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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Energy	HR 1737	Rep. Sambar	Inquiry into the manner by which the Malampaya banked gas, which is at risk of being impaired by 2024, is going to be disposed by the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) and/or the Department of Energy (DOE)	<p>The Committee, presided by Rep. Carlos Roman Uybarreta (Party-List, 1-CARE), will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 1737 in its next meeting.</p> <p>PNOC President and Chief Executive Officer Reuben Lista reported that PNOC is encountering difficulties in selling the remaining 97.67 petajoules banked gas in the Malampaya gas field due to the restrictive floor price imposed. Under a PNOC board resolution, the floor price of the banked gas should not be less than the contract price of gas under the Ilijan Gas Sale Purchase Agreement, which is the prevailing market value.</p> <p>According to Lista, the PNOC published in June 2018 an invitation to all interested parties to submit offers to buy its banked gas in newspapers of general circulation and on its website. Among the three companies that submitted offers to buy, only the First Gen Corporation (FGC) satisfied most of PNOC's bid requirements, except that its bid was way below the Ilijan price. Thus, the PNOC did not accept FGC's bid and re-advertised the sale on August 8, but no company signified its interest to bid.</p> <p>Lista said that the PNOC Management is open to other possible ways to dispose of and monetize its banked gas, including entering into a negotiation with interested parties.</p> <p>FGC Vice President Jerome Cainglet stated that FGC's offer of US\$3.48 per petajoules will allow PNOC to generate an estimated US\$225 million if contracted starting August 2018 to February 2024, the year when the exploration of the Malampaya gas field in northwest Palawan will expire. The offered price will also provide lower electricity rates for consumers, he added.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Evelina Escudero (1st District, Sorsogon) enjoined the PNOC to exert its utmost effort to dispose the banked gas to lower electricity prices.</p> <p>Rep. Uybarreta requested the DOE, PNOC, and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management</p>

Continuation... Energy				(PSALM) Corporation to come up with new and workable guidelines on the sale of the banked gas that would benefit both the government and the consumers.
Ways and Means	HB 422	Rep. Quimbo	Establishing the fiscal regime and revenue sharing arrangement for large-scale metallic mining	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1 st District, Nueva Ecija), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the bills, with HB 7994 as the working draft.
	HB 7994	Rep. Suansing (E.)	Amending Chapter VII Title VI and Section 151, and creating new Sections 151-A and 151-B, of RA 8424, otherwise known as the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997, as amended (by establishing a rationalized and single fiscal regime applicable to all mineral agreements and retaining the imposition of corporate income tax on the mining sector, among others)	<p>At the outset, Rep. Suansing, who is also the author of HB 7994, said that her bill seeks to address the current complex and differentiated fiscal regime governing the mining sector. She proposes a rationalized and single fiscal regime that will be applicable to all existing and prospective large metallic, non-metallic and small-scale mineral agreements, regardless of whether the mines are located within or outside a mineral reservation.</p> <p>Chamber of Mines of the Philippines Executive Director Ronald Recidoro objected to HB 7994, explaining that the imposition of royalty rates and additional government share above the taxes already imposed under the NIRC will not be competitive for business and will discourage investors in the mining industry.</p> <p>Apex Mining Co., Inc. President and Corporate Executive Officer (CEO) Walter Brown proposed that prior to imposing new tax measures, a definitive study on the matter should be conducted first, taking into consideration the cost structure of the different mining companies.</p> <p>Department of Finance (DOF) Assistant Secretary Ma. Teresa Habitan asserted that as owner of the mineral resources, the State is entitled to collect taxes, royalties, and other forms of impositions. Habitan added that a rationalized and single fiscal regime applicable to all mineral agreements will level the playing field and complement the recently enacted Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law.</p> <p>Rep. Horacio Suansing Jr. (2nd District, Sultan Kudarat) noted that the Philippine's effective tax rate of 14.7% on the mining sector is still much lower as compared to Chile's 21%. Thus, he thinks that the country's tax rates can still be increased reasonably.</p> <p>Effective tax rate describes the amount of taxes paid by a company relative to its gross profit.</p>
Youth and Sports Development	HB 6420	Rep. Belaro	Preserving the indigenous games of the Philippines	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Conrado Estrella III (Party-List, ABONO), approved HB 6420 with amendments.</p> <p>Rep. Salvador Belaro (Party-List, 1-ANG EDUKASYON), author of HB 6420, underscored the need to preserve the indigenous games in the country such as <i>sepak takraw</i> as part of its rich cultural heritage and to ensure that future generations of Filipinos will still be able to enjoy these games.</p>

Continuation... Youth and Sports Development				<p>Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) Chair William Ramirez expressed support for the bill and suggested the inclusion of the local government units (LGUs) as implementors of the proposed law given that indigenous sports are specific to a region or province.</p> <p>Under the bill, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCAA), in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd), shall be mandated to implement the law.</p> <p>In addition, the Committee also agreed to involve the PSC and the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) in the implementation of the proposed law.</p>
	HB 7443	Rep. Mangaoang	Establishing the Kalinga Sports Training Center to be located in the City of Tabuk, Province of Kalinga and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved HB 7443 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Kalinga Rep. Allen Jesse Mangaoang, author of HB 7443, conveyed that the proposed Kalinga Sports Training Center in Tabuk City would serve as the primary sports training center for both professional and amateur athletes, coaches and other sports personnel in the province and its neighboring provinces.</p> <p>The PSC expressed support for the bill and assured that the Commission can provide the necessary technical support for the establishment of the said sports center.</p>
	HB 7470	Rep. Roa-Puno	Protecting the right of athletes to serve the Philippines as part of the national team	<p>The Committee agreed to come up with a draft substitute bill to incorporate the recommendations of the resource persons.</p> <p>Rep. Cristina "Chiqui" Roa-Puno (1st District, Antipolo City), author of HB 7470, expressed that her bill recognizes the right of eligible athletes to try out for and train with the national team and represent the country in international sports competitions. The bill also provides that it is the obligation of employers, educational institutions, athletic associations, sports organizations and clubs to allow and support their athletes in the latter's desire to be part of the national team.</p> <p>Representatives from the following government agencies expressed support for the bill: PSC; Games and Amusements Board (GAB); Commission on Higher Education (CHED); Department of Justice (DOJ); and Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). Private associations such as the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) and the Women's National Collegiate Athletic Association (WNCAA) also expressed their support for the bill.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill.</p>