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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Energy	HBs 1223 & 1224	Rep. Umali	Prohibiting the planting of high-growing species of plants and trees, and the construction of any structure under or within the right-of-way clearance of all power transmission lines and providing penalties for violation thereof	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Carlos Roman Uybarreta (Party-List, 1-CARE), terminated its deliberation on the three bills.</p> <p>The Committee Secretariat was tasked to prepare a substitute bill using HB 3351 as the draft bill and incorporating therein the pertinent recommendations of the resource persons. The substitute bill will then be presented to the Mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p>
	HB 3351	Rep. Uybarreta	Ensuring the continuous and uninterrupted transmission of power, promoting public safety and protecting the integrity and reliability of the nationwide transmission and distribution system, and providing penalties in violation thereof	<p>The TWG had an extensive discussion of Section 7 (Immediate Removal of Obstructions) of HB 3351. It agreed that the proposed law should be harmonized with the Coconut Preservation Act of 1995 (RA 8048) and the Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines (PD 705).</p> <p>The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) explained the relevant provisions of the Forestry Reform Code which allow the cutting of trees that hamper or damage power transmission lines.</p> <p>Rep. Uybarreta manifested that one of the intentions of the bill is to require the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to assist concerned government agencies, distribution utilities and electric cooperatives in ensuring that the right-of-way and corridors of power lines are clear of any hazard or obstruction.</p> <p>Senior Superintendent Emmanuel Licup of the Directorate for Operations, Philippine National Police (PNP), and Major Dhynea Espejo of the Judge Advocate General Service (JAGS), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said that they are committed to perform their duties, particularly in enforcing the law.</p> <p>The National Electrification Administration (NEA), National Power Corporation (NPC), Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. (PHILRECA), and the Philippine Independent Power Producers Association (PIPPA) expressed support for the bills.</p>