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COMMITTEE MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food	HB 1007	Deputy Speaker Romero	Amending Section 27 of Chapter VIII of RA 7607, otherwise known as the Magna Carta of Small Farmers, increasing its penalties and administrative sanctions	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Wilfrido Mark Enverga (1 st District, Quezon), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to discuss the two bills further.
	HB 3162	Rep. Unabia	Strengthening the price support system for agricultural produce, amending for the purpose RA 7607 and appropriating funds therefor	<p>Rep. Micaela Violago (2nd District, Nueva Ecija) was designated as TWG Chair.</p> <p>House Bill No. 1007 seeks to provide stiffer penalties against any official or employee of the National Food Authority (NFA) found conniving with traders in the procurement of agricultural produce. Violators would be penalized with a fine of P50,000 and/or imprisonment of three to five years instead of the present penalty of P10,000 fine and/or two to four years of imprisonment.</p> <p>On the other hand, HB 3162 aims to strengthen the price support system for agricultural produce by prohibiting traders from purchasing certain agricultural products below the minimum floor price that will be set by the Department of Agriculture (DA). This is to help increase the income of farmers and prevent traders from taking advantage of small farmers.</p> <p>DA Undersecretary for High Value Crops and Rural Credit Evelyn Laviña expressed her support to the bills, saying that amending RA 7607 is long overdue. She also recommended to further increase the prison term stipulated under HB 1007 to give more teeth to the proposed law.</p> <p>Also expressing their support to the bills were the NFA and the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF).</p> <p>On the query of the Chair on the interventions of the DA to support corn farmers, Atty. Angelica Rose Dimalanta of the Office of the Undersecretary for Consumer Affairs replied that the DA was able to purchase corn directly from corn farmers with the implementation of the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act (Bayanihan 2). She also said that a study is being undertaken to establish the suggested retail price (SRP) of corn for the benefit of the corn farmers and the corn industry.</p> <p>The Chair requested the DA to submit the result of this study to the Committee.</p>

Continuation... Agriculture and Food				<p>Reps. Wilfredo "Willy" Caminero (2nd District, Cebu) and Manuel Zubiri (3rd District, Bukidnon) requested the DA to submit a list of those who were charged for violating Section 27 of RA 7607. They said this will serve as basis for determining the degree of penalty and fines that will be imposed against violators of the proposed law.</p> <p>Under Sec. 27 (Procurement of Agricultural Produce) of RA 7607, "The National Food Authority or any other appropriate agency of the Department of Agriculture which implements the government price support for agricultural produce, especially rice and corn, shall only procure and purchase palay, corn or other agricultural produce directly from small farmers or farmers' organizations. Such agency shall devise an effective procurement scheme to ensure that small farmers can avail of this benefit."</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Special Committee on Creative Industry and Performing Arts (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 4692, 6476 & 8101	Reps. Yap (V.), Cojuangco, and De Venecia	Providing for the promotion and development of the Philippine creative industries and providing funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Lianda Bolilia (4th District, Batangas), will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>Committee Chair, Rep. Christopher de Venecia (4th District, Pangasinan), presided over the meeting when Rep. Bolilia had problems with her internet connection during the virtual meeting.</p> <p>On Section 3 (Definition of Creative Industries) of the substitute bill, the TWG agreed to retain the nomenclature "creative industries" instead of amending it to "creative economy sectors." Reps. De Venecia and Stella Luz Quimbo (2nd District, Marikina City) initially suggested that it be changed to the latter to be more inclusive.</p> <p>However, with the assurance of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) that creative services (such as architectural, advertising, creative research and development, cultural, and recreational services) are already included in the coverage of creative industries, the lawmakers decided to retain the term "creative industries." Rep. De Venecia also acceded that it is the term being used globally.</p> <p>Likewise, the TWG adopted the model being used by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for the classification of sectors and domains covering the entire gamut of the creative industries.</p> <p>The TWG also discussed Title IV of the bill (State Support to Creative Industries), which</p>

