TWG MEET ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS FOR CONGRESS

Thursday, 11 February 2021

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The Congressional Technical Working Group (TWG) on the Regulation of Single-Use Plastic Bags called a virtual Meeting on 11 February 2021. Initial presentation was delivered by Dr. Elsie David, Ph.D. on Life Cycle Assessment of the different packaging materials and how they affect our environment in the long-run. (Top left, clockwise) Very ably headed by TWG Chairman Rep. Francisco "Kiko" Benitez of Neg.Occ., this TWG consolidated 61 bills on the said issue for this Congress. All major stakeholders were invited like Helen Grace Baisa (Pres.-Phil.Chamber of Food Manufacturers), Ed Sunico of Unilever and Paola Alvarez representing the DOF.Â Among the many others were Rep. Gloria G. Labadlabad (Chair of d Cong.Committee on Ecology/Zamboanga del Norte), TWG Vice Chair Rep. Rufus Rodriguez/Misamis Oriental and DTI Usec. Atty. Ruth Castelo. This is the third Meeting by this TWG during this Congress.Â This TWG is under the watchful eye of Committee Secretary Atty. Dilbert Quetulio & Rep. Marc Go. Also represented were PAGASA (STC), PPIA (Danny Ngo), PPCP (Henry Gaw), FPI, Climate Change Commission (Rachel Herrera), Mother Earth Foundation (Sonia Mendoza), Phil.Alliance for Recycling & Material Sustainability (PARMS' Crispian Lao), CCBPI (Coke's Marc C. Cox), DBM, NAST (Fabian Dayrit), FIC (Joshua Tan), Bus.for Sustainable Dev't.(BSD's Bonar Laureto), ECCP (Angela Edralin-Valencia), DILG, NEDA (Lara Hidalgo), Aksyon Klima (Rodne Galicha) and others. The 3-hour session delved on definition of terms> need to redefine Recyclability, Recoverability, Retrievability, Convertability, Replacement, Single-Use, Recycling vs. Compost, Plastic as a "material" vs. itâ€™s seen as a "product;" "necessary" vs. "unnecessary" plastics, providing LGUs incentives when they tow the line and adding the subject of sustainable dev't. to school curriculum. Fact is that only 33% of barangays have recovery stations for recycling.