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COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Climate Change	HR 1391	Rep. Chatto	Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives for the Government of the Republic of the Philippines to submit the first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on or before 31 December 2020	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Edgar Chatto (1st District, Bohol), will continue its discussions relative to HR 1391 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Chatto underscored the need to submit the NDC before December 31 to further demonstrate the country's commitment and leadership in advancing the global climate agenda in the spirit of equity, fair share, mutual trust, and confidence.</p> <p>The NDCs are commitments of what each country is planning to do in order to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, as well as adapt to climate change.</p> <p>In a Climate Vulnerable Forum event held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly on October 7, the leaders from the world's most climate vulnerable nations called on all countries to fulfil their commitments under the Paris Agreement, and submit improved NDCs by midnight on December 31, 2020, a survival deadline for the climate. This is to pressure countries to meet this year's NDC deadline agreed in Paris five years ago.</p> <p>Climate Change Commission (CCC) Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera highlighted the importance of the NDC. She explained that the NDC will communicate to the world the country's resolve to pursue low-carbon development as well as the support that the country needs from developed nations in terms of climate finance, capacity building and technology transfer in accordance with the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>She reported that 187 parties have already submitted their first NDC and that the Philippines is one of the three remaining countries that has not done so yet. However, she said that the following sectors already have their initial submissions relative to the NDC: transportation, energy, agriculture, waste, industrial processes and product use, and forestry sectors.</p> <p>In addition, the CCC is also working with the University of the Philippines' Electrical and Electronics Engineering Institute and the sectoral agencies to consolidate all sectoral models into an integrated economy-wide NDC model, Herrera said.</p>

<p>Continuation... Climate Change</p>				<p>Expressing their support to the measure were the DSWD, NEDA, CCC, ICSC, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP), and Aksyon Klima.</p> <p>DENR's Environmental Management Bureau Climate Change Division Chief Albert Magalang recognizes the importance of the submission of the country's NDC to the UNFCCC. However, he said that national government agencies such as the DENR have not been provided yet with the formal technical guidelines on the planning assumptions and parameters that will be included in the NDC.</p> <p>He explained that the NDC should reflect the needs of the people especially at this time of the pandemic, thus he said more time should be given in order to conduct the necessary consultations with sectoral constituencies and agree on a country-wide model that will be reviewed by cabinet members and approved by the President. Given this scenario, he said the country will be able to submit the NDC with confidence by March 2021.</p> <p>The DFA advised that if the country will not be able to comply by December 31, proper communication must already be forwarded to the Secretariat of the UNFCCC informing the latter that the Philippines will be submitting at a later date.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda (Antique) strongly urged the executive department to comply with the submission on or before December 31 so as not to lose the country's moral high ground on the issue. She said that not complying on time will not send a good message especially in encouraging developed nations, which are the major contributors of greenhouse gases, to further cut down on their emissions.</p> <p>ICSC Executive Director Renato Redentor Constantino concurred with the statement of Deputy Speaker Legarda and suggested that the country comply with the submission by December 31 and just update the submitted NDC next year.</p>
<p>Housing and Urban Development</p>	<p>Substitute Bill to HBs 157, 2417, 3035, 4280, 7008, 7215, 7269, 7292 & 7364</p>	<p>Reps. Belmonte, Castelo, Nieto, Deputy Speaker Pimentel, Reps. Villafuerte, Vargas, Deputy Speaker Rodriguez, Reps. Tambunting and Suansing (E.)</p>	<p>Establishing a rental housing subsidy program for informal settler families and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Strike Revilla (2nd District, Cavite), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to the nine bills.</p>
	<p>HB 366</p>	<p>Rep. Yap (V.)</p>	<p>Strengthening the vital role of information and communications technology (ICT), amending for the purpose pertinent</p>	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune HB 366.</p>

