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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Games and Amusement (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HB 4843	Rep. Batocabe	Strengthening the Games and Amusements Board (GAB)	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Mark Aeron Sambar (Party-List, PBA), terminated its deliberations on the substitute bill.</p> <p>The bill will be submitted to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Among the agreements reached during the TWG meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On betting and horseracing, all unclaimed winning prizes and dividends shall be forfeited in favor of the government, 70% of which shall go to the National Treasury while 30% shall go to the Philippine Racing Commission (Philracom); • On cockfighting, in order to prevent the proliferation of illegal cockpits, GAB shall have the power to establish uniform rules and regulations to govern actual cockfighting, enforceable in all cockpits in the Philippines and to provide sanctions for violations thereof; • Local government units (LGUs) shall prosecute operators or owners of cockpits who engage in illegal cockfighting activities; • For international cockfighting events, an amount equivalent to 3% of the gate receipts shall go to the national government; • For other forms of amusements, GAB shall serve as coordinator in the issuance of licenses or permits for the conduct of international amusement events; and • The proposed Anti-Illegal Gambling Unit of GAB shall be vested with police powers to combat and prevent the existence and proliferation of illegal bookie joints and other illegal forms of organized gambling in professional sports and amusement games.
Natural Resources (Technical Working Group)	HB 6505	Rep. Antonio	Instituting a New Water Code, amending for the purpose PD 1067, otherwise known as the Water Code of the Philippines	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Joseph Stephen Paduano (Party-List, ABANG LINGKOD), will deliberate further on HB 6505 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Resource persons from the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM)</p>

<p>Continuation... Natural Resources (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>of the Department of Agriculture (DA), National Power Corporation (NPC), and Maynilad Water Services, Inc. presented their respective comments and recommendations.</p> <p>NWRB Deputy Director George Estioco opposes the proposed inclusion of the NPC and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in the membership of the NWRB. Estioco pointed out that the two agencies are major water users and their interests run in conflict with the regulatory functions of the NWRB. The NWRB cannot be an effective water manager if it is both the user and regulator at the same time, Estioco stressed.</p> <p>On the other hand, Engr. Henry Cacayan of BSWM's Water Resources Management Division, made the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the reuse of wastewater in accordance with the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004; • Exempt small-scale irrigation projects (SSIPs) from the requirement of hiring a licensed engineer to operate a reservoir; • Exempt manual well drilling for household use and shallow groundwater tapping by small farms from securing a drilling permit; and • Include one representative from the Regional Directors of the Department of Agriculture (DA) as member of the Water Resources Regional Council (WRRC). <p>Rep. Paduano noted that the NWRB may need a lot of manpower to monitor compliance by deep well owners, particularly the single households, with the registration requirement to avoid being tagged as illegal water users. Atty. Archie Edsel Asuncion, head of the Litigation and Adjudication Division of the NWRB, said that the agency is now putting up extension offices in the Visayas and Mindanao to expand its coverage while the DENR has created a water utilization section to assist with the monitoring and inspection functions of the NWRB.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Atty. Josella Cardenas of the Maynilad Water Services proposed the extension of the validity of water permits from 10 years to at least 50 years to allow water companies enough time to recover their investments.</p> <p>Emmanuel Regondola of NPC's Watershed Management Department proposed that the grounds for revocation of water permits enumerated in Article 33 of the bill be expanded to include the failure of the holders of the water permit, particularly hydropower plants, to implement their project within five years from the issuance of said water permit and failure to secure the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC).</p> <p>Regondola also maintained that the NPC should be the agency tasked to manage and protect</p>
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Continuation... Natural Resources (Technical Working Group)				<p>watersheds which are vital components of hydro and geothermal power plants.</p> <p>Rep. Paduano disagreed with the five-year grace period before the water permit is revoked for non-implementation of projects and instead recommended that it be reduced to one year.</p> <p>The resource persons who have not yet submitted their respective position papers on the bill were asked to do so within one week.</p> <p>The NWRB was also requested to submit within one week the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the monitoring and inspection activities conducted by the DENR for the past two years; • Data on pending water permit applications of hydropower plants; and • Copy of board resolution granting a one-year conditional water permit to hydro power plants.
Trade and Industry (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 528, 877, 1324, 2917, 5970 & 7245	Reps. Batocabe, Sarmiento (E.M.), Pimentel, Escudero, Roque (H.), and Romualdo	Providing for the revised Corporation Code of the Philippines	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, will deliberate further on the substitute bill.</p> <p>In today's meeting, the TWG discussed Sections 11 to 73 of the substitute bill.</p> <p>Among the agreements reached during the meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delete Section 13 (Amount of Capital Stock to be Subscribed and Paid for Purposes of Incorporation); • On Section 23 (The Board of Directors or Trustees), both the Directors and Trustees will have a one-year term; • Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will propose an amendment to Section 15 (Forms of Articles of Incorporation); • BSP and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) will propose an amendment to Section 27 (Disqualification of Directors, Trustees or Officers); and • BSP, DTI, and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) will review the provisions of Section 28 (Removal of Directors or Trustees).