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COMMITTEE MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Poverty Alleviation	Substitute Bill to HB 6060	Rep. De Jesus	Promoting entrepreneurship and livelihood for sustainable development, amending for the purpose RA 11310, otherwise known as the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Act	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Dale "Along" Malapitan (1st District, Caloocan City), approved the Substitute Bill and the corresponding Committee Report subject to style.</p> <p>Based on the technical working group (TWG) report on HB 6060, the 4Ps will be expanded to include the grant of subsidy for the electricity consumption of 4Ps households in order for them to venture into livelihood and entrepreneurship activities with lesser cost. However, only those who have already attended two seminars on livelihood and entrepreneurship will be qualified for the electricity subsidy.</p> <p>Rep. Sergio Dagooc (Party-List, APEC), Chair of the TWG on HB 6060, said that the purpose of the proposed law is to help the 4Ps beneficiaries to eventually graduate from the program and earn their own income.</p>
	HB 5249	Rep. Zarate	Granting 50% discounts on funeral services to indigent families and granting free funeral services to extremely poor families nationwide, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to draft the substitute bill to HB 5249, taking into consideration the comments and suggestions of the Members and the resource persons.</p> <p>Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA), author of HB 5249, said that granting a 50% discount or free funeral service for dead members of indigent or extremely poor families is a much-needed assistance that should be extended to them by the government especially at this time of pandemic.</p> <p>Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Director Wilma Naviamos expressed her support for the bill. She recommended to make the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) as the lead implementing agency instead of the DSWD. She explained that the DSWD's current burial assistance under the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) Program is only an augmentation measure for local government units (LGUs) with insufficient funds for burial or funeral service assistance.</p> <p>DILG Undersecretary Ricojudge Janvier Echiverri interposed no objection to the bill. However, he does not agree to Naviamos' proposal to designate the DILG as the lead implementer of the proposed law. He explained that the DILG's role should be limited to just the coordination and supervision of LGUs with regard to the implementation of the proposed law.</p>

Continuation... Poverty Alleviation				<p>The League of Cities of the Philippines expressed support for the bill and concurred with the statement of Undersecretary Echiverri.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the Philippine Mortuary Association expressed its reservation on the proposed bill saying that it would be detrimental to the viability of smaller funeral homes. The association, however, stated that a lower discount of say 20% may be acceptable to its members.</p> <p>Rep. Zarate said that the cost of discounts may be reimbursed by the funeral homes from any of the regional offices of the DSWD, being the implementing agency of the proposed law. He also reiterated that the 50% discount will only be granted to the poorest of the poor.</p> <p>Rep. Dagooc recommended to look into which LGUs have the financial capacity or lack of it to implement the proposed law, in order to come up with a classification in the draft substitute bill as to which LGUs will be under the DSWD's responsibility.</p>
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DEFEAT COVID-19 AD HOC COMMITTEE (DCC) MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Defeat COVID-19 Ad Hoc Committee (DCC)	Substitute Bill to HB 6795	Rep. Cua	Providing for Government Financial Institutions Unified Initiatives to Distressed Enterprises for Economic Recovery (GUIDE)	<p>The Defeat COVID-19 Ad Hoc Committee (DCC), presided by Majority Leader Ferdinand Martin Romualdez (1st District, Leyte), approved the Substitute Bill to HB 6795 and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Majority Leader Romualdez underscored the need to address the liquidity and solvency problems of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) which are critical to economic recovery. "We must move swiftly to encourage their continued operations and maintain employment levels," the Majority Leader added.</p> <p>The DCC, with House Speaker Alan Peter "Compañero" Cayetano (1st District, Taguig City-Pateros) as chairperson and the Majority Leader as co-chairperson, was created on March 23 to monitor and coordinate government response to the pandemic and to craft legislations to address its effects on the people, economy, labor and industry.</p> <p>Quirino Rep. Junie Cua, author of HB 6795, said that the proposed GUIDE Law seeks to capacitate the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), and the Philippine Guarantee Corporation (PGC) by increasing their paid-up capital in order for them to expand support to the credit needs of the MSMEs and other strategically important enterprises during the time of pandemic. According to Rep Cua, the amount of P55 billion shall be appropriated to the LBP (P35 billion); DBP (P15</p>

