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COMMITTEE MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Health	Discussion on some issues and concerns in the implementation of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Angelina “Helen” Tan M.D. (4th District, Quezon), discussed with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) issues and concerns relative to the implementation of the NHIP.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Tan explained that although the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee (JCOC) on NHIP continuously conducts meetings to discuss the status of implementation of the Program, the Committee decided to conduct a separate meeting to take up the numerous complaints from hospitals and patients that the Committee is receiving against PhilHealth.</p> <p>Some of the Committee Members inquired about PhilHealth’s accreditation process for health care institutions and professional providers. PhilHealth OIC Senior Vice President Israel Francis Pargas explained that the filing and processing of accreditation application takes only about two months. He added that the application is filed with the PhilHealth regional office (PRO) and if the application is denied, the applicant may file a motion for reconsideration at the PhilHealth central office through its Accreditation Committee. Pointing out that the two-month processing period is rather long, the Members advised PhilHealth to review and improve its accreditation process.</p> <p>On the issue of unpaid claims, PhilHealth acting President and CEO Roy Ferrer said that PhilHealth has undertaken measures to reduce the turn-around time for claims processing, such as the hiring of additional job order contractors; instituting electronic submission of claims and the virtual adjudication process; and intensifying coordination with stakeholders.</p> <p>Meanwhile, PhilHealth Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Ruben John Basa also said that the health care institutions and professional health providers may visit the PhilHealth electronic portal to check the status of their claims for payment. He also denied that PhilHealth temporarily suspended the accreditation of health care institutions and medical professionals.</p> <p>Ferrer also presented PhilHealth’s proposal to increase the premium rates by year 2019 from 2.75% to 3% for the formal sector, and from P3,120 to P5,000 for senior citizens.</p> <p>In response to the issue on restricting the patients’ right to choose their medicines, Ferrer said that PhilHealth and the Department of Health (DOH) will meet to discuss whether or not to expand the list of essential medicines under the Philippine National Drug Formulary (PNDF). At present, the PhilHealth</p>

Continuation... Health		<p>continues to pay only for drugs and medicines that are listed in the PNDF.</p> <p>The PNDF is a list of drugs formulated by the DOH on the basis of health conditions in the Philippines and on internationally accepted criteria.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Trade and Industry (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 528, 877, 1324, 2917, 5970 & 7245	Reps. Batocabe, Sarmiento (E.M.), Pimentel, Escudero, Roque (H.), and Romualdo	Providing for the Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Examination Department Director Betty Christine Bunyi presented the BSP's proposed amendments to the Corporation Code, among which are the following: provide a clearer definition of the term "financial intermediaries"; limit the term of the Board of Trustees to only one year instead of three years; and include a provision which designates a primary regulator for dissolution of corporations.</p> <p>Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Assistant Secretary Mary Jean Pacheco requested that the DTI be given ample time to review and comment on the BSP's proposed amendments.</p> <p>National Economic and Development Authority's (NEDA) Chief Economic Development Specialist Amelia Menardo expressed support for the proposal to amend the Corporation Code, explaining that it promotes ease of doing business in the country and strengthens the powers of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).</p> <p>The TWG requested all stakeholders to submit their comments and proposed amendments to the proposed law.</p>