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ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Creative Industry and Performing Arts (Special Committee)	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Christopher de Venecia (4th District, Pangasinan), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18th Congress was adopted.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. De Venecia said that the creative industry and performing arts have long been underappreciated, underdeveloped and sometimes ignored. Hence, the creation of this Special Committee was needed to address the problems of this sector. Rep. De Venecia said that the Committee, which was created on October 6, was a result of the advocacy of the Arts, Culture, and Creative Industries Bloc (ACCIB) in the House of Representatives. The objectives of the Committee and the ACCIB are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To introduce legislation that promotes the creative industry; • To file resolutions celebrating milestones and achievements of the sector; • To provide budgetary support to agencies that deal with creative industry and performing arts; • To undertake legislative oversight on existing laws and statutes pertaining to the sector; • To foster collaboration across agencies and stakeholders for more effective implementation of programs; and • To hear out the concerns of private and public sector stakeholders of the creative industry.
	<p>Briefing by concerned government agencies and private entities on the state of the creative industry in the Philippines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) • National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) 	<p>The Committee listened to the briefing conducted by concerned government agencies and private entities on the state of the creative industry in the Philippines.</p> <p>DICT Assistant Secretary Emmanuel Rey Caintic reported on the programs and initiatives done by the Department to assist the creative industry by way of providing support to information technology (IT), animation, and game development sectors. He said that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a need to re-assess the industry's growth projections and realign its strategic planning for the next three years. In this light, a roadmap recalibration study for 2020 is being undertaken to determine the new projections for the Animation and Game Development Sector.</p> <p>In terms of talent development and attraction, Caintic said that the DICT is in partnership with the IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP) and the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) in conducting trainings for animation, game development, and IT. This is on top of the webinars being conducted in partnership with the IT Business Process Management (IT-BPM). He said that the DICT also embarks on promoting the country as a world-class provider in animation services and even held the ICT Creative Awards to recognize outstanding Filipino artists in the field of animation and games development.</p> <p>NCCA Deputy Executive Director Marichu Tellano said that part of the mandate of the Commission is to provide strategic measures for the development of the creative industries in the country. As such, the NCCA undertakes the following: development and approval of the Philippine Cultural Statistics Framework by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA); conduct of international conferences on cultural</p>

<p>Continuation... Creative Industry and Performing Arts (Special Committee)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) • Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) • Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) • Creative Economy Council of the Philippines (CECP) • British Council 	<p>statistics and creative industries; development of goods and services; support to festivals; and building network and markets for the arts.</p> <p>NEDA Governance Staff Director Thelma Manuel presented the state of the creative industry in the Philippines. According to Manuel, both the government and the private sector have initiated efforts in advancing the creative industry. However, Manuel underscored the need to consolidate the policies and plans for the sector so as to establish the same in the formal economy.</p> <p>In terms of trade performance, DTI Undersecretary Rafaelita Aldaba reported that the Philippines is estimated to be a net exporter of both creative goods and services, with a total creative export value of \$4.2 billion in 2014. In South East Asia, the Philippines ranks fifth in the total creative exports and first in the creative services exports. Likewise, Albada said that the Philippines ranked 57th out of 130 countries in terms of creative outputs. She pointed out that the creative industry may provide important trade opportunities with strong potential to become a major contributor to the GDP. However, with the pandemic and the government's imposition of community quarantine, the Philippine creative industry is projected to suffer of up to 90% revenue losses this year as compared to last year.</p> <p>According to Aldaba, the DTI support programs for the creative industries include the provision of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives. The DTI also commissioned the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) to conduct an industry assessment to provide baseline information on the status of the creative industry toward data-driven and evidence-based approach to policy making. One of the deliverables from the PIDS study is a proposed bill on the creative industry to be submitted to the Committee as soon as possible.