



Committee Daily Bulletin

18th Congress
Second Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. II No. 31
September 11, 2020

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Veterans Affairs and Welfare (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 702, 1921 & 5841	Reps. Biazon, Sy-Alvarado, and Cabochan	Mandating the use of proceeds from the development, lease, sale, or use of certain government properties for veterans' affairs	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Leonardo Babasa Jr. (2nd District, Zamboanga del Sur), terminated its deliberation on the Substitute Bill to HBs 702, 1921 and 5841. The bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Rep. Babasa said that the proposed law seeks to augment the regularly appropriated funds for veterans' pension and non-pension benefits by utilizing the proceeds from the development, lease, or use of government properties identified in the bill.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, author of HB 702, suggested the inclusion in the substitute bill of a provision allotting a big share of such proceeds to the proposed Veterans Welfare and Development Trust Fund. Likewise, he suggested that the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) should have absolute control over the administration of the identified properties.</p> <p>Upon the suggestion of Rep. Biazon, the TWG agreed that the identified government properties may be sold except properties which are declared heritage or historic sites and structures.</p> <p>On the other hand, Department of Foreign Affairs-Office of Asset Management and Support Services (DFA-OAMSS) Executive Director Gerardo Abiog opposed the inclusion of the properties given by the Japanese government to the Philippine government under the Reparation Agreement in the coverage of the proposed law. He explained that there are restrictions in the use of the properties under the Reparation Agreement. Likewise, based on existing jurisprudence, the subject properties are of "public dominion and must be used for the benefit of the Filipino people and not merely for a sector of the society."</p> <p>PVAO Undersecretary Ernesto Carolina stressed that the properties under the Reparation Agreement should be included in the bill to compensate the veterans who fought gallantly during World War II.</p> <p>On the motion of Rep. Manuel Cabochan III (Party-List, MAGDALO), author of HB 5841, the TWG agreed to still include the government properties in Japan, excluding the Fujimi property (which is not part of the Reparation Agreement). A provision will also be added stating that 35% of the proceeds from future income of these properties shall go to the proposed Veterans Welfare and Development Trust Fund.</p>

Comments, suggestions and requests for copies may be sent to the Committee Publication Staff, Committee Management Support Service I, 3rd Floor, Ramon V. Mitra, Jr. Bldg., House of Representatives, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, through cmss1.cad@house.gov.ph or at tel. nos. 8932-6118/8931-5001 local 7122. Also available at <http://www.congress.gov.ph>