

Committee Daily Bulletin

17th Congress
Third Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. III No. 92
March 19, 2019

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Youth and Sports Development (Technical Working Group)	HB 9099 (in substitution of HBs 8403 & 8778)	Reps. Alejano and Villafuerte	Expanding the functions of the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), amending for the purpose RA 6847, otherwise known as the PSC Act	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Committee Secretary Esthenellie Solis-Allaga, will meet again to discuss further HB 9099 and the corresponding Committee Report in its next meeting.</p> <p>The Committee Secretary explained that upon the instruction of the Committee Chair, Rep. Conrado Estrella III (Party-List, ABONO), the TWG was convened to introduce possible amendments to the proposed law before submission to the Plenary.</p> <p>The members of the TWG adopted the Senate version's short title of the proposed law, which reads as "The Expanded Philippine Sports Commission Act of 2019."</p> <p>They likewise agreed to expand the functions of the PSC under Section 7 of RA 6847 by adding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify, train, and develop persons who have the potential to excel in sports; • To initiate, encourage, and facilitate research and development in relation to sports science and sports medicine; • To provide sports medicine services and sports science services to persons participating in programs of the Commission; and • To cooperate with national and international sporting organizations in fostering an ethical sporting environment that is free from the unsanctioned use of performance enhancing drugs and other doping methods in compliance with the World Anti-Doping Authority (WADA). <p>The TWG asked the PSC to submit the list of sports facilities that are under its full control and management.</p> <p>The TWG's next meeting will be on April 22.</p>

BRIEFING/ORIENTATION		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Agriculture and Food	Implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA 10969 or the "Free Irrigation Service Act"	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jose Panganiban Jr. (Party-List, ANAC-IP), organized an orientation on the IRR of RA 10969 on March 18 in Tagbilaran City, Bohol as part of its oversight function.</p> <p>House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga) said that apart from legislating laws, Congress' other function is to ensure that laws are properly implemented.</p> <p>Other House Members present in the event were Deputy Speaker Arthur Yap (3rd District, Bohol) and Rep. Rene Relampagos (1st District, Bohol).</p> <p>Also present were the local officials of the Province of Bohol led by Bohol Governor Edgar Chatto, National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Administrator Ricardo Visaya, and the regional directors of NIA and the Department of Agriculture (DA).</p> <p>NIA's Institutional Development Division Manager Leo Gallego conducted the orientation on the law's IRR, highlighting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope of the free irrigation system – all farmers with landholdings of eight hectares and below are exempted from paying irrigation service fees for water derived from NIA's national irrigation systems (NIS) and communal irrigation systems (CIS); • Condonation and writing off of loans, past due accounts, and penalties of farmers and irrigators associations – all unpaid irrigation service fees and the corresponding penalties of qualified farmers and irrigators associations to NIA are written off from the books of NIA; • Operation and maintenance of the NIS – NIA shall continue to develop, operate, and maintain the NIS; and • Operation and maintenance of the CIS – irrigators associations shall continue to operate and maintain the CIS. <p>An open forum followed after NIA's presentation, which allowed the national and local government officials to answer the queries of the farmer groups which participated in the event.</p> <p>In closing, Rep. Panganiban said that Congress continues to find ways to reduce the cost of production of palay through legislative measures like the Free Irrigation Service Act.</p> <p>Once fully implemented, the law will reduce the cost of agricultural crops and relieve the farmers and irrigators' associations from the burden and consequence of unpaid irrigation service fees.</p>