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BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 8552 & SB 1976	Rep. Panganiban and Sen. Villar	Further strengthening the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), amending PD 1468, otherwise known as the Revised Coconut Industry Code of 1978, as amended, and providing appropriations therefor	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Jose Panganiban Jr. (Party-List, ANAC-IP) and Sen. Cynthia Villar, Chairpersons of the Committee on Agriculture and Food of the House and Senate, respectively, approved the reconciled version of HB 8552 and SB 1976.</p> <p>Also present during the bicameral conference committee meeting were Deputy Speakers Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA) and Prospero Pichay Jr. (1st District, Surigao del Sur), Reps. Edcel Lagman (1st District, Albay) and Orestes Salon (Party-List, AGRI).</p>
	HB 5745 & SB 1233	Rep. Panganiban and Sen. Pangilinan	Creating the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Trust Fund and providing for its management and utilization	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee approved the reconciled version of HB 5745 and SB 1233.</p> <p>Also present during the bicameral conference committee meeting were Deputy Speakers Garin and Pichay, Reps. Lagman, Salon, Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN), and Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon).</p>
	HB 7735 & SB 1998	Rep. Panganiban and Sen. Recto	Liberalizing the importation, exportation and trading of rice, lifting for the purpose the quantitative import restriction on rice	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee approved the reconciled version of HB 7735 and SB 1998.</p> <p>Also present during the bicameral conference committee meeting were Deputy Speaker Garin, Reps. Lagman, Salon, Victor Yap (2nd District, Tarlac), Michael Romero, Ph.D. (Party-List, 1-PACMAN), and Micaela Violago (2nd District, Nueva Ecija).</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Natural Resources (Technical Working Group)	HB 6505	Rep. Antonio	Instituting a New Water Code, amending for the purpose PD 1067, otherwise known as the Water Code of the Philippines	The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Joseph Stephen Paduano (Party-List, ABANG LINGKOD), will deliberate further on HB 6505 in its next meeting.

<p>Continuation... Natural Resources (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>One of the issues raised was whether the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and the National Power Corporation (NPC) should be both included as members of the National Water Resources Board (NWRB).</p> <p>According to a position paper submitted earlier by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), membership in the Board of agencies which use water may engender conflict of interest.</p> <p>However, NIA Operations Division Principal Engineer Leslie Dizon said that both water resources regulators and users must be included in the Board to ensure informed decisions in the management of the country's water resources.</p> <p>As proposed in HB 6505, the six-member panel of the NWRB shall be composed of the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as its chairperson; the secretary or undersecretary each from the Departments of Agriculture (DA), Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and NEDA as its members; and the administrator or deputy administrator from the NIA and the president and chief executive officer of NPC also as its members.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill for consideration by the TWG.</p>
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