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COMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Natural Resources	HBs 1158, 1230 & 3119	Reps. Acosta, Espina, and Tejada	Declaring certain parts of the country as mining-free zones and providing penalties for violation thereof	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. (4 th District, Cavite), approved HBs 1158, 1230, and 3119. Bills of similar subject matter were approved on Third Reading during the 17 th Congress.
	HB 1454	Rep. Cuaresma	Declaring the Province of Nueva Vizcaya a mining-free zone and providing penalties therefor	The Committee will deliberate further on HB 1454 in its next meeting. Quirino Rep. Junie Cua said that the proposed measure should be carefully studied as some mining firms are already operating in Nueva Vizcaya. Rep. Arlene Brosas (Party-List, GABRIELA) requested the Committee to invite in its next meeting the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and other stakeholders for their comments on the bill.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food (Technical Working Group)	HBs 10, 854, 3192 & 4346	Speaker Cayetano, Reps. Aglipay, Suarez (A.C.), and Tambunting	Declaring the coconut levy assets as a trust fund, providing for its management and utilization, authorizing the Privatization and Management Office to dispose the coconut levy assets	The technical working group (TWG), presided by AAMBIS-OWA Party-List Rep. Sharon Garin, terminated its discussion on the bills. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the consolidated bill to be presented to the mother Committee in its next meeting.
	HBs 166, 1242, 1417, 2434, 2549, 2552, 2610, 2657 & 3223	Reps. Tan (A.), Torres-Gomez, Enverga, Canama, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Garin (S.), Jalosjos, Dy (I.P.), and Noel	Establishing the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Trust Fund and providing for its management and utilization	The TWG adopted HB 10, authored by Speaker Alan Peter 'Compañero' Cayetano (1 st District, Taguig City), as the reference bill. Rep. Garin pointed out that President Rodrigo Duterte vetoed the proposed Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Trust Fund Act that was approved in the 17 th Congress because it lacked vital safeguards that would protect the trust fund from corrupt practices. She said that this concern has been addressed in all the bills filed in this 18 th Congress.
	HB 255	Rep. Cullamat	Creating the Genuine Small Coconut Farmers' Fund	Among the issues discussed by the TWG are the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial allocation of P5 billion from the Trust Fund to jumpstart the implementation of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development
	HBs 2522 & 3299	Rep. Nograles (J.J.) and Deputy Speaker Romero	Creating the Coconut Industry Trust Fund, providing for its management	

Continuation... Agriculture and Food (Technical Working Group)				<p>Plan to be prepared by the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) of subsequent allocations from the Trust Fund every five years; Increase in the number of representatives from the private sector in the reconstituted PCA Board; and Evaluation of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan by an independent third party. <p>Expressing support for the bills were representatives from the government, namely, PCA, NEDA, Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries of the Department of Agriculture (PCAF-DA), Coconut Industry Investment Fund Oil Mills Group (CIIF-OMG), Governance Commission for Government-owned and controlled corporations (GCG), and Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG); and from nongovernment organizations, namely, United Coconut Associations of the Philippines, Inc. (UCAP), Action for Economic Reforms (AER), Coconut Industry Reform Movement (COIR), Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), and Coalition for Agriculture Modernization in the Philippines, Inc. (CAMP).</p> <p>Rep. Garin requested the resource persons to submit their respective position papers on the proposed law to serve as reference in the crafting of a consolidated bill.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Energy	<p>Briefing on the state of electric power distribution in the country by the following stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Electrification Administration (NEA) 	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair, Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga), listened to the briefing on the state of electric power distribution in the country by the NEA and other industry players.</p> <p>NEA Administrator Edgardo Masongsong apprised the body of the status of its Rural Electrification Program (REP). He reported that all provinces, cities and municipalities covered by the electric cooperatives' franchise areas already have electricity. On the other hand, at the level of barangays and sitios, the electrification performance is currently at 99% and 84%, respectively. As regards consumer connections, 91.92% of potential consumers throughout the country have been served as of June 2019.</p> <p>According to Masongsong, some of the challenges being faced by the NEA in its implementation of the REP include difficulty in accessing target beneficiaries, peace and order and right-of-way problems, calamities, poverty, and inadequate funding. To address funding concerns, NEA recommends that it be authorized to access and receive grants and donations from local and foreign institutions, use excess internally generated funds, and secure counterpart funds from local government units (LGUs).</p>

