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COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Revision of Laws jt. w/ Welfare of Children	HBs 210, 480, 1689, 2707, 3735, 4160, 4449, 5795 & 6073	Deputy Speaker Puno, Rep. Brosas, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Cuaresma, Zubiri, Romualdez (Y.M.), Castelo, Benitez, and Lim	Increasing the age for determining statutory rape and other acts of sexual abuse and exploitation to provide stronger protection for children, amending for this purpose Act No. 3815, as amended, also known as the Revised Penal Code, RA 7610, otherwise known as the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discriminatory Act, and RA 8353, also known as the Anti-Rape Law of 1997	<p>The Joint Committee, co-presided by Reps. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2nd District, Zambales), Chair of the Committee on Revision of Laws, and Rep. Yedda Marie Romualdez (Party-List, TINGOG SINIRANGAN), Chair of the Committee on the Welfare of Children, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to draft the substitute bill to the 10 bills.</p> <p>Rep. Lawrence “Law” Fortun (1st District, Agusan del Norte) was designated as TWG Chair.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bills were the Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Public Attorney’s Office (PAO), Philippine National Police (PNP), Commission on Human Rights (CHR), Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), United Nations Children’s Fund Philippines (UNICEF-PH), Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Sexual Abuse (CPTCSA), Children’s Legal Rights and Development Center, Inc. (CLRDC), Child Rights Network (CRN), Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA), and the Cameleon Association – Iloilo.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers for the TWG’s reference in drafting the substitute bill.</p>
	HB 6215	Rep. Acosta-Alba	Providing stronger protection for children against sexual abuse	
Ways and Means	HR 556	Deputy Speaker Pichay	Inquiry into the unabated smuggling of goods into the country by unscrupulous operators of customs bonded warehouses to the detriment of local manufacturers and producers and the Philippine economy, with the end in view of recommending measures to stop smuggling using the warehousing system by revisiting the provisions of the Customs Modernization Tariff Act on bonded warehouses and limiting the type, nature, and number of bonded warehouses	<p>The Committee, presided by its Senior Vice Chair, Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to further discuss the issues raised in HR 556.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Suansing said that the Committee aims to examine the alleged undeterred smuggling of goods into the country by unscrupulous operators of customs bonded warehouses (CBWs).</p> <p>Rep. Suansing explained that a CBW is a facility where imported dutiable goods or raw materials are stored over a period of time without payment of duties and taxes because they are supposed to be manufactured into finished products, which are then exported to other countries. She added that when these duty and tax free goods stored in CBWs are diverted into the local market, it deprives the government of huge amount of revenues.</p>

Continuation... Ways and Means				<p>Rep. Horacio Suansing Jr. (2nd District, Sultan Kudarat) asked about the standard procedure followed for the importation of petroleum products that are stored in CBWs.</p> <p>Bureau of Customs (BOC) Deputy Commissioner Edward James Dy Buco disclosed that just recently the BOC issued a memorandum closing CBWs operating as depots for fuel.</p> <p>The Committee requested the BOC to submit the following documents, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of importers that imported Jet A1 fuel for the last three years; • Details of replacement parts for airplanes imported by airlines for the last three years; • Total domestic/international flying hours and fuel consumption; • The current stock in depots where airlines get their fuel; • Summary report of unliquidated bonds, with ageing schedule; • Volume of raw materials imported and stored in CBWs versus the volume of raw materials manufactured; and • Flowchart on the process of accreditation of bonded warehouses.
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SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Subcommittee on Police Administration (Public Order and Safety)	HB 1197	Deputy Speaker Oaminal	Providing for the revitalization and capability enhancement of the Philippine National Police (PNP), appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Samier Tan (1st District, Sulu), will deliberate further on HB 1197 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Henry Oaminal (2nd District, Misamis Occidental), author of HB 1197, manifested that his explanatory note attached to the bill be considered as his sponsorship speech.</p> <p>Rep. Tan said that the bill would enable the PNP to perform better its job of protecting the Filipino people.</p> <p>The PNP and National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) expressed their support for the bill.</p> <p>On the other hand, Department of Budget and Management's (DBM) Budget and Management Bureau-D OIC-Division Chief Jenelyn Sunga expressed reservation on the provision in the bill which allocates P40 billion for the first three years of implementation of the PNP's Revitalization and Capability Enhancement Program and up to P130 billion for the Program's entire 10-year period of implementation. She explained that the</p>

