

Committee Daily Bulletin



17th Congress
First Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. I No. 69
February 7, 2017

COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Economic Affairs	HBs 4389, 4468, 4501 & 4787	Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, Reps. Salceda, Yap (A.), and Belmonte (F.)	Further amending Commonwealth Act No. 146, otherwise known as the Public Service Act, as amended	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Arthur Yap (3rd District, Bohol), decided to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune the proposed law and incorporate the inputs of the resource persons.</p> <p>The Committee also agreed to use HB 4389, authored by Deputy Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga), as the TWG's working draft.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo said the consumers often experience high prices and poor quality of basic services in the Philippines because only a few local players control the market. Competition and foreign investments are inhibited because certain limitations that should only apply to the operation of a public utility are also applied to all public services. She underscored that the key to fixing the problem is to develop a clear statutory definition of "public utility," which is what her bill, HB 4389, is proposing.</p> <p>HB 4389 also amends other provisions of CA 146 to effect the necessary changes in the antiquated provisions of the law to make it relevant to the present times.</p> <p>Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay) discussed the salient points of his bill, HB 4468. He explained that if this bill is passed into law, the prices of goods and services will eventually go down because of the entry of new players, especially foreign investors, in the market.</p> <p>The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), Land Transportation Office (LTO), Security and Exchange Commission (SEC), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), National Water Resources Board (NWRB), Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA), and Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) expressed support for the bills.</p> <p>Also supportive of the bills were the</p>

Continuation... Economic Affairs				<p>representatives from the University of the Philippines (UP) College of Law, Nationwide Association of Consumers, Inc. (NACI), Canadian Chamber of Commerce, and European Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>Party-List Reps. Carlos Isagani Zarate (BAYAN MUNA) and Antonio Tinio (ACT TEACHERS) expressed concern that the bills might entail the privatization of some public utilities to the detriment of the general public.</p>
Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Energy	HRs 565, 588 & 591	Reps. Herrera- Dy, Belmonte (J.C.), and Gatchalian	<p>Inquiry into the circumstances that compelled Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) Director Francisco Jose Villa Jr. to commit suicide, including the alleged pressure from ERC Chair and Chief Executive Officer Jose Vicente Salazar to approve contracts without proper bidding and due adherence to procedure, as well as allegations of corruption behind ERC deals</p>	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), Chair of the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, Chair of the Committee on Energy, will deliberate further on the issues raised relative to HRs 565, 588 and 591 in its next meeting.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Pimentel said the call for an inquiry was triggered by the suicide of ERC Director and Chair of Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Francisco Jose Villa Jr., who left suicide notes revealing irregularities in the ERC, particularly in the procurement and bidding process.</p> <p>Reps. Bernadette Herrera-Dy (Party-List, BAGONG HENERASYON) and Rep. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL) suggested that the Joint Committee focus its investigation on the revelations of Villar in his suicide notes.</p> <p>As stated in HRs 565 and 588, in one of Villa's suicide notes, he wrote that his greatest fear as head of BAC was the approval of the contract with Luis Morelos for the production of an audio visual presentation (AVP), which ERC Chair and CEO Jose Vicente Salazar chose through a rigged selection system.</p> <p>Salazar defended himself saying that Morelos, who is his friend, volunteered to produce an AVP for the ERC, free of charge, which will be shown in certain cinemas in the country to inform the public of the ERC's mandate.</p> <p>ERC Commissioners Josefina Patricia Asirit and Gloria Victoria Yap-Taruc said that a fact-finding team within the ERC was formed supposedly to conduct an inquiry into the allegations made in Villa's suicide notes. However, they claimed that Salazar demanded that the investigation be stopped.</p> <p>ERC Commissioners Alfredo Non and Geronimo Sta. Ana said the Commission, in response to Salazar's request, put on hold the internal inquiry pending the result of the investigation by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on the matter.</p> <p>Salazar explained that in asking the Commissioners to stop the conduct of an</p>