<p>Continuation... Energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manila Electric Company (MERALCO) Electric Cooperatives (ECs) Philippine Electric Plant Owners Association (PEPOA) 	<p>MERALCO First Vice President Victor Genuino presented an overview of the company's franchise area and electrification program. Genuino said MERALCO's 25-year Congressional franchise covers an area of 9,685 sq.km. involving 36 cities and 75 municipalities. It has 6.82 million customers including households, businesses and industries. Genuino reported that as of 2018, MERALCO has improved its household electrification level to 99.4% and has started adopting microgrid solutions. Microgrids are small networks of electricity users that have a local source of supply and are able to function independently thus helping provide electricity access to underserved areas.</p> <p>Genuino recommended a faster approval by concerned government agencies of all applications for electrification programs especially in off-the-grid areas and the implementation of the Murang Kuryente Act (RA 11371) which was signed by the President last August 2019.</p> <p>Philippine Rural Electric Cooperative Association (PHILRECA) General Manager Janeene Depay-Colingan and Philippine Federation of Electric Cooperatives (PHILFECO) Chair David Siquian presented their respective strategic directions, goals, objectives, advocacies, and commitments as well as their membership composition.</p> <p>In distinguishing PHILFECO from PHILRECA, Siquian explained that PHILFECO members are electric cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) and enjoy all tax exemption privileges granted to cooperatives under the Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008 (RA 9520).</p> <p>PEPOA President Ranulfo Ocampo said that his group is composed of investor-owned distribution utilities with a current membership of 18, operating in various areas around the country.</p> <p>Catanduanes Rep. Hector Sanchez inquired on the number of electric cooperatives that are underperforming considering the frequent brownouts occurring throughout the country. Masongsong answered that only 7 out of 121 ECs are considered underperforming, while the rest are operating above the standard level of reliability.</p> <p>Rep. Jericho Jonas Nograles (Party-List, PBA) asked about the status of the P14 billion settlement deal between MERALCO and the National Power Corporation (NAPOCOR), the validity of which was questioned in the courts. MERALCO Senior Assistant Vice President Jose Valles replied that the case is still pending with the Supreme Court. Under the settlement agreement, the parties agreed to resolve their dispute concerning their 10-year power supply contract in the form of a net settlement amount of P14 billion to be paid by MERALCO to NAPOCOR.</p> <p>Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara (3rd District, Nueva Ecija) asked the stakeholders on their thoughts about HB 8179 which grants a 25-year renewable energy distribution franchise to Solar Para Sa Bayan (SPSB) Corporation. The bill was ratified by both the House and the Senate last June 2019.</p> <p>PHILRECA's general manager opined that the bill grants undue advantage to SPSB as it allowed the corporation to operate in areas already covered by existing EC franchises and exempted the SPSB from the prescribed competitive selection process. Her sentiments were shared by Rep. Sergio Dagooc (Party-List, APEC).</p> <p>Rep. Presley de Jesus (Party-List, PHILRECA) manifested his support for the 121 electric cooperatives comprising PHILRECA and acknowledged NEA's contributions to the success of the government's electrification efforts.</p>
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Natural Resources	Briefing by the Manila Bay Task Force (MBTF) on the status of the Manila Bay rehabilitation	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. (4th District, Cavite), listened to the briefing conducted by the MBTF on the status of the Manila Bay rehabilitation.</p> <p>Rep. Barzaga also showed a video of his ocular inspection of the Manila Bay last November 1.</p> <p>In view of the Writ of Continuing Mandamus issued by the Supreme Court (SC) to restore the water quality of the Manila Bay, the MBTF was created to ensure a quick response to this mandamus. The President issued Administrative Order No. 16, series of 2019, expediting the rehabilitation and restoration of the coastal and marine ecosystem of the Manila Bay and creating the MBTF.</p> <p>The MBTF, chaired by Secretary Roy Cimatu of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), is composed of national government agencies, local government units (LGUs) concerned, and the Metro Manila water concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad.</p> <p>DENR Undersecretary Juan Miguel Cuna reported that the Manila Bay rehabilitation program is on its first phase which involves cleanup and water quality improvement.</p> <p>Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary Epimaco Densing III said that the DILG assesses the compliance of LGUs with basic environmental laws through the Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA) system it has developed.</p> <p>According to Densing, Memorandum Circular 2019-09 was also issued by the DILG last January 24 requiring all barangays in Regions III, IV-A and the National Capital Region (NCR) to conduct a weekly clean-up of in-land waterways including areas that are contiguous to the Manila Bay. Attributing 80% of the pollution in Manila Bay to the informal settler families (ISFs), the DILG reported that 24% of the identified ISFs have already been relocated.</p> <p>Resource persons from the city governments of Pasay, Parañaque and Las Piñas confirmed that ISFs can no longer be seen along the Manila Bay at least in their respective areas.</p> <p>Officials from the Philippine National Police-Maritime Group (PNP-MG), Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) also reported on their accomplishments in compliance with the SC mandamus on the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.</p> <p>Rep. Barzaga urged the MBTF to review the validity of the permit issued to the H2O Hotel, which is located along the Manila Bay coastline, to avoid the impression that only ISFs are being relocated, exempting the businesses.</p> <p>Other MBTF members such as the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) were criticized for their slow response to the Manila Bay cleanup and were directed to submit their respective action plans.</p>
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