Committee Daily Bulletin

17th Congress
Second Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. II No. 104
April 03, 2018

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING		
COMMITTEE	**SUBJECT MATTER**	**DISCUSSIONS**
Mindanao Affairs (Technical Working Group)	Discussion with the following agencies on their respective proposed 2019 budget and plans and programs for Mindanao • Department of Agriculture (DA)	The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Peter "Sr. Pedro" Unabia (1st District, Misamis Oriental), discussed the DA and DILG's 2019 budget proposals and plans and programs for Mindanao. Rep. Unabia urged the DA to increase next year's budget allocation for Mindanao, citing the region's high poverty incidence. He lamented that Mindanao's allocation this year is only 17.36% of DA's total 2018 budget, which is even lower than the region's allocation in 2017 of 19.9%. The Committee Chair, Rep. Maximo Rodriguez Jr. (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), stressed that Mindanao's budget should increase by more than 10% from its current budget. Rep. Alberto Ungab (3rd District, Davao City) sought the DA's explanation on why the allocation for the National Capital Region (NCR) jumped from 4.90% of DA's budget in 2017 to 36.12% in 2018, considering that there are no agricultural lands in NCR. Rep. Ungab also said that Mindanao's agricultural productivity is hampered by the lack of funding support and infrastructure such as farm-to-market roads. DA Budget Division Chief Telma Tolentino explained that the allocation for NCR also includes the budget for DA's bureaus and attached agencies. Tolentino was directed to provide the TWG a breakdown of DA's budget for Mindanao. Rep. Amihilda Sangcopan (Party-List, AMIN) requested a list of DA's programs in Mindanao and a description of the system adopted by DA and its attached agencies allowing farmers easy access to DA's programs and projects. Officials of DA's regional offices promised to submit the documents and data being requested by Rep. Sangcopan. • Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)	Rep. Rodriguez also asked the DILG to increase its budget for Mindanao and to implement programs beneficial to the region. He said that only 3.02% of DILG's 2017 budget went to Mindanao, compared to 92% for Luzon. DILG Assistant Secretary Marjorie Jalosjos promised to take up the concerns of the TWG in the Department's management committee meeting this month. DILG's Planning Service Director Francisco Cruz reported that the DILG regional offices have already submitted their proposed 2019 budget for Mindanao to DILG's central office. Based on the proposals, he said that there may be a marked increase in DILG's allocation for Mindanao for next year.