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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. w/ Agriculture and Food	HBs 141, 2464, 3537 & 3883	Rep. Noel, Deputy Speakers Yap, Garin, and Escudero	Revitalizing the coconut industry, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Joint Committee, co-presided by Rep. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan (1st District, South Cotabato), Chair of the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization, and Rep. Wilfredo Caminero (2nd District, Cebu), Vice Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Food, approved HBs 141, 2464, 3537, and 3883 and directed the Secretariat to prepare a substitute bill.</p> <p>Among the agreements reached during the meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To amend the composition of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) Board based on the final version of the Coco Levy bill; and To include a provision that will mandate the PCA to come up with integrated programs that will link the coconut producers with the manufacturing sectors for the development of various processed coconut product lines that will shield coconut farmers from fluctuations of copra prices in the world market. <p>Deputy Speaker Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), author of HB 3537, expressed her support to the amendment of the composition of the PCA Board.</p>
Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. w/ Transportation	Substitute Bill to HBs 7306, 6327, 4114, 7047 & 7165	Reps. Alvarez (P.), Pimentel, Dalipe, Relampagos, and Aumentado	Creating the Philippine Airport Development Corporation and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Joint Committee, co-presided by Rep. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan (1st District, South Cotabato), Chair of the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization, and Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, Chair of the Committee on Transportation, approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to the five bills.</p> <p>One of the agreed amendments was to exclude the Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority (MCIAA) from among the existing airport authorities that shall be abolished as originally provided for in the bill, on the ground that MCIAA is operating profitably and efficiently.</p>
	HB 7788	Rep. Bataoil	Providing for the creation of the Lingayen Gulf International Transshipment Port Development Authority in the Municipality of Lingayen, Province of Pangasinan,	<p>The Joint Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune HB 7788 and to conduct extensive consultations with stakeholders that will help in preparing a feasibility study to support the bill.</p>

Continuation... Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. w/ Transportation			defining its powers and functions and appropriating funds therefor	<p>Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2nd District, Pangasinan), author of HB 7788, said that the Lingayen Gulf is the most feasible relocation area for the already congested Manila International Container Terminal (MICT) given its close proximity to the West Philippine Sea, which is a major shipping lane for trade and commerce.</p> <p>On the part of the Export Development Council (EDC), Maria Cherrylyn Rodolfo, member of the EDC Networking Committee on Transport and Logistics, said that the EDC supports the intent of the bill but promised to submit its formal position paper after completing its review of the details of the bill.</p>
Housing and Urban Development	HB 4886	Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo	Establishing a Unified Housing and Urban Development Fund and a Centralized Home Financing Program, amending for the purpose RA 7835, otherwise known as the "Comprehensive and Integrated Shelter Financing Act (CISFA) of 1994"	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental), will deliberate further on HB 4886 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Director Angelito Aguila of the Policy Development, Legislation and Special Projects Group, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), expressed support for the passage of the bill.</p> <p>Rep. Benitez inquired on the status of implementation of CISFA since its enactment in 1994. Aguila replied that CISFA has effectively served the purpose for which it was established. On the other hand, Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Association, Inc. (CREBA) national president Charlie Gorayeb said that while CISFA has provided substantial funds for housing, he is uncertain whether it was fully implemented.</p> <p>Executive Assistant to the National Treasurer Ma. Reina Cuarez expressed support to the establishment of a unified housing fund and a Centralized Home Financing Program (CHFP), as espoused in the bill, saying that this will improve efficiency and eliminate redundancy in the government's efforts at solving the country's housing problems.</p> <p>On the query of Baguio City Rep. Mark Go if the concerned agencies will be capable to sustain the initial funding for the CHFP under the proposed law, resource persons from the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) or the Pag-IBIG Fund and the Social Security System (SSS) answered in the affirmative, but conveyed that for the overall implementation of the program, their income from service fees may be insufficient.</p> <p>On the other hand, Atty. Brianna Kay delos Santos of the Legal Division, Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), expressed reservation on the tax exemptions provided for under the measure and the use of housing bonds and other similar instruments issued by the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC) as payment for taxes. According to De Los Santos, tax payments should always be made in cash.</p>

