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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Government Enterprises and Privatization (Technical Working Group)	HBs 2439 & 3487	Rep. Villarín and Deputy Speaker Escudero	Amending certain provisions of RA 10149, otherwise known as the Government Owned and Controlled Corporation (GOCC) Governance Act of 2011 (by excluding from the coverage of the law the compensation of employees of non-chartered GOCCs, among others)	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL), terminated its discussion on the three bills. It will submit its report to the mother Committee for the latter's consideration.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Batocabe, who is also the principal author of HB 3014, mentioned that the mandate of the GCG is to serve as the central policy-making and regulatory body to safeguard state ownership rights and ensure the transparent and responsive operations of the GOCC. Unfortunately, Rep. Batocabe said, the GCG continues to fall short of its duties and is unable to contribute positively to the operations of the GOCCs. Thus, HB 3014 seeks to abolish the GCG.</p> <p>Rep. Tom Villarín (Party-List, AKBAYAN), author of HB 2439, expressed his support to the proposal to abolish the GCG for failing to effectively pursue its mandate. He claimed that the GCG only served as an impediment to the otherwise smooth operations of the GOCCs and the government financial institutions (GFIs). He also lamented that the GCG failed to protect the rights and welfare of the employees of the GOCCs and GFIs.</p> <p>Likewise, Rep. Arnulfo Fuentesbella (4th District, Camarines Sur) raised the issue of the GCG duplicating the oversight function of Congress.</p> <p>Labor groups such as the Kapisanan ng mga Manggagawa sa GOCCs at GFIs (KAMAGGFI), Public Sector Labor Management Council (PSLMC), and the Bagong Kapisanan ng mga Manggagawa sa Philippine National Railways (BKM-PNR), expressed their support for the abolition of the GCG, for the latter's failure to protect and promote labor rights.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Fuentesbella on the parameters being followed by the GCG prior to recommending the abolition of certain GOCCs, GCG General Counsel Michael</p>
	HB 3014	Rep. Batocabe	Abolishing the Governance Commission for GOCC (GCG), repealing for the purpose RA 10149	

Continuation... Government Enterprises and Privatization (Technical Working Group)				Pabalinas explained that GOCCs that are no longer relevant to and consistent with the policy of the government based on the provisions of RA 10149 may be recommended for abolition. GCG Director Gene Carl Tupaz added that another basis for the possible abolition of a GOCC is its financial performance.
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OTHER MATTERS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Veterans Affairs and Welfare	Unveiling of the memorial marker and wreath laying in honor of 3Lt. Leopoldo Bataoil and the presentation of the United States (US) Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) to Pangasinan World War II (WWII) veterans	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2nd District, Pangasinan), witnessed the unveiling of the memorial marker and wreath laying in honor of the late WWII veteran 3Lt. Leopoldo Bataoil, and the presentation of the US CGM to Pangasinan WWII veterans last November 15, 2018 at the historic Lingayen Gulf in Lingayen, Pangasinan.</p> <p>3Lt. Leopoldo Bataoil, uncle of Rep. Bataoil, fought and died valiantly on the hills of Bataan when WWII broke out. Together with his fellow classmates at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 1943, 3Lt. Bataoil fought courageously despite his lack of combat experience.</p> <p>The awarding of the US CGM to Filipino veterans was authorized under US Public Law 114-265, also known as the "Filipino Veterans of WWII CGM Act of 2015." The US CGM, the highest civilian award in the US, is awarded to an individual or unit who performs an outstanding deed or act of service to the security, prosperity, and national interest of the US.</p> <p>During the awarding ceremonies in Lingayen, 36 WWII veterans, including the oldest, 100-year-old Private Santiago Genetiano, received the US CGM.</p> <p>US Veterans Affairs Pacific Director Tracey Betts and Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) Administrator and Defense Undersecretary Ernesto Carolina handed the medals to the veterans.</p>