

# Committee Daily Bulletin



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COMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Natural Resources	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 Committee, chaired by LPGMA Party-List Rep. Arnel Ty, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on the measures and come up with a substitute bill.</p> <p>Thomas Kabigting, forest management specialist at the Forest Management Bureau (FMB), supports the passage of a law that would ensure the proper management and utilization of forest resources in the country.</p> <p>Likewise, the representative of National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), as well as those from the Society of Filipino Foresters and Haribon Foundation expressed their support for the bills.</p> <p>Rep. Arthur Defensor Jr. (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Iloilo), author of HB 1893, inquired if the function of protecting and managing the country's forest resources has been devolved to the local government units (LGUs), citing situations wherein forest rangers are being hired by LGUs to undertake the said task.</p> <p>Kabigting explained that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) still has the primary mandate to implement the country's forest laws, with forest rangers as its frontliners. However, he said that some LGUs organize their own "<i>bantay gubat</i>" groups to ensure the protection of forestlands in their area.</p> <p>The FMB was requested to submit the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on the violations of forest laws nationwide and the actions taken by the DENR against violators;</li> <li>• Status of implementation of the DENR's National Greening Program; and</li> <li>• Report on the nationwide forest cover mapping project.</li> </ul> <p>The Committee also requested all stakeholders to submit their respective position papers on the bills.</p>
	HBs 907, 1104 & 1893	Deputy Speaker Castro, Reps. Baguilat, and Defensor	Protecting, conserving, utilizing, developing and sustainably managing forest resources	