<p>Continuation... Housing and Urban Development</p>			<p>provisions of PD 957, otherwise known as the Subdivision and Condominium Buyers Protective Decree, as amended by PD 1216</p>	<p>Rep. Paul Ruiz Daza (1st District, Northern Samar) was designated as head of the TWG.</p> <p>Rep. Revilla said that the Constitution mandates the government to provide the policy environment for the emergence of telecommunications structures. He added that during this time of pandemic, the need for a reliable internet connectivity is much more emphasized. Hence, he said that the Committee will look for ways to address challenges that hinder improvements in the delivery of quality internet services in the country.</p> <p>Rep. Victor Yap (2nd District, Tarlac), author of HB 366, said that his bill would mandate housing developers to reserve utility space in subdivisions for telecommunications facilities and infrastructure, including cell sites and base stations.</p> <p>Rep. Jose Christopher Belmonte (6th District, Quezon City) noted that homeowners associations oppose the installation of ICT infrastructure within their subdivisions, and yet they complain about the lack of connectivity and the poor quality of service from the telecommunications companies (telcos). He advised to find a common ground between the need to install telecommunications facilities in subdivisions to speed up internet connectivity and the fears of homeowners on the alleged health hazards of cell towers.</p> <p>Expressing support for the bill were representatives from the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), National Housing Authority (NHA), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).</p> <p>DSHUD Housing and Real Estate Development Regulation Bureau Director Angelito Aguila noted that the proposed law dispenses with the consent of the homeowners associations (HOAs) in the establishment of telecommunications facilities inside subdivisions. However, he said this runs counter to the provision in RA 11032, or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018, which grants HOAs 30 days to give their consent or disapproval to telcos for the construction of telecommunications facilities.</p> <p>NEDA representative Marie Christine Danao suggested to clarify in the bill if the proposed reserve utility space is separate from the 30% reserved areas for open space in residential subdivisions required under Presidential Decree 1216.</p>
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<p><i>Continuation...</i> Housing and Urban Development</p>				<p>On the other hand, the resource persons from the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association (SHDA), the Organization of Socialized and Economic Housing Developers of the Philippines (OSHDP), and the Chamber of Real Estate Builders Associations Inc. (CREBA) manifested their reservations on the proposed law. They lamented that reserving a space for telecommunications facilities inside subdivisions will limit the space for housing and will entail additional costs, which will eventually be passed on to the buyers.</p> <p>CREBA Chairman Charlie Gorayeb also pointed out that just compensation should be given to developers for the reserved utility space.</p> <p>Globe Telecom Policy Division, Corporate and Legal Service Group head, Atty. Ariel Tubayan, and PLDT, Inc.'s Regulatory and Strategic Affairs head, Atty. Aileen Regio, expressed willingness to negotiate with subdivision developers on the amount of compensation for the establishment of telecommunication facilities in subdivisions.</p> <p>The Committee requested the resource persons to submit their respective position papers on HB 366.</p>
<p>Labor and Employment</p>	<p>HB 2476</p>	<p>Rep. Taduran</p>	<p>Providing enhanced protection, security, and benefits for media workers</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN), approved the Committee Report on HB 2476.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to submit the Committee Report to the Committee on Rules for Plenary consideration.</p> <p>Rep. Rowena Niña Taduran (Party-List, ACT-CIS), author of HB 2476, said that with the proposed law, media workers will be assured of just wages, security of tenure, entitlement to overtime, night shift differential, hazard pay, and insurance coverage.</p>
	<p>HB 2634</p>	<p>Rep. Mendoza</p>	<p>Instituting worker's claim as statutory first lien on the assets of the bankrupt employer, amending for this purpose Article 110 of PD 442, as amended, otherwise known as the Labor Code of the Philippines</p>	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 2634 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Raymond Democrito Mendoza (Party-List, TUCP), author of HB 2634, said that his bill seeks to give workers first lien (or the right to be paid first) on the assets of the bankrupt company to satisfy their money claims against the employer, including unpaid wages and benefits, before claims of the government and other creditors may be paid. He said that such money claims shall be paid in full even without formal declaration of bankruptcy or insolvency to prevent displaced workers and their families "from slipping into the quagmire of mere subsistence or poverty."</p> <p>Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) representative, Atty. Kenneth Aldwin Quejada, expressed support for the bill.</p>