Continuation... Housing and Urban Development				The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) informed the Committee that it is still double checking if the unutilized portion of the agri-agra funds of banks will be enough to be tapped as one of the sources of funds for the CHFP.
	HB 8255	Speaker Macapagal- Arroyo	Allocating 71 hectares of the Manggahan Floodway Socialized Housing Project site in Taytay, Rizal, for disposition to qualified beneficiaries	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 8255.</p> <p>Rep. Benitez said that the bill was filed in view of the non-implementation of Presidential Proclamation No. 958 which, after 24 years from its issuance, has not resulted in the awarding and distribution of lots in Manggahan to qualified beneficiaries.</p> <p>Rep. Edgar Erice (2nd District, Caloocan City) suggested that the local government units (LGUs) be tasked to award lots to qualified beneficiaries and for the National Housing Authority (NHA) to render technical assistance.</p> <p>In turn, Taytay, Rizal Mayor George Ricardo Gacula II proposed that the LGUs be given full authority to fast-track the awarding of lots as there are now 700 ready recipients in his municipality.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City) suggested that the lots be sold to qualified beneficiaries at a low price of P1,500 per square meter.</p> <p>Rep. Michael John "Jack" Duavit (1st District, Rizal) expressed support for the bill and proposed that safeguards against syndicated squatting be strengthened.</p> <p>Rep. Benitez requested the HUDCC and the NHA to spearhead the creation of a task force that will develop a plan for the disposition of the Manggahan Floodway Socialized Housing Project.</p>
Labor and Employment	HBs 156, 661, 662, 2233, 4629 & 5728	Former Rep. Aglipay-Villar, Rep. Elago, former Rep. Roque (H.), Reps. Revilla, Nieto, and Vargas	Ensuring the welfare and protection of business process outsourcing (BPO) workers in the Philippines	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Randolph Ting (3rd District, Cagayan), will deliberate further on the six bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Arlene Brosas (Party-List, GABRIELA) sponsored HB 661 on behalf of Rep. Sarah Jane Elago (Party-List, KABATAAN). Rep. Brosas said that HB 661 seeks to ensure the welfare and protection of the rights of BPO workers by mandating their regularization, providing them medical benefits upon hiring, providing for standardized restrooms breaks, and respecting their right to self-organization and to engage in collective bargaining.</p> <p>Mylene Cabalona, spokesperson of the BPO Industry Employees Network (BIEN), along with other members of BIEN, expressed support for the bills, as they cited certain practices and instances wherein their rights as workers are violated.</p> <p>Rep. Makmod Mending Jr. (Party-List, AMIN) highlighted the importance of striking a balance</p>

Continuation... Labor and Employment				<p>between protecting the interests of BPO workers and promoting the development of the BPO industry considering its significant contribution to the country's economy.</p> <p>The Committee requested the Information Technology and Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP) to submit a sample contract of employment from the top five BPO companies in the country.</p>
	HB 2225	Rep. Mangudadatu (Z.)	Increasing the night shift premium pay in BPO firms in the Philippines	<p>The Committee deferred consideration of HB 2225 pending the submission of position papers by the stakeholders.</p> <p>Rep. Mending sponsored HB 2225 on behalf of the author, Rep. Zajid Mangudadatu (2nd District, Maguindanao). Rep. Mending said that the proposed measure aims to increase the night shift differential from 10% to 25% of the BPO workers' basic pay for work performed during the graveyard shift or from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.</p> <p>Deputy Executive Director Patricia Hornilla of the National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), expressed support for the proposed law, but she cautioned that it might serve as a precedent for employees of other industries to also request a similar increase in their night shift differential.</p> <p>The Committee requested the IBPAP to submit data on the demography of BPO workers.</p>
Natural Resources	HR 1585	Rep. Jalosjos	Condemning the illegal logging activities in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte which caused massive forest denudation, resulting in the heavy toll on lives and severe damage to farms and properties during the onslaught of the recent Typhoons Urduja and Vinta	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rodrigo Abellanos (2nd District, Cebu City), will continue its discussion on the issues raised in HRs 1585 and 1798 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, author of HR 1798, decried the unabated illegal logging in his province which he attributes to lack of enforcement of forestry and other environmental laws and possible collusion between illegal loggers and some government personnel.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento cited an illegal logging case in Catanduanes wherein two men were apprehended and charged for illegally transporting several pieces of lumber without the required documents. The truck that was used to transport the lumber is registered under the name of a private company. However, Rep. Sarmiento said that the cases against the two men were considered closed when they pleaded guilty in court, without any follow-up operations or investigations to determine who else might be held liable.</p> <p>According to Rep. Sarmiento, by not conducting follow-up operations in relation to the case, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) fell short of performing its mandate to stop illegal logging, and there is a</p>
	HR 1798	Rep. Sarmiento (C.)	Inquiry into the proliferation of illegal logging activities in Catanduanes and in other provinces nationwide	