<p>Continuation... Special Committee on Creative Industry and Performing Arts (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>includes infrastructure support and provision of incentives to the industry.</p> <p>The TWG agreed that incentives should be given to the creative industry sector to promote its growth. To operationalize this, the Committee decided to highlight one of the proposed functions of the Council found in Section 8 (f) by making it as a separate section and putting it under the provision on incentives. Section 8 (f) states that the Council shall “ensure the promotion, marketing, distribution, and export of creative industry output in both local and international markets in coordination with the Board of Investments (BOI), Export Management Bureau (EMB), Foreign Service Trade Corps (FSTC), and the Center for International Trade, Expositions, and Missions (CITEM).”</p> <p>Rep. Quimbo also suggested that the provision on incentives should adhere to the BOI’s Strategic Investment Priorities Plan (SIPP).</p> <p>Rep. De Venecia mentioned that most of the sectors in the creative industries are proposing to include in the bill a provision on the establishment of business incubators and co-working spaces wherein creative industries will be housed in one roof to cultivate creativity among creative artists. The TWG agreed to such a proposal.</p> <p>Other agreements reached during the meeting include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To clearly state in the bill that the proposed Philippine Creative Industry Development Council (Council) shall formulate the Philippine Creative Industries Development Plan; while the National Secretariat on Creative Industries, which will be organized by the Council, will implement the Plan; • To designate the Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) as Chair of the Council; and • To include in Section 20 (Annual Report) a provision requiring the conduct of a five-year review to assess the proposed law’s effectivity and determine necessary reforms to respond to emerging needs and developments in the creative economy. <p>Rep. Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA) suggested that the amount of P10 billion as appropriation for the initial implementation of the proposed law shall be released for a period of five years or at P2 billion per year. Such appropriation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.</p>
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<p><i>Continuation...</i> Special Committee on Creative Industry and Performing Arts (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>Rep. De Venecia assured all stakeholders and resource persons present during the meeting that all the suggestions, recommendations, and other inputs were duly noted and will be considered in the crafting of the final version of the proposed law.</p>
<p>Information and Communications Technology (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>HB 6094</p>	<p>Rep. Biazon</p>	<p>Regulating the use of facial recognition technology (FRT)</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, will deliberate further on HB 6094 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Biazon, author of HB 6094, said that while FRT has a few potential benefits in terms of achieving effective governance and preventing and solving crimes, there are many concerns with regard to invasion of privacy and threat to one's security. He suggested to strike a balance between using FRT and upholding every person's privacy.</p> <p>Under the bill, FRT is "any software or system typically used to identify or verify the identity of a person from a digital image or a set of facial features stored in a database."</p> <p>Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Cyber Security Bureau OIC Drex Laggui and Technical Consultant Atty. Elias Omar Sana said that it would be too difficult for DICT to register or accredit companies that use, develop, sell, or distribute FRT software in the Philippines, especially those that are using open-source software and international companies like Facebook and Instagram wherein jurisdiction over them is unclear.</p> <p>Rep. Biazon explained that the primary consideration of the bill is to regulate companies operating within the country that use FRT for their processes and activities. He added that the bill sets limitations on the use of FRT, particularly in law enforcement, as it does not intend the FRT to be used for unauthorized surveillance.</p> <p>Department of Justice (DOJ) State Counsel Jane Hazel Garcia-Doble said that the DOJ interposes no objection to the intention of the bill. She said that the use of the FRT falls within the purview of the Data Privacy Act, hence this should adopt the principles of "transparency, legitimate purpose, and proportionality."</p> <p>National Privacy Commission (NPC) Policy Advisor for Manning, Atty. Ma. Frances Aira Sy, expressed gratitude that the TWG recognizes the importance of privacy in the use of FRT. She suggested that FRT should not be used to recognize emotions based on facial features of an individual. She likewise said that FRT should only be used if there are no other less intrusive means possible to achieve the purpose of the entity using it.</p>

<p>Continuation... Information and Communications Technology (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>Rep. Biazon inquired if NPC has jurisdiction over entities using FRT.</p> <p>Sy said that under existing laws, entities using FRT are not obliged to inform the NPC that they are using such technology. She added that NPC will only know if the entity or agency is using FRT if there is a complaint filed regarding a data breach. She, however, said that under NPC Circular 16-01, which governs the security of personal data in government agencies, a government agency engaged in the processing of personal data shall conduct a privacy impact assessment. Through this assessment, the agency can determine the risks and benefits of using FRT.</p> <p>Rep. Biazon said that the conduct of a privacy impact assessment should be reiterated in the bill.</p> <p>Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Technology Risk and Innovation Supervision Director Mhel Plabasan recognizes the significant use of the FRT system especially during the pandemic. He informed the Committee that clients of financial institutions now have the option not to go to the bank or branch and have their digital photo taken online to do various banking transactions. To better promote the responsible use of FRT, he said it is imperative to include in the bill appropriate safeguards like data privacy and security controls, as well as provide penalties for violations of the proposed law.</p> <p>Armed Forces of the Philippines Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications, Electronics and Information System, Major General Vener Odilon Mariano, underscored the importance of using FRT in law enforcement to effectively track down criminals and in humanitarian response operations, particularly in identifying missing persons during calamities.</p> <p>Department of Transportation (DOTr) Roberto Tagamolila Jr. and Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) Management Information System Division head Ramon Angelo de Castro believes that the use of FRT has its own benefits. They, however, said that limitations on the access to and use of individual personal information should be properly laid down in the proposed law.</p>
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