<p>Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability jt. w/ Energy</p>				<p>internal investigation, he only wanted impartiality by letting other agencies investigate into Villar's disclosures.</p> <p>The Joint Committee asked the ERC officials to submit their sworn affidavits for its consideration in the next meeting.</p> <p>Representatives from the NBI and the Commission on Audit (COA) will be among those who will be invited to attend the Committee's next meeting.</p>
<p>Human Rights</p>	<p>HRs 486 & 487</p>	<p>Reps. Elago and Zarate</p>	<p>Condemning the violent dispersal of the demonstration of national minority groups and their supporters in front of the United States Embassy in Manila, and calling for an investigation of the incident</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2nd District, Zambales), terminated its inquiry relative to HRs 486 and 487. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Deloso-Montalla stated that all facts gathered in the course of the Committee's three meetings on the two resolutions will be consolidated and evaluated to determine the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance of police officers involved in the said violent dispersal of demonstrators with the Philippine National Police (PNP's) standard operating procedure (SOP) on the handling of rallies; • Whether or not maximum tolerance was indeed exercised by the police while the demonstration was going on and during the dispersal operation; • If there is a need to revise or repeal <i>Batas Pambansa</i> 880 or the Public Assembly Act of 1985. <p>Intelligence and Investigation Office Chief Maria Lynnberg Constantinopla of the PNP Internal Affairs Service (IAS) reported that the result of the IAS-PNP <i>motu proprio</i> investigation of the incident called for the filing of administrative cases against 10 PNP officers, including Police Senior Superintendent Marcelino Pedrozo, Police Superintendent Albert Barot, and Police Officer 3 Franklin Kho, who rammed the police car he was driving into the rallyists.</p> <p>When asked by BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate on why only administrative cases have been filed against the 10 PNP officials, Constantinopla answered that criminal cases have already been filed by the victims of the violent dispersal against them.</p> <p>Noting that no preventive suspension was issued against the 10 PNP officials, ACT TEACHERS Party-List Reps. France Castro and Antonio Tinio, as well as Rep. Zarate, urged the Committee to look into the possible amendment of existing laws imposing disciplinary measures against erring police</p>

Continuation... Human Rights				<p>officers and men, including the issuance of preventive suspension orders.</p> <p>On the other hand, Commission on Human Rights (CHR) lawyer Florante Enciso disclosed that based on CHR's initial investigation, both the rallyists and the police committed unwarranted acts and used unnecessary force during the demonstration.</p> <p>The Committee urged the CHR to speed up the conduct of its investigation.</p>
Labor and Employment	Substitute Bill to HBs 989, 1353 & 3267	Reps. Chipeco, Nograles (K.A.), and Villarica	Regulating the practice of employers in posting notices of termination of employment of former employees in newspapers, social media and other public information venues	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Randolph Ting (3 rd District, Cagayan), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HBs 989, 1353, and 3267.
	HB 4207	Rep. Barbers	Declaring a one-time amnesty for unpaid Social Security System (SSS) contributions, inclusive of fees, fines, penalties, interest and other additions thereto, by employers of househelpers under RA 7655, or the law increasing the minimum wage of househelpers, amending for the purpose Article 143 of Presidential Decree 442, as amended, and RA 10361, or the law instituting policies for the protection and welfare of domestic workers	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 4207 in its next meeting.</p> <p>SSS Assistant Legislative Liaison Officer Joseph Desunia said that the proposed law may lead to an "anti-selection" or "the risk of use of information exclusively available to a person to acquire coverage under the program."</p> <p>Desunia explained that an "anti-selection" occurs when a citizen declares any person as his/her househelper and pays for the latter's past due SSS premiums in order to qualify for a pension. This may result in a heavy subsidy particularly for low income earners. To prevent the occurrence of anti-selection, appropriate mechanisms should be put in place, he added.</p> <p>The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) was requested to submit data on the actual number of <i>kasambahays</i> (househelpers) registered with DOLE.</p>
	HBs 269 & 500	Reps. Roman and Nograles (K.A.)	Instituting policies for the protection and welfare of caregivers in the practice of their profession	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to study the bill further.</p> <p>Rep. Geraldine Roman (1st District, Bataan), author of HB 269, said that the passage of her bill will promote and protect the welfare of caregivers and properly define the practice of this profession so that appropriate benefits can be accorded to them.</p> <p>Lowela Trajano, president of the Philippine Caregivers Association-Alliance of Health Workers (PCA-AHW), expressed support for the bills. She requested that the organization's proposed amendments be considered in the discussion of the measures.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Ting, Trajano said that the salary of caregivers ranges from P550 to 750 per day.</p> <p>On the other hand, Deputy Executive Director Patricia Hornilla of the National Wages and</p>