Continuation... Natural Resources				<p>clear indication of collusion between the illegal loggers and government men.</p> <p>Atty. Claire Jamero of the Legal, Administrative and Finance Support Staff, Forest Management Bureau (FMB), explained that the DENR is experiencing difficulties in pursuing similar cases because of lack of funds and manpower. On the comment that the truck's owner should have been charged as well, Jamero reasoned out that it could not be done because the owner was not in the same area where the two men were arrested.</p> <p>Rep. Joseph Stephen Paduano (Party-List, ABANG LINGKOD) and Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2nd District, Pangasinan) asserted that there is no legal impediment in filing charges against the truck owners. Both urged the DENR to proceed with the filing of the case and leave the appreciation of evidences to the courts.</p> <p>The Committee will invite in its next meeting the Secretary of DENR, representatives from the Department of Justice, Supreme Court, Philippine National Police, and other personalities involved in the said illegal logging case in Catanduanes. The DENR was also requested to submit a report, including a printed satellite image, on the status of the country's forest cover.</p>
Transportation	HB 149	Rep. Del Mar	Establishment and construction of a second runway at the Mactan-Cebu International Airport (MCIA) with its concomitant access taxiways and rapid exit taxiways (RET), runway lighting systems, and navigational/landing equipment, and appropriating funds thereof	The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, approved HB 149.
	HBs 2274 & 8289	Reps. Gonzales (A.D.) and Marcoleta	Renaming Clark International Airport located in Angeles City, Pampanga as Diosdado Macapagal International Airport	The Committee approved HBs 2274 and 8289. The Secretariat was directed to consolidate the measures and prepare the corresponding Committee Report.
	HB 8170	Rep. Del Mar	Amending RA 6958 changing the word Mactan appearing therein to Lapu-Lapu, repealing the name of the authority from Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority (MCIAA) to Lapu-Lapu-Cebu International Airport Authority (LCIAA), and repealing correspondingly the name of the airport from Mactan-Cebu International Airport (MCIA) to Lapu-Lapu-Cebu International Airport (LCIA)	The Committee approved HB 8170.
	HBs 7384, 7404 & 8107	Reps. Uy (J.), Dy, and Aumentado	Converting the satellite office of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) located in the Municipality of Initao, Province of Misamis Oriental, in Cauayan City, Province of Isabela, and in the Second District of the Province of Bohol into regular LTO district offices and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the three bills.

Continuation... Transportation	HB 7700	Rep. Acosta-Alba	Establishing the LTO district office in Manolo Fortich, Province of Bukidnon and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 7700.
	HB 8103	Rep. Almonte	Establishing an extension office of the LTO in the Municipality of Calamba, Province of Misamis Occidental and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 8103.
	HBs 8114 & 8207	Reps. Estrella and Gonzales (A.P.)	Converting the LTO extension office located in the Municipality of Rosales, Province of Pangasinan and in Mandaluyong City into regular LTO district offices and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HBs 8114 and 8207.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 497, 1278 & 7655	Reps. Nograles (K.A.), Manalo, and Alejano	Providing open pilotage services in the country, creating a Pilotage Board, enhancing the powers of the Philippine Ports Authority and other port bodies in regulating pilotage services and the conduct of harbor pilots	The Committee deferred consideration of the Substitute Bill to HBs 497, 1278 and 7655 pending the submission of the official position papers from the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Games and Amusement (Technical Working Group)	HB 2958	Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo	Creating an Amusement Parks Safety Board	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL), agreed to consolidate and harmonize the three bills.
	HB 6424	Rep. Siao	Requiring operators of amusement or theme parks and adventure or extreme sports facilities to institutionalize safety measures and secure comprehensive general liability insurance coverage for their clients	Rep. Batocabe said that the three bills seek to set higher safety standards and measures in the operation of amusement or theme parks for the protection of the public. The creation of an Amusement Park Safety Board is also being proposed under HBs 2958 and 7076 to serve as the single national government agency to oversee and regulate the operation of these establishments.
	HB 7076	Rep. Alejano	Creating the Amusement Industry Safety Board thereby strengthening the amusement parks and rides industry, instituting safety standards and providing funds therefor	The Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Bureau of Fire Protection, and the Insurance Commission, expressed support for the bills. Likewise, business groups such as the Philippine Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (PhilAAPA) and the Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association (PIRA) gave their support but also presented their respective comments and recommendations on the bills. PhilAAPA Executive Director Ricky Tamparong suggested that the proposed regulatory body be placed under the supervision of the DOT. PIRA Executive Director Michael Rellosa emphasized the importance of a third party liability coverage in the insurance portfolio of amusement parks to