</p> <p>TESDA Policy Research and Evaluation Division Chief Katherine Zarsadias briefly discussed the agency's role in the creative industry. Zarsadias explained that TESDA is mandated to provide relevant, efficient, accessible, and high quality technical-vocational education and training (TVET) that is responsive to the country's development goals. She added that part of the competency standards and training regulations developed by TESDA include those for traditional arts and film/theater. The competency standards were formulated in partnership with the NCCA.</p> <p>Zarsadias also reported that TESDA has 561 programs or courses related to the creative industry with P1.2 million allotted for scholars in these programs. She agreed to work with the Committee to develop more programs as needed by the creative industry stakeholders. The Committee will conduct a separate meeting on this matter.</p> <p>Paolo Mercado, founder and president of the CECP, reported that in 2012, the creative industry contributed 6.52% of the country's GDP. He estimates that in 2019, there were 865,000 Filipinos working directly in this sector. He added that there are also thousands of freelancers working for overseas clients. To promote the development of the sector, Mercado sought the help of Congress in legislating a Creative Economy Act which will provide the policy framework for the creative industry.</p> <p>British Council's Arts Manager Marc Ocampo expressed support for the Philippine aspirations in developing its creative economy. According to Ocampo, the British Council's organization has been working in partnership with the DTI and the Design Center of the Philippines to help promote creative hubs in the country and make them more sustainable and impact-led. He said the creative hubs is sure to benefit the artists and creative entrepreneurs in the country.</p> <p>The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organization for cultural relations and educational opportunities.</p>
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<p>Continuation... Creative Industry and Performing Arts (Special Committee)</p>	<p>Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara (3rd District, Nueva Ecija) expressed concern over the brain drain of Filipino creative talents. She asked how the DICT is addressing this problem to ensure that talents are encouraged to stay and practice their craft in the country.</p> <p>Caintic said that the demand in the country for creative talents especially on animation is high. He admitted that students are being pirated abroad, since foreign companies can afford to provide them with better pay. Caintic added that one way to keep the creative workers in the country is to provide them the needed equipment so that the animators and game developers can render their work here.</p> <p>Rep. Vergara assured the DICT that the Committee will help get funding for the equipment. She asked Caintic to provide the Committee with the business plan or cost-benefit analysis for the purchase of these equipment.</p> <p>Rep. Vergara also inquired about the effect of the deteriorating quality of education especially in public schools and the slow and expensive digital services in the development of the creative industries.</p> <p>Aldaba replied that education is an essential element of the industry. He added that there is a need to adopt new technologies in the creative industry to be at par with the rest of the world. She further explained the importance of providing the physical infrastructure needed in achieving digitalization and addressing the digital divide throughout the country, saying that connectivity is only concentrated in highly urbanized areas.</p> <p>Rep. Stella Luz Quimbo (2nd District, Marikina City) stressed the importance of finding the right definition of the creative industry to develop a national accounting system for it. Aldaba commented that the DTI has to work with the PSA especially if some jobs will be reclassified as a result of this new system.</p>
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COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Natural Resources	HB 140	Rep. Roman	Reclassifying a parcel of the public domain located in the Municipalities of Dinalupihan and Hermosa, Province of Bataan as agricultural land open to disposition for commercial, residential, and other purposes	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. (4 th District, Cavite), approved HB 140 subject to compliance with the requirements set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on the reclassification of lands.
	HB 589	Rep. Mangaoang	Reclassifying a certain parcel of land in Barangay Talalang in the Municipality of Balbalan, Province of Kalinga as a mineral land open for declaration as a people's small-scale mining area, thereby segregating such land from the national park and from the tourism development area, amending for the purpose RA 6463 or the law declaring the Barrio of Balbalasang, Balbalan, Kalinga-Apayao as a tourist resort, setting aside certain portions of the public domain therein as a national park, and excluding further said land under the coverage of RA 10561 (declaring the Province of Kalinga as a tourism development area)	<p>The Committee approved HB 589.</p> <p>Kalinga Rep. Allen Jesse Mangaoang, author of HB 589, said that his bill seeks to reclassify a parcel of land of about 1,306 hectares in Sitio Gaang, Barangay Talalang into a mineral land, thereby segregating the area from the national park and from the tourism development area. He explained that this would encourage responsible mining, thus sustaining the livelihood and economic development of the area and at the same time preventing further degradation and encroachment of the National Park.</p> <p>The DENR-Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) expressed its support for the passage of HB 589.</p>

