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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Natural Resources (Technical Working Group)	HBs 50, 1171, 1213 & 5194	Rep. Fortun, Deputy Speaker Cayetano, Reps. Yu and Villanueva	Providing for the protection, rehabilitation, and sustainable management of forest ecosystem	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Arnel Ty (Party-List, LPGMA), will deliberate further on the measures in its next meeting.</p> <p>The TWG created a small group that will consolidate HBs 50, 1171, 1213 and 5194 and submit their output by November 8, 2017.</p> <p>The small group will be headed by the Society of Filipino Forester (SFF), with the Forest Management Bureau (FMB), National Mapping and Resources Information Authority (NAMRIA), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA), and the Forest Development Center (FDC) of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) as members.</p> <p>On the other hand, Executive Director Patria Gwen Borcena of Green Research, an environmental research group, was requested to submit her group's draft bill consolidating HBs 907, 1104 and 1893.</p> <p>The TWG will discuss the two draft consolidated bills in another meeting, after which a final bill shall be prepared.</p>
	HBs 907, 1104 & 1893	Deputy Speaker Castro, Reps. Baguilat and Defensor	Protecting, conserving, utilizing, developing and sustainably managing forest resources	
Overseas Workers Affairs (Technical Working Group)	HB 6519	Rep. Manalo	Creating the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) Sovereign Fund	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Committee Secretary Christopher Lomibao, will deliberate further on HB 6519 in its next meeting.</p> <p>HB 6519, authored by Rep. Jesulito Manalo (Party-List, ANGKLA), encourages all overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), their immediate family members, and other Filipinos overseas to invest part of their income or cash remittances with the government for a higher return, better tax incentives and with lesser risks. The investments made shall be pooled under a special fund called the OFW Sovereign Fund.</p> <p>Among the agreements reached during the meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A penal provision shall be included

<p>Continuation... Overseas Workers Affairs (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>to add teeth to the proposed law; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proceeds of all investments lodged in the proposed OFW Sovereign Fund shall be used solely by the national government to finance significantly urgent national government projects. <p>The resource persons expressed support for the bill, with some of them presenting their respective recommendations. The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), for one, suggested that a minimal rate of tax be imposed on the interest income and other earnings from the OFWs' investments, instead of exempting them from all taxes.</p> <p>The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Bureau of Treasury (BTr), and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) were requested to submit their respective position papers for the TWG's consideration.</p>
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