezon City before he entered politics. He also claimed that there are many gambling lords who are open to the proposal to legalize <i>jueteng</i> and similar illegal numbers games.</p> <p>The PCSO and the TWG will come up with their respective matrices containing their proposed amendments to the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) for STL operations. Rep. Suarez said that the final arbiter on what amendments will be adopted will be the Speaker.</p>

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