Continuation... Games and Amusement (Technical Working Group)				<p>protect them from personal injury claims which may entail a huge financial compensation for the injured party.</p> <p>On the other hand, Assistant Director Ma. Lourdes Aganon of the Organization, Position Classification and Compensation Bureau, Department of Budget and Management (DBM), said that there is no need to create a safety board because the function being contemplated on is already provided for in the Local Government Code of the Philippines (RA 7160). Under the law, local government units (LGUs) are empowered to regulate the operations of amusement or theme parks and to issue the necessary permit to operate.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective recommendations on the bills for consideration by the TWG.</p>
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PUBLIC HEARING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples	<p><i>Motu proprio</i> inquiry into the alleged intrusion of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) into the ancestral domain of the Aeta communities in Porac, Pampanga</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Kalinga Rep. Allen Jesse Mangaoang, held a public hearing in Barangay Cangatba, Municipality of Porac, Pampanga on October 9 to discuss the alleged intrusion of the BCDA into the ancestral domain of the Aeta communities in Porac, Pampanga.</p> <p>Municipal Councilor Edwin Abuque, who represents the IP sector in the Porac Municipal Council, explained that the main issue between the Aeta communities and the BCDA is the absence of free and prior informed consent (FPIC) or any legal instrument that will support BCDA's use of the land that, according to the Aetas, falls within their ancestral domain.</p> <p>Rep. Mangaoang presented to the body a map showing the ancestral land allegedly encroached into by the BCDA.</p> <p>Porac Mayor Condralito dela Cruz and Porac Aeta Ancestral Domain (PAAD) chair Roman King also lamented that, as of this date, the Land Registration Authority (LRA) has not yet issued the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) to the Aetas in Porac.</p> <p>Atty. Ethel Rigadio, representative of the LRA, said that the LRA can only issue the CADT once the conflict between the BCDA and the Aetas has been resolved.</p> <p>Aside from Rep. Mangaoang, Rep. Nancy Catamco (2nd District, North Cotabato) also attended the public hearing.</p> <p>Representatives from the BCDA, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), local government officials, members of Aeta communities, and other stakeholders were also present during the hearing.</p>

DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Transportation	Discussion on the implementation of the Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program (PUVMP)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, will continue its discussion on the status of implementation of the PUV Modernization Program in its next meeting.</p> <p>Department of Transportation (DOTr) Assistant Secretary Mark Richmond de Leon said the PUV Modernization Program features regulatory reforms and sets new guidelines for the issuance of franchise for road-based public transport services to reinforce regulatory supervision of PUVs.</p> <p>De Leon said that one of the major components of the program is route rationalization, wherein the local government units (LGUs) are required to submit their respective local public transport route plan (LPTRP) to determine the appropriate mode, quantity and service characteristics of the public transport service in their respective localities. The route rationalization plan will make the routes more responsive to passenger demand and ensure that modes of transportation are being followed prior to the granting of PUV franchises within their jurisdiction.</p> <p>Another component of the PUV Modernization is the upgrading of the current PUV fleet to newer and environmentally-compliant units for the benefit of the commuters and the environment. De Leon added that the program also encourages industry consolidation or the strategic merging of smaller transport industry players to form into a consortium either by forming cooperatives or corporations. A special loan program with the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) will enable PUV operators and drivers to access credit facilities for the upgrading of their vehicles, De Leon further said.</p> <p>Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Chair Martin Delgra III reported that the LTFRB decreased the number of franchises that it issued to PUVs since last year due to the partial implementation of the route rationalization plan in some areas in the country.</p> <p>Representatives of the various public transport organizations lamented the undue haste in implementing the PUV Modernization Program without giving consideration to the plight of the PUV operators and drivers who will have to bear the cost of upgrading their vehicles. According to them, they are willing to comply with the requirements of the program but they are asking for enough time to cope with the changes.</p> <p>Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur) asked if the DOTr is willing to postpone the implementation of the program. Delgra insisted that the program will proceed as planned, but the LTFRB will also conduct continuous dialogues with the stakeholders.</p> <p>The Committee requested the representatives from various public transport groups to submit their comments and proposals on the PUV Modernization Program. Likewise, the DOTr and LTFRB were instructed to submit the documents requested by the Committee Members.</p>