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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Cooperatives Development (Technical Working Group)	HBs 565, 1275, 2571, 4174 & 5385	Reps. Canama, Biazon, Rodriguez (M.), Plaza, and Suansing (E.)	Creating the Department of Cooperatives, repealing for the purpose RA 6939, otherwise known as the Charter of the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)	<p>The joint technical working group (TWG), presided by Committee on Government Reorganization Vice Chair Rep. Virgilio Lacson (Party-List, MANILA TEACHERS), will deliberate further on the five measures in its next meeting.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Lacson underscored the need to resolve first the issue of whether to create a new department or to just strengthen the CDA. He opined that strengthening the CDA would be more practