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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Government Enterprises and Privatization (Technical Working Group)	HB 381	Rep. Mangaoang	Creating the Chico River Basin Development Authority, defining its powers, functions and responsibilities, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Kalinga Rep. Allen Jesse Mangaoang, will deliberate further on HB 381 in its next meeting.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Mangaoang underscored the importance of the Chico River in sustaining agricultural development in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and nearby areas. He said that the Chico River, which is a major river system in the country, irrigates about 11,000 hectares of farmlands in Tabuk City Valley, Province of Kalinga, another 10,000 hectares in Quezon, Province of Isabela, and the various rice terraces found in Mountain Province and upper Kalinga municipalities.</p> <p>Even as it is called the “River of Life” in the North, the Chico River is beset with problems such as decreasing water discharge, river pollution, and massive siltation. Rep. Mangaoang said that although concerned local government units (LGUs) have programs to address these problems, the efforts are not sustained and not coordinated.</p> <p>Rep. Mangaoang said that his bill, HB 381, offers a holistic solution to the problems affecting the Chico River, including the creation of a central agency that will implement policies and programs geared towards the protection, promotion, and development of the Chico River basin and its river lines.</p> <p>CAR Regional Director Ralph Pablo of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) suggested that representatives from the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) and the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) be invited in the next meeting of the TWG to share their expertise in protecting and developing natural resources.</p> <p>The resource persons present were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill. The TWG will meet again on May 11.</p>

Comments, suggestions and requests for copies may be sent to the Editorial Unit, Committee Management Support Service I, 3rd Floor, Ramon V. Mitra, Jr. Bldg., Batasan Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City. Tel. Nos. 9326118; 9315001 local 7122.

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