Continuation... Labor and Employment				Productivity Commission (NWPC) said that the prevailing minimum wage in private establishments is P14,935 per month in the National Capital Region (NCR) and P7,148 to P11,513 monthly in other regions.
Public Order and Safety	Substitute Bill to HB 2952	Rep. Santos- Recto	Establishing women's and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) protection desks in all Philippine National Police (PNP) stations nationwide, amending for the purpose Title VII of RA 8551, as amended, otherwise known as the PNP Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998	The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Rep. Horacio Suansing, Jr. (2nd District, Sultan Kudarat), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 2952.
	HB 1347	Rep. Acop	Providing the mechanism for the determination of the propriety of filing criminal complaint against alleged possessors of unlicensed ammunition under certain conditions, amending for the purpose RA 10591, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG), to be chaired by Rep. Edgar Sarmiento (1st District, Samar), to reconcile the conflicting provisions of HBs 1347 and 1607. The PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) and the Aviation Security Group (ASG), the Office of Transportation Security (OTS) of the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) were requested to submit their comments on the two bills.
	HB 1607	Rep. Cagas	Exempting the possession of single ammunition from the coverage of unlawful acquisition or possession of ammunition, amending for the purpose RA 10591	
	HB 1802 & HR 554	Reps. Castelo and Cortuna	Authorizing the PNP to adopt a strategic policy against criminals riding in tandem on motorcycles, thereby rationalizing more aggressive interdiction operations	The Committee will deliberate further on the proposed measures in its next meeting. The PNP was requested to submit its strategic plan to curb the nefarious activities of motorcycle riding criminals (MRCs). PNP Chief Supt. Erickson Velasquez said that the PNP conducts "Oplan Bakal/Sita," as well as intelligence and data gathering in line with its campaign against MRCs (<i>Oplan Bakal/Sita</i> involves the conduct of checkpoint operations by uniformed personnel to look out for loose firearms being carried by motorists.) However, Velasquez noted that the police need new and upgraded communications and mobilization equipment to be able to be more effective in this job. Responding to the query of Rep. Henry Oaminal (2nd District, Misamis Occidental), Velasquez reported that there are 4,011 reported cases in 2015 and 4,335 reported cases in 2016 that involve crimes committed by MRCs. Alarmed by the increasing number of reported MRC cases, Committee Chair Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City) averred that the PNP must take serious steps to totally eradicate MRCs. Citing the funding provision in HB 1802, Rep. Acop said the amount of P100 million will be appropriated to upgrade the physical and technical capacity of the PNP to fight criminal activities of MRCs.

Continuation... Public Order and Safety	HB 4252	Rep. Belaro	Requiring increased police visibility in schools	The Committee will deliberate further on the proposed measures in its next meeting. The PNP was requested to submit a crime prevention strategy plan that includes increasing police visibility.
	HRs 139, 140 & 188	Rep. Castelo	Urging the PNP to immediately institute measures and intensify vigilance and police visibility to curtail lawlessness and spate of random killings around the nation	Following reports involving criminal acts perpetrated by some PNP personnel, Rep. Sarmiento urged the PNP to work harder to regain the people's trust and confidence in the police.
Revision of Laws	HBs 67, 550, 622, 636, 705, 974 & 994	Reps. Salceda, Del Mar, Gonzalez, Romualdo, Eriguel, Fortun, and Mercado	Declaring special working/non-working holidays in certain parts of the country	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Marlyn Primicias-Agabas (6 th District, Pangasinan), approved the seven bills. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Reports.
	HBs 70, 476, 835, 836, 890, 891, 920, 945, 1186, 1602, 1603 & 3561	Reps. Salceda, Sy-Alvarado, Zamora (M.C.), Sarmiento (E. M.), Abaya, Tiangco, Dimaporo (M. K.), Baguilat, and Chipeco		The Committee approved the 12 bills subject to the submission of additional documentary requirements.
	HB 213	Rep. Matugas	Declaring May 15 of every year as a special non-working holiday in the entire Province of Surigao del Norte to be known as "Adlaw Nan Probinsya Nan Surigao," repealing for the purpose Republic Act 7553, or the law declaring June 19 of every year as "Adlaw Nan Surigao del Norte"	The Committee approved with amendment HB 213, and subject to the submission of additional documentary requirements.
	HB 2321	Rep. Chipeco	Declaring June 19 of every year a non-working public holiday throughout the Province of Laguna to be known as "The National Hero's Day" in honor of the birth of National Hero Dr. Jose P. Rizal	The Committee approved HB 2321 subject to style.
	HB 924	Rep. Abaya	Declaring October 22 of every year a special non-working holiday in the Municipality of Rosario, Province of Cavite in commemoration of its founding anniversary	The Committee deferred consideration of HB 924.
	HB 1164	Rep. Acosta-Alba	Declaring the third Friday of October of every year as a special non-working holiday in the Municipality of Baungon, Province of Bukidnon to be known as "Araw ng Baungon"	The Committee deferred consideration of HB 1164.
	Trade and Industry	HB 2957	Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo	Providing for the establishment of a <i>Timbangan ng Bayan</i> center in all public markets nationwide, amending for the purpose Chapter II of RA 7394, otherwise known as the Consumer Act of the Philippines

Continuation... Trade and Industry				The Committee agreed to expand the definition of “public markets” and to include a penal provision in the bill.
	HB 3091	Rep. Castelo	Banning the imposition of expiry dates on gift checks by commercial establishments	The Committee approved HB 3091 with amendment, to include a penal provision in the bill.
	HB 1468	Rep. Abayon	Amending certain provisions of RA 7394, defining for the purpose the crime of pseudo-investments, providing penalties therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on HB 1468.</p> <p>The bill, authored by Rep. Harlin Neil Abayon III (Party-List, AANGAT TAYO), seeks to curb the growing threat of pyramid schemes, ponzi schemes and similar business activities meant to defraud individuals of their hard earned money.</p> <p>Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Ramon Lopez will be invited in the Committee’s next meeting as Rep. Biron emphasized that his presence is important to answer the queries of the Members of the Committee relative to the bills proposing amendments to the Consumer Act.</p> <p>LABAN KONSYUMER INC. President Victorio Mario Dimagiba stated that not all multi-level marketing (MLM) schemes are scams, adding that there are legitimate MLM businesses. Dimagiba mentioned that Singapore has an existing law prohibiting multi-level marketing and pyramiding and suggested to the Committee to refer to this law in its review of HB 1468.</p> <p>Department of Justice (DOJ) State Counsel Carmeline Viniegra conveyed the DOJ’s support for the bill.</p> <p>The resource persons present were requested to submit their position papers on the bill.</p>
	HB 1487	Rep. Abayon	Ordaining a Bill of Rights for the Filipino Consumers	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to deliberate further on HBs 1487, 2646, 2829, 3663, 3894, and 4476.</p> <p>The resource persons present were requested to submit their position papers on the bills.</p>
	HB 2646	Rep. Gatchalian	Providing consumers and merchants protection on online commerce and providing penalties for violation thereof	
	HB 2829	Rep. Billones	Penalizing false or fraudulent advertising	
	HB 3663	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Affording more protection to consumers, amending for the purpose RA 7394	
	HB 3894	Rep. Escudero	Prohibiting merchandising stores and service establishments from charging more than the cash retail price of goods and services purchased with credit cards and prescribing penalties for any violation thereof	
HB 4476	Rep. Romero	Amending Articles 19 (Penalties) and 39 (Administrative Sanctions) of RA 7394 and increasing its penalties		

