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COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

| COMMITTEE | MEASURES | | SUBJECT MATTER | ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION |
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| | NO. | PRINCIPAL AUTHOR | | |
| Climate Change (Special Committee) | HR 724 | Deputy Speaker Legarda | Declaring a climate and environmental emergency and calling for the mobilization of government agencies and instrumentalities and local government units (LGUs) towards the effective implementation of environmental climate changes adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction and management laws in light of the global climate and environmental emergency | <p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Edgar Chatto (1st District, Bohol), adopted HRs 724 and 761. The Secretariat was directed to consolidate the measures and to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Chatto, author of HR 761, urged the government to declare a climate emergency confirming that global warming actually exists and instituting measures to address it.</p> |
| | HR 761 | Rep. Chatto | Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives for the declaration of a national climate emergency | <p>He said that mounting evidences have shown the devastating effects of climate change on humanity. However, governments around the world have been far less engaged in adopting measures to avert this dangerous phenomenon. In order to counter the adverse effects of climate change, Rep. Chatto said that both mitigation and adaptation measures are necessary.</p> <p>Climate Change Commission (CCC) Secretary Emmanuel de Guzman expressed support for the resolutions. He also presented to the Committee the national policies and recovery programs for the mitigation and adaptation of climate change being implemented by the CCC.</p> <p>Rep. Jocelyn Sy-Limkaichong (1st District, Negros Oriental) asked about the policies, activities, and projects being undertaken by the CCC during the lockdown in preparation for the transition to a “better normal.”</p> <p>De Guzman said that the CCC will comply with the government’s guidelines in the workplace by undertaking alternative work arrangements such as work-from-home and skeletal workforce scheme. He added that online and digital platforms are now being utilized by CCC to coordinate with other government agencies with regard to the implementation of its resiliency capacity and training programs.</p> <p>Expressing support for the resolutions were Undersecretary Rodolfo Vicerra of the Department of Agriculture (DA), Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Director Nieva Natural, and CCC Commissioner Rachel Herrera.</p> <p>The civil society organizations that manifested their support for the measures were the</p> |

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| Continuation... Climate Change (Special Committee) | | | | following: Climate Reality Project Philippines, Climate Change Action for Sustainability Initiative, Greenpeace, and the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities. |
| Energy | HB 1194 | Rep. Sanchez | Mandating the construction and installation of submarine electric cable distribution 69kV lines from Caramoan, Camarines Sur to Codon, San Andres National Power Corporation (NPC) substation, Province of Catanduanes and appropriating funds therefor | <p>The Committee, chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, approved HB 1194 subject to style and the submission of the technical and feasibility study from the Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Electrification Administration (NEA).</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair Rep. Hector Sanchez (Catanduanes), author of HB 1194, said that the proposed law seeks to augment the electric power supply in Catanduanes and boost socio-economic and eco-tourism growth.</p> <p>DOE's Director of the Electric Power Industry Management Bureau Mario Marasigan and NEA Deputy Administrator for Technical Services Artis Nikki Tortola expressed their support for bill. However, they recommended the conduct of a thorough technical and feasibility study first.</p> <p>Rep. Sanchez informed the body that such study was already conducted by the Regional Development Council (RDC) and approved by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).</p> |
| | HB 6197 | Rep. Espina | Mandating the construction and installation of a submarine electric distribution line to Higatangan Island, Naval, Biliran from Brgy. Jubay, Calubian, Leyte and providing funds therefor | <p>The Committee approved HB 6197 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>The bill will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for review of its funding provision.</p> <p>Biliran Rep. Gerryboy Espina, author of HB 6197, manifested that the explanatory note attached to his bill be considered as his sponsorship speech. The bill recognizes the urgency to provide Higatangan Island with a reliable and sustainable source of electricity in order to spur economic development in the area and considering that the island is included as part of the tourism development area of the province.</p> <p>The DOE and NEA expressed their support for the bill. NEA Administrator Edgardo Masongsong informed the body that a feasibility study on the proposed project was already conducted and submitted to the DOE.</p> |
| | HR 44 | Rep. Go (M.) | Inquiry into the continued disparity and overpricing of fuel prices in Northern Luzon | <p>The Committee adopted HR 743 subject to style. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, author of HR 44, emphasized the need to come up with a permanent solution to the problem of disparity and overpricing of fuel products in Northern Luzon through institutionalized policies in order to develop investor and consumer confidence and a stable market. He added that the disparity in prices is unfair and burdensome for the</p> |