Continuation... Natural Resources	HB 965	Rep. Hofer	Declaring the Naga-Kabasalan Protected Landscape (NKPL) located in the Province of Zamboanga Sibugay as a protected area, providing for its management	<p>The Committee approved HB 965.</p> <p>Rep. Ann Hofer (2nd District, Zamboanga Sibugay), author of HB 965, explained that based on a 2006 assessment of the NKPL by the DENR and local authorities, the biological, physical and cultural resources in the area are at risk and may face severe damage and extinction in the near future if current economic destructive activities will be left unabated. Thus, her bill seeks to declare the NKPL as a protected area in order to provide proper management, conservation, protection and utilization of the natural resources within the protected area.</p> <p>The DENR expressed its support for the bill.</p>
	HB 3212	Rep. Angara	Establishing Aurora Memorial Protected Landscape (AMPL) in the Municipalities of Maria Aurora and San Luis, both in the Province of Aurora and in the Municipality of Bongabon, Nueva Ecija as a protected area, providing for its management	<p>The Committee approved HB 3212.</p> <p>Aurora Rep. Rommel Rico Angara, author of HB 3212, underscored the need to establish the AMPL as a protected area given its diverse ecosystem and economic and environmental importance as a crucial watershed (with the presence of springs and rivers) that provide potable water to adjacent localities.</p> <p>The DENR expressed its support for the bill.</p>
	HB 7419	Rep. Mangaoang	Declaring the Banao Protected Landscape situated in Barangays Balbalasang, Talalang, and Pantikian, all in the Municipality of Balbalan, Province of Kalinga, as a protected area under the category of protected landscape, providing for its management	<p>The Committee approved HB 7419.</p> <p>Rep. Mangaoang, author of HB 7419, underscored the need to declare the BPL also known as the Balbalasang-Balbalan National Park as a protected area to protect the park from further damage due to pollution, destructive human exploitations, and the effects of climate change. He said that a mechanism for protection and management should be established for the area which is also dubbed as the “green heart of the Cordillera”.</p> <p>The DENR-CAR expressed its support for the bill.</p>
	HBs 5189 & 7188	Rep. Deloso-Montalla	Declaring the Zambales watersheds and subwatersheds located in the Municipalities of Botolan, Iba, Palauig, Masinloc, Candelaria and Sta. Cruz in the Province of Zambales as protected areas under the category of protected landscapes to be known as the Zambales Protected Landscapes, providing for its management	<p>The Committee deferred consideration of the four bills to get the comments and positions of other stakeholders that will be affected by the proposed laws.</p> <p>Rep. Barzaga said that it is important to identify the sectors or groups that will be affected and to know their positions on the matter in order to accurately assess the possible implications of the proposed laws. He recommended that the authors should confer with the respective governors or officials of the provinces that will be covered by their bills.</p>
	HB 6557	Rep. Chungalao	Declaring the Mt. Pulag Protected Landscape in some portions of the Municipalities of Kabayan, Bokod and Buguias, all in the Province of Benguet; portions of Tinoc, Ifugao; and Kayapa, Nueva Vizcaya as a protected area under the category of protected landscape providing for its management	<p>The DENR and its concerned regional offices were requested to consolidate all the recommendations of the stakeholders that will be affected by the proposed bills and to</p>

Continuation... Natural Resources	HB 7501	Rep. Alvarez (P.)	Declaring the Pantaron Mountain Range as a protected area categorized as a national park and watershed, and providing for its management and administration	submit the same to the Committee.
Public Works and Highways	Substitute Bill to HBs 175, 238, 825, 923, 4008, 5605, 364, 1650, 1891, 723, 6820, 7334 and HRs 32 & 132	Reps. Tan (A.), Vargas, Deputy Speaker Gonzales (A.), Rep. Fernando, Deputy Speaker Romero, Reps. Momo, Yap (V.), Cabochan, Torres-Gomez, Suarez (D.), Villafuerte, and Pineda	Regulating the planning, design, construction, occupancy, maintenance, and demolition of buildings, promoting building resilience against earthquake, fire, flood, landslide, storm, volcanic eruption, and multiple hazards, enacting a new Philippine Building Act, thereby repealing PD 1096 and RA 6541	<p>The Committee, chaired by Romblon Rep. Eleandro Jesus Madrona, approved the Substitute Bill to the 14 measures.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Romeo Momo Sr. (Party-List, CWS), and head of the technical working group (TWG) that was tasked to fine-tune the proposed measure, said the proposed law promotes building resilience against earthquake, fire, flood, landslide, storm, volcanic eruption, and multiple hazards to avoid destruction of properties, injuries, and deaths.</p> <p>Rep. Sergio Dagooc (Party-List, APEC) recommended to include "utility cooperatives" in Section 14 paragraph 2 of the Substitute Bill, as among the entities whose easement or right-of-way should not be obstructed.</p> <p>The authors present said that they are amenable to the proposal of Rep. Dagooc.</p> <p>Rep. Adriano Ebcas (Party-List, AKO PADAYON) asked if the proposed law will have a retroactive application. The Chair said a prospective application will be adopted, otherwise numerous buildings will be affected.</p> <p>On the query of several Members if the position of the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP) was taken into consideration in the Substitute Bill, Rep. Madrona said yes. However, he clarified that not all of the recommendations were adopted so as not to affect the overall objectives of the proposed law.</p>
	HBs 731 & 6582	Reps. Dalog and Madrona	Converting the Maba-Ay-Abatan Road in Mt. Province and the Sablayan-Agpanabat-Bagacay Road in Romblon, respectively, into national roads and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HBs 731 and 6582. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Reports.