Continuation... Subcommittee on Police Administration (Public Order and Safety)				<p>proposed amount is so huge that it will have a big impact on the national budget, limited as it is.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Oaminal said that the PNP Chief should have been present in the meeting so that he could have answered directly the concerns or questions raised relative to the program.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food (Technical Working Group)	HBs 1205, 1958, 3470, 3596 & 6047	Reps. Arroyo (J.M.), Cabochan, Villaraza-Suarez, Garin (S.), and Vargas	Institutionalizing the Young Farmers Program, providing funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Angelo Marcos Barba (2nd District, Ilocos Norte), will deliberate further on the 11 bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to come up with a substitute bill using HB 5280 as the working draft, incorporating therein the suggestions of the resource persons.</p> <p>Rep. Barba said that the youth of today generally do not consider agricultural education as their career options due to the strenuous manual labor and low income associated with farming. That is why, he said, there ought to be a program for young farmers that will encourage the youth to pursue a career in agriculture, engage them in policy formulation and implementation relative to the agriculture sector, and ensure government support for agri-business and agri-entrepreneurship.</p> <p>Among the recommendations that were presented during the meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the name of the program to "Youth in Agri-Business Program" instead of "Young Farmers Challenge Program;" • Include as members of the proposed Young Farmers Challenge Council representatives from the following agencies: Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), and Philippine Commission on Women (PCW); • Include the fishery sector in the coverage of the bill; and • Establish a youth registry system to easily locate or coordinate with them. <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills for consideration by the TWG.</p>
	HBs 1275, 2030 & 4202	Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Sy-Alvarado and Vargas	Encouraging youth sector participation in the agricultural sector, establishing for the purpose the <i>Tulong Kabataan Sa Agrikultura</i> Program and <i>Tulong Kabataan Sa Agrikultura</i> Trust Fund, appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 1997	Rep. De Venecia	Providing for the Magna Carta of Young Farmers	
	HB 5065	Rep. Nieto	Creating the National Youth Agripreneurship Program and providing funds therefor	
	HB 5280	Rep. Barba	Establishing the Young Farmers Challenge Program, creating the Young Farmers Challenge Council, appropriating funds therefor	

DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Ways and Means	Update on the status of the recommendation to suspend the implementation of the National Valuation Verification System (NVVS)	<p>The Committee, presided by its Senior Vice Chair, Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija), will continue its discussion on the NVVS in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Suansing said that while the Committee respects the executive discretion of the Bureau of Customs (BOC), it is concerned that the implementation of the NVVS continues without a clear legal basis. She noted that in pursuit of its oversight function, the Committee has the duty to monitor and evaluate the performance of revenue generating agencies such as the BOC and to address any lapses in the system of the BOC through legislation.</p> <p>BOC Legal Service Director Yasser Ismail Abbas reported that the BOC has not yet suspended the implementation of the NVVS, but is instead trying to correct the flaws in its implementation.</p> <p>The NVVS is a web-based system which the BOC assessment officers may access to verify the declared value of importation against the prevailing reference values generated by the system. <i>(Source: BOC website)</i></p> <p>Majority of the lawmakers present during the meeting said that the NVVS is a violation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement and chided Abbas for his erroneous interpretation of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA) when he claimed that the NVVS is provided in the law when it is not. The lawmakers questioned the necessity of the NVVS when it is clearly susceptible to corruption.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Deputy Speaker Prospero Pichay Jr. (1st District, Surigao del Sur) suggested that the BOC instead devise a system where appraisers and other stakeholders can just check online for the proper valuation of the goods transacted.</p>