Continuation... Defeat COVID-19 Ad Hoc Committee (DCC)				billion); and PGC (P5 billion) as additional paid-up capital for the purpose of lending to qualified MSMEs. Rep. Cua said that the aggregate amount will have a multiplier effect of 10 times the investment which is achievable between one and two years based on empirical studies, thereby producing about P600 billion within the said period.
	Substitute Resolution to HRs 836, 843, 878, 893, 894, 895 & 932	Rep. Salo, Deputy Speaker Arenas, Reps. Tan (A.), Suarez (A.), and Nieto	Expressing the highest appreciation and profound gratitude of the House of Representatives to all Filipino healthcare workers and frontliners who courageously and unselfishly render their services to the nation and across the globe in the fight against COVID-19	<p>The DCC adopted the Substitute Resolution to the seven resolutions and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Majority Leader Romualdez said that while the country strives to reboot the economy, it is incumbent upon the “representatives of the people” to formally recognize the gallantry of all Filipino healthcare workers and other frontliners here and abroad. “These faceless and nameless heroes have valiantly responded to the call of duty to save precious lives and spare the nation from the devastation caused by COVID-19,” he further said.</p> <p>Rep. Janette Garin (1st District, Iloilo), co-chair of the Health and COVID-19 Response Cluster of the DCC which deliberated on the resolutions, expressed the view that no amount of words of gratitude will be enough to compensate the service rendered by the healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. She added that aside from expressing gratitude to the healthcare workers, substantive measures, such as provision of cash allowances, are being initiated by the House of Representatives as a form of a reward to those who are in the frontlines.</p>

OTHER MATTERS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Economic Affairs	Chairperson's report on the Committee's accomplishments and on the recent series of webinars on "Build Back Better: Economic Resilience after COVID-19"	<p>The Committee listened to the report of its Chairperson, Rep. Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), on the Committee's accomplishments and on the recent series of webinars on "Build Back Better: Economic Resilience after COVID-19."</p> <p>Rep. Garin stated that the Committee's efforts were instrumental in the passage by the House of Representatives of the following bills on Third Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB 6815, which establishes an economic stimulus strategy for the country's growth and development in the aftermath of COVID-19, dubbed as the "Accelerated Recovery and Investments Stimulus for the Economy of the Philippines" or ARISE Philippines Act; • HB 300 in consolidation with HBs 399 and 1221, which amends the Foreign Investment Act of 1991; • HB 78 in consolidation with HBs 301, 346,403, 540, 1781 and 4176, which provides for the definition of public utility, further amending the Public Service Act, as amended; • HB 6430 in substitution of HBs 6163 and 6291, which provides for a reinvestment framework for Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) Sponsors, amending The Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) Act of 2009; • HB 6489, in substitution of HB 1419, which converts and

<p>Continuation... Economic Affairs</p>		<p>expands the Leyte Industrial Development Estate into the Leyte Ecological Industrial Zone Authority; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB 6654, in substitution of HBs 6162 and 6292, which reorganizes and converts the Insurance Commission into a collegial body. <p>Rep. Garin also gave a report on the Committee's series of webinars with the theme of "Build Back Better: Economic Resilience After COVID-19." The webinars were able to give the lawmakers a better perspective on the current situations and on what policy interventions should be legislated as the country moves forward to reviving the economy amid the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Invited during the webinars were former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Acting Secretary Karl Kendrick Chua, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Benjamin Diokno, Department of Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade, Department of Trade and Industry Undersecretaries Rafaelita Aldaba and Ceferino Rodolfo, Ayala Group of Companies Chair and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Asian Development Bank (ADB) Country Director Kelly Bird, World Bank Senior Economist Rong Qian, and national scientist Raul Fabella.</p> <p>Having listened to the insights of the resource speakers during the webinars, Rep. Garin said that the Committee now plans to come up with proposals on economic recovery for the next six months focusing on helping the various sectors of the country which were affected the most by the pandemic, among which are tourism, education, transportation, food service (restaurants), and local manufacturing. The policy proposals will be presented to the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) for its consideration.</p> <p>Reps. Stella Luz Quimbo (2nd District, Marikina City), Sol Aragones (3rd District, Laguna), and Rosanna "Ria" Vergara (3rd District, Nueva Ecija) underscored the importance of informing the people about the government's efforts in addressing the pandemic as well as of communicating data on COVID-19 in a way that can be better understood by the public. The lady lawmakers said that COVID-19 data, such as the number of cases and deaths, influence economic behavior.</p> <p>Rep. Mario Vittorio "Marvey" Mariño (5th District, Batangas) suggested that the Executive Department and Congress should first agree on how much money will be spent to stimulate the economy and on what programs will be funded so that Congress' efforts towards reviving the economy will not come to naught.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Francisco "Kiko" Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental), NEDA Undersecretary Rosemarie Edillon said that the newly created Task Group on Recovery has not yet discussed the ARISE Bill that the House of Representatives passed on Third Reading in June. Rep. Benitez requested NEDA to submit its position on the proposed law in relation to the Task Group on Recovery's objectives, to which Edillon agreed.</p> <p>The IATF created the Task Group on Recovery last week which will be headed by NEDA. The Task Group's objective is to restart economic and social activities, and at the same time, ensure a whole-of-society approach in responding to COVID-19.</p>
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