Continuation... Labor and Employment				Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) Corporate Secretary Robert Francis Maronilla expressed concern on providing workers first lien without the formal declaration of bankruptcy. He explained that this already makes the company's properties open for disposal even if there is no situation of bankruptcy yet. Rep. Mendoza said that this matter could be further discussed with ECOP.
	HB 3532	Rep. Castelo	Granting cancer patients 30 days paid leave to undergo treatment of their disease and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee deferred its deliberation on HB 3532.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Sub Committee on Labor Relations (Labor and Employment)	Substitute Bill to HBs 1527, 2019, 3219, 3951 & 6132	Rep. Salceda, Vargas, Villanueva, De Venecia, & Yap (V.)	Providing protection for freelancers	<p>The Subcommittee, presided by Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN), approved the Substitute Bill with amendments. The Substitute Bill will be submitted to the mother Committee for consideration.</p> <p>Based on the substitute bill, the term "freelancer" refers to any person or entity that is hired or retained as an independent contractor to do work according to one's own methods without being subjected to the control of the hiring party, except only as to the results of the work, and is hired to provide services in exchange for compensation.</p> <p>The Subcommittee adopted the amendments proposed by Rep. Christopher de Venecia (4th District, Pangasinan), author of HB 3951, which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The night shift differential to be granted to freelancers shall not be less than 10% of their regular compensation for each hour of work performed between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., unless there is a more favorable fee stipulated in the contract. • The hazard pay to be granted to freelancers shall be equivalent to at least 25% of the total payment for the period of work deployment, unless there is a more favorable fee stipulated in the contract. • A new provision will be included mandating the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to submit a report one year after the effectivity of the proposed law and every second year thereafter, to the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resource Development and the House Committee on Labor and Employment, regarding the

Continuation... Sub Committee on Labor Relations (Labor and Employment)				<p>effectiveness of the proposed law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DOLE, in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry, Bureau of Internal Revenue, local government units, and other relevant agencies, shall initiate a program with the objective of informing freelancers of their rights and obligations under the proposed law, the proper procedure for registering as a taxpayer, and modes of legal redress.
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DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Climate Change	Briefing by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in relation to HR 1377 (Declaring a climate and environmental emergency and calling for the mobilization of government agencies and instrumentalities and local government units towards the effective implementation of environmental, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction and management laws)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Edgar Chatto (1st District, Bohol), listened to the presentation of the DENR on its plans and programs in relation to HR 1377, which was adopted by the House of Representatives on November 25 as HR 123.</p> <p>Rep. Chatto explained that while climate change triggers extreme weather conditions, not everything should be blamed on this phenomenon. He said that the Committee is working with all the relevant national government agencies and the local government units (LGUs), together with civil society organizations (CSOs), to identify the policy gaps with regard to environmental planning and climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p> <p>He also said that the purpose of declaring a climate and environmental emergency is to place climate urgency at the center of all policy decision-making from local to national level and to ensure enhanced and coherent climate actions in the executive and legislative agenda of the government.</p> <p>Expressing their support to the declaration of a climate and environmental emergency and the efforts to address the problem were the DENR, Departments of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Energy (DOE), Science and Technology (DOST), Agriculture (DA), Agrarian Reform (DAR), and Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Climate Change Commission (CCC), Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC), Greenpeace Philippines, and Aksyon Klima.</p> <p>DENR Undersecretary for Climate Change Service and Mining Concerns Analiza Rebueta-Teh informed the body that a task force (Build Back Better Task Force) was created by the President by virtue of Executive Order No. 120, series of 2020, to strengthen the rehabilitation and recovery efforts in typhoon-hit areas. She said that the priority areas include Cagayan Valley, Marikina, and the Bicol Region.</p> <p>She also briefly enumerated the key objectives of the task force which are to provide better and resilient infrastructures; stronger shelter and resilient settlement; improved system and essential services; sustainable livelihood; strengthened governance through broad-based citizen input; and intensified watershed management.</p> <p>Undersecretary Rebueta-Teh also mentioned the tasks of the Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk</p>

<p>Continuation... Climate Change</p>		<p>Reduction Cabinet Cluster (CCAM-DRR Cluster), a cross-departmental mechanism chaired by the DENR. The Cabinet Cluster serves as a venue and mechanism for coordination, harmonization, complementation, and synergy among departments and other government instrumentalities in delivering the national vision on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and disaster risk reduction.</p> <p>Based on the Environmental and Climate Emergency Action Plan, the priority policies and strategies for the environment and natural resources sector are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamlining the management of health care and infectious wastes, especially at the community and household levels; • Prioritizing the protection and conservation of natural resources especially in the degradation hotspots and critical ecosystems; and • Ensuring water security especially in COVID-19 pandemic affected areas. <p>Rep. Elisa "Olga" Kho (2nd District, Masbate) suggested that the CCC coordinate with the Department of Education (DepEd) on a program that will impart to the students, at an early age, the damaging effects of climate change and what practices should be adopted to help preserve the environment.</p>
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