Veterans Affairs and Welfare	Substitute Bill to HB 1240	Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo	Giving juridical personality to the present Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2nd District, Pangasinan), approved with amendment the Substitute Bill to HB 1240.</p> <p>The substitute bill will be referred to the Committees on Appropriations and Ways and Means for review of its funding and tax provisions, respectively.</p> <p>The amendments to the substitute bill include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The VMMC shall be under the supervision of the Department of National Defense (DND); • The existing administrative and operational relationship between the VMMC and the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) shall be maintained; • The Board of Trustees of the VMMC shall be composed of nine members; • An annual appropriation of P1.5 billion subject to an increase of 6% yearly shall be allocated to fund the implementation of this proposed law; • The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) shall remit 5% of its annual revenues directly to the VMMC; and • The VMMC shall be granted tax exemptions similar to other existing government hospitals with special charters.
	HB 270	Rep. Roman	Increasing the monthly pension of senior veterans of World War II, Korean and Vietnam wars to P20,000, thereby amending RA 6948, as amended	<p>The Committee approved HB 270.</p> <p>Rep. Geraldine Roman (1st District, Bataan), author of HB 270, said that the increase in the monthly pension of senior veterans of World War II, Korean, and Vietnam wars is a way of showing appreciation to the veterans who have dedicated their lives in the service of the country.</p> <p>The bill will be referred to the Committees on Appropriations and Ways and Means for review of its funding and tax provisions, respectively.</p>
	HBs 2654 & 2724	Reps. Campos and Alejano	Increasing the monthly pension of senior veterans	The Committee will deliberate further on the four bills in its next meeting.
	HBs 3152 & 3821	Reps. Alejano and Revilla	Providing for a P3,000 increase in the monthly pension of war veterans and their dependents and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 1128	Rep. Alejano	Providing for the payment of arrears in the veterans' pensions and benefits mandated pursuant to RA 7696, as amended, or the law standardizing and upgrading the benefits for military veterans and their dependents and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee will deliberate further on HBs 1128 and 1262 in its next meeting.
	HB 1262	Rep. Biazon	Mandating the use of proceeds from the	

Continuation... Veterans Affairs and Welfare		development, lease or use of certain government properties for payment of pensions and other benefits of the veterans	
--	--	---	--

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Veterans Affairs and Welfare	Conduct of organizational meeting and introduction of the Members of the Committee	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2nd District, Pangasinan), conducted its organizational meeting and introduced the Members of the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee, which is presently composed of 17 Members, has jurisdiction over "all matters directly and principally relating to the welfare of war veterans, veterans of military campaigns, military retirees, and their surviving spouses and other beneficiaries."</p>

AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Ways & Means	Briefing by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) on its existing electronic/computerization programs	<p>The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, listened to the presentation of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) on its information and communications technology (ICT) systems in connection with its tax administration function.</p> <p>BIR Head Revenue Executive Assistant Carolyn Ann Reyes presented the BIR's ICT systems including online taxpayer assistance; electronic registration of business and application for tax identification number; electronic filing of tax returns; and electronic payment of taxes.</p> <p>Reyes highlighted the BIR's Electronic Filing and Payment System (eFPS) which allows taxpayers to file their tax returns and pay their taxes online through the convenience of internet banking service.</p> <p>According to Reyes, the number of tax returns filed increased significantly from 692,581 in 2008 to 19.70 million in January 2017 with the implementation of the eFPS.</p> <p>Rep. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental) said that the BIR's electronic systems should be efficient enough to be able to address the problems in tax collection.</p> <p>BIR Deputy Commissioner Lanee David reported that most local government units (LGUs) do not comply with the BIR regulation on sharing of information, which was issued for the purpose of enhancing tax collection and administration.</p> <p>Rep. Victoria Isabel Noel (Party-List, AN WARAY) inquired on the sanctions imposed against LGUs that do not comply. David replied that failure to comply with BIR regulations and circulars has corresponding penalties.</p> <p>When asked about the BIR's current budget for its ICT programs, Curiba said an amount of P1 billion is allocated for this purpose.</p> <p>The BIR was requested to submit its position paper on the following: increasing the number of taxpayers to be classified as large taxpayers; improving cooperation between the BIR and the LGUs; and Section 270 of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) regarding the unlawful disclosure of trade secrets.</p>

<p>Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development</p>	<p>Briefing by the Department of Agriculture (DA) on its plans, policies and programs for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the agriculture and fisheries sector</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Peter 'Sr. Pedro' Unabia (1st District, Misamis Oriental), listened to the briefing conducted by the Department of Agriculture (DA) on its plans, policies and programs for MSMEs in the agriculture and fisheries sector.</p> <p>At the outset, Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol explained the reasons why small farmers and fisherfolk can hardly avail themselves of the benefits under the lending programs of the government, including those being administered by the DA.</p> <p>Piñol attributed this problem to the stringent and voluminous requirements that ordinary farmers and fisherfolk cannot possibly comply with, and the high interest rates imposed on loans.</p> <p>In a meeting with the officials of the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC), Piñol said he discussed the need to simplify the process for the agricultural credit programs knowing the limitations of small farmers. (The ACPC is an attached agency of the DA mandated to synchronize all agriculture and fisheries credit policies and programs to improve farmer's and fisherfolk's access to credit.)</p> <p>Piñol proposed the creation of a new agency under the DA that would manage the agriculture and fisheries credit facilities and the imposition of a maximum interest rate of 4%. Under the ACPC's Agriculture and Fisheries Financing Program (AFFP), the interest rates range from 24% to 36% per annum and the loans being granted amount to as much as P300,000 for agri-production and P150,000 for microfinancing.</p> <p>ACPC's Director for Policy Research and Planning Magdalena Casuga briefed the Committee on the ACPC's vision, mission and its Agro-Industry Modernization Credit and Financing Program (AMCFP), benefitting small farmers and fisherfolk, and SMEs engaged in agriculture and fisheries.</p> <p>The lending windows of the AMCFP are the following: the AFFP; Sikat Saka Program (SSP); Cooperative Banks Agri-Lending Program II (CBAP II); Value-Chain Financing Program; Climate Change Adaptation Financing Program; Agrarian Production Credit Program (APCP); Calamity Assistance Program; Program for Unified Lending in Agriculture (PUNLA); and Survival and Recovery (SURE) Loans Program.</p> <p>Director Carolyn Castro of the DA's Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service presented the DA's assistance being provided to enterprises intended to promote agribusiness investments, such as holding local and international investment forums and trade fairs and conducting enterprise development seminars.</p> <p>Aklan Rep. Carlito Marquez urged the Committee to review the mandate of the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) after learning that it imposes high interest rates on loans to small farmers and fisherfolk. On the other hand, Rep. Jocelyn Limkaichong (1st District, Negros Occidental) warned against unscrupulous borrowers who only take advantage of government's loan programs with no intention of repaying the loans extended to them.</p>
--	---	--

Comments, suggestions and requests for copies may be sent to the Editorial Unit, Committee Management Support Service I, 3rd Floor, Ramon V. Mitra, Jr. Bldg., Batasan Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City. Tel. Nos. 9326118; 9315001 local 7122.

Also available at <http://www.congress.gov.ph>