	HBs 3438, 3482, 3507, 3538, 4220, 4412, 6072, 6229, 6461, 6525 & 6665	Deputy Speaker Santos-Recto, Reps. Mariño, Garcia (V.), Acop, Haresco, Dy (F.), Mercado, Valmayor, Cuaresma, and Dujali	Creating/establishing district engineering offices in certain parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the 11 bills. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Reports.
	HB 5997, 6260 & 7813	Reps. Del Mar (dec.), Ty (D.), and Adiong	Renaming roads and bridges in certain parts of the country	The Committee approved the three bills. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Reports.

Continuation... Public Works and Highways	HB 6097	Rep. Salimbangon	Renumbering the Cebu First, Second, and Fourth District Engineering Offices to conform and correspond, respectively, with the numbering of the legislative districts in the Province of Cebu	The Committee approved HB 6097. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Human Rights (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 136, 4216, 4587, 4647, 4684, 5356, 5969, 6024, 6098 & 7217	Reps. Roman, Vargas, Abellanosa, Villafuerte, Majority Leader Romualdez, Reps. Castelo, Abante, Deputy Speakers Villanueva and Hernandez, and Rep. Tutor	Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Bill	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Jesus "Bong" Suntay (4th District, Quezon City), will deliberate further on the draft Substitute Bill to the 10 bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Geraldine Roman (1st District, Bataan), author of HB 136, was against the removal of sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression (SOGIE) from the list of sectors that shall be protected against discrimination under the proposed law. She said that this was not what was agreed upon in the previous meeting. According to Rep. Roman, the Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Bill would not be truly comprehensive if it does not explicitly provide protection to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community.</p> <p>Rep. Suntay said that the bill takes into consideration the inputs and positions of all stakeholders, including those of the religious community. He also pointed out that the inclusion of SOGIE in the proposed law might defeat the purpose of the SOGIE Equality Bill being deliberated on in the House Committee on Women and Gender Equality. He added that the bill, being an anti-discrimination measure, should be inclusive instead of being divisive.</p> <p>Rep. Domingo Rivera (Party-List, CIBAC) remarked that the inclusion of SOGIE as one of the grounds for determining discrimination will disregard the fact that 83% of the country's population consider religion to be very important and that they believe that homosexuality is a moral issue.</p> <p>In response, Rep. Roman told the TWG that human rights should not be treated as a "popularity contest" and that the State should seek to protect those who belong to the minority, who are in a greater danger of abuse and persecution. She also reminded her fellow lawmakers that the law and the State are non-sectarian and secular and should remain as such.</p> <p>Rep. Bienvenido Abante Jr. (6th District, Manila) is in favor of including SOGIE in the coverage of the bill to encompass all sectors of</p>

<p>Continuation... Human Rights (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>society, especially those where discrimination is prevalent. Thus, he said, there is no need to enact special laws prohibiting discrimination against certain groups of people. In the interest of equality, he said that the right of religious speech and expression be likewise protected, to which Rep. Roman agreed.</p> <p>Lighthouse Bible Baptist Church (BBC) Senior Pastor Reuben Abante said that the bill should not only be about equality but about equity as well. Pastor Abante, recognizing that the LGBTs belong to the marginalized sector of society, agreed that the LGBTs' rights should also be protected. He added that those who have less in life should have more in law.</p> <p>Coalition of Concerned Families of the Philippines (CCFP) lawyer Lyndon Caña likewise expressed his concern over the legal implications of the SOGIE-related provisions to a citizen's freedom of speech and expression.</p> <p>Expressing support for the proposed law were representatives from the Armed Forces of the Philippines Human Rights Office (AFP-HRO), National Housing Authority (NHA), Philippine National Police (PNP), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF), Commission on Human Rights (CHR), Presidential Human Rights Committee (PHRC), University of the Philippines (UP) College of Law, and International Alert-Philippines (IAP).</p>
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