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| Continuation... Energy | | | | <p>transport sector and the trade and production industry in Baguio.</p> <p>Director of the DOE's Oil Industry Management Bureau Rino Abad presented the fuel situation in Baguio. He said that the factors contributing to the price disparity and overpricing are the following: supply and demand situation; less competition in the area; pricing components are inherent to the respective oil companies; and gross margins of retailers consider investment and expenses such as rent, labor and lease of pumps.</p> <p>Abad recommended the conduct of an investment forum among the DOE, LGUs, and oil players to discuss how to lower the prices, and the feasibility of establishing bulk terminals in Northern Luzon to cut down the cost of transporting fuel. These terminals will serve as storage for crude oil before it is delivered to end-users or transferred to another facility for processing or refinement.</p> <p>Rep. Velasco sees the need to review the Oil Deregulation Law to establish a more transparent approach on how oil industry players determine the prices of fuel.</p> |
| | HR 324 | Rep. Uy (J.) | <p>Urging the Department of Energy (DOE) to directly remit to the Municipality of Villanueva its equitable share in the proceeds of the utilization of the national wealth by the independent power producers located in and hosted by the local government unit (LGU)</p> | <p>The Committee adopted HR 324 subject to style.</p> <p>Rep. Juliette Uy (2nd District, Misamis Oriental), author of HR 324, said that there are still sitios in the Municipality of Villanueva with no electricity for 15 years despite hosting a power project in the area. She asked to be updated on the utilization of the ER 1-94 fund with regard to the province, which is intended to be used by host beneficiaries for the electrification of areas or households that have no access to power.</p> <p>Marasigan said that the DOE has already remitted P7.65 million to the Municipality of Villanueva, and has advised STEAG State Power Inc. (SPI) and FDC Utilities, Inc. (FDCUI) to directly remit to the different LGUs their share in the proceeds of the power project from August 2018 to the present.</p> <p>DOE Circular No. 2018-08-0021, signed on July 26, 2018 by DOE Secretary Alfonso Cusi, provides that financial benefits from the electric sales of generating companies should be directly remitted to the host LGUs and distribution utilities (DUs) to fast track the implementation of community projects.</p> <p>The DOE, SPI, and FDCUI expressed their support for the bill.</p> <p>The DOE was requested to submit a report on the utilization of the ER 1-94 fund for the Municipality of Villanueva.</p> |

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| Continuation... Energy | HR 81 | Rep. Suarez (D.) | Urging the conduct of a review and assessment of the performance of electric cooperatives in the Philippines in the context of their role in the attainment of total rural electrification and economic development in the country | <p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on HRs 81, 217, and 881.</p> <p>Rep. Cesar "Jawo" Jimenez Jr. (1st District, Zamboanga City) was designated as TWG Chair.</p> |
| | HR 217 | Rep. Suarez (A.) | Investigation into the possible privatization of poorly-performing electric cooperatives in Quezon Province | <p>Committee Vice Chair Rep. David "Jay-Jay" Suarez (2nd District, Quezon), author of HR 81, spoke of the need to extend necessary support or interventions to the electric cooperatives (ECs) in order for them to improve their services and provide affordable electricity in the rural areas.</p> |
| | HR 881 | Rep. Dagooc | Calling upon the House Committee on Energy to create an Oversight Subcommittee on Total Rural Electrification | <p>He also sponsored HR 217 in behalf of Rep. Aleta Suarez (3rd District, Quezon) and said that privatization may be an alternative solution to the poor performance of some ECs in Quezon Province.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Committee Vice Chair Rep. Presley De Jesus (Party-List, PHILRECA), co-author of HR 881, cited the importance of establishing an Oversight Subcommittee on Total Rural Electrification to monitor the progress of ECs in providing electricity in the countryside especially during this time of the pandemic. He said that the Oversight Subcommittee will be tasked to monitor the NEA programs, such as the Sitio Electrification Program (SEP) and the Barangay Line Enhancement Program (BLEP), to ensure that these are properly and promptly being implemented.</p> <p>The NEA, Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. (PHILRECA), and the Association of Mindanao Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (AMRECO) expressed their support for HR 881.</p> <p>On the proposed privatization of ECs, PHILRECA and the National Association of General Managers of Electric Cooperatives (NAGMEC) do not agree to it, saying that it is the function of the NEA to empower and enable ECs under RA 10531 or the NEA Reform Act of 2013. They added that ECs are considered as private entities and therefore the call to privatize them is not applicable.</p> <p>Quezon I Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Quezon II Electric Cooperative, Inc. informed the body that they already conducted the necessary reforms which resulted in the improvement of their performance and service delivery.</p> <p>The NEA confirmed that these two electric cooperatives are not underperforming.</p> <p>The Committee asked NEA to submit the audit reports on the performance of ECs.</p> |
| | HR 584 | Rep. Almario | Urging the NEA to assist Davao Oriental Electric Cooperative, Inc. (DORECO) to improve its services in Davao Oriental | <p>The Committee will deliberate further on HR 584 in another meeting.</p> |

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| Continuation... Energy | | | | <p>Rep. De Jesus sponsored the resolution in behalf of Rep. Joel Mayo Almario (2nd District, Davao Oriental). Rep. De Jesus said that the bill seeks to address the frequent power interruptions, fluctuations, and low power supply in Davao Oriental.</p> <p>DORECO General Manager Gregory Dukil confirmed that power interruptions are being experienced in Davao Oriental because it is positioned at the low end of the grid. However, he said that DORECO has undertaken measures last December to address this problem and that it has installed additional plant facilities since then.</p> |
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SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES

| COMMITTEE | MEASURES | | SUBJECT MATTER | ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION |
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| | NO. | PRINCIPAL AUTHOR | | |
| Subcommittee on Labor Standards (Labor and Employment) | Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 81, 181, 1019, 1766, 4875 & 5596 | Rep. Ong, Deputy Speaker Romero, Rep. Castelo, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Rodriguez, and Nieto | Protection of the health and welfare of workers in the audio-visual and entertainment industry | <p>The Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Raymond Democrito Mendoza (Party-List, TUCP), will deliberate further on the substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Mendoza said that the Subcommittee is tasked to polish the bill, which was already approved in principle by the mother Committee.</p> <p>Rep. Christopher de Venecia (4th District, Pangasinan) sat as the presiding officer during the meeting.</p> <p>In today's meeting, the Subcommittee discussed Sections 3 to 10 of the bill.</p> <p>Resource persons present in the meeting gave their comments and recommendations on the bill, as follows: The Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) Chair and Chief Executive Officer Liza Dino-Seguerra, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Director Marco Antonio Valeriano, Philippine Motion Picture Producer's Association (PMPPA) Chairperson Malou Santos, PMPPA Treasurer Atty. Joji Alonso, and representatives from the Directors Guild of the Philippines Inc. (DGPI), Actors Welfare Project Incorporated (AWPI), and different organizations in the audio-visual entertainment industry.</p> <p>Among the points agreed upon by the Subcommittee were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The term "employer" should be distinguished from "principal/producer/client." The bill now defines "employers" as persons, group of persons or entity that engage and control the services of a worker in the audio-visual entertainment industry. On the other hand, "producer/principal/client" refers to one who engages or hires the services of a worker. |

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| Continuation... Subcommittee on Labor Standards (Labor and Employment) | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The definition of the term “workers” should be amended to take into consideration the workers’ varying tasks, compensation, and working relationship with the employer. • An employment contract should be forged among the employer, principal/producer/client, and the worker, independent contractor, talent or freelancer. • The normal working hours for workers in the industry shall be eight hours, which may be extended up to a maximum of 16 hours but not more than 60 hours a week. For senior citizens, it should not exceed 12 hours. <p>It was suggested that cancellation for scheduled shoots should be made at least 24 hours before the schedule. Otherwise, producers will be required to compensate their workers even if the shoot is cancelled.</p> <p>However, the producers said that during cancellation of shoots they are the ones most affected because they have already paid for the production expenses early on.</p> <p>FDCP suggested that production insurance may cover the production cost during unexpected cancellations, which is currently being practiced by some international production companies. The matter on production insurance will be thoroughly discussed in the Subcommittee’s next meeting.</p> <p>The Subcommittee reminded the audio-visual and entertainment companies to strictly comply with the occupational safety and health standards prescribed under RA 11058 (Strengthening Compliance with Occupational Safety and Health). It also reminded the industry to notify ahead of time the concerned DOLE regional office of the exact location and schedule of audio-visual production for proper monitoring and inspection, thus avoiding accidents in the set, as what happened to the late actor Eddie Garcia that caused his death.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the proposed law.</p> |
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| TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES | | | | |
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| COMMITTEE | MEASURES | | SUBJECT MATTER | ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION |
| | NO. | PRINCIPAL AUTHOR | | |
| Health (Technical Working Group) | HB 6081 | Rep. Biazon | Establishing the Public Health Emergency Council | The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4 th District, Quezon), agreed to come up with a substitute bill for the two bills, incorporating therein the pertinent suggestions of the resource persons. |
| | HB 6493 | Rep. Tan (A.) | Providing for a national health security and appropriating funds therefor | |

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| Continuation... Health (Technical Working Group) | | | | <p>Rep. Tan, author of HB 6081, spoke of the need to establish a Philippine Health Security Council (PHSC) that will formulate the National Health Security Action Plan. The COVID-19 pandemic and the government's response to the crisis brings to attention the need to develop a national standard operating procedure that will describe the coordination and communication among multiple agencies in the implementation of the International Health Regulation (IHR), and strengthen the strategic health emergency risk assessments using multiple sources of information with focus on health risk, health impact, and vulnerability of the health system.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, author of HB 6081, manifested that the institutionalization of the proposed Council will assure the public of a proactive and continuing government system that addresses all national health emergencies. It will have a similar function as the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF), but will exist permanently as opposed to the IATF.</p> <p>Among the proposed amendments that were approved during the meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scope of the substitute bill shall be limited to the establishment of the PHSC and its composition, powers and functions; and the creation of a National Health Security Action Plan which will address all "hazards" such as chemical, biological, radiologic and nuclear hazards that could most likely cause a national health emergency; • There shall be separate provisions in the substitute bill for the following: the composition, mandate and duties of the PHSC Secretariat as well as its research component for purposes of data gathering and analytics; creation and functions of the regional, provincial, city and/or municipal health councils; and the creation of a Medical Reserve Corps; and • The prohibited acts in the bill shall refer to violations pertaining to the exercise of the powers and functions of the PHSC instead of violations in relation to "isolation, quarantine, contact tracing and testing concerning national health emergencies" which will be subject of another bill (HB 6096 or the Center for Disease Prevention and Control Bill). <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills for the TWG's consideration in drafting the substitute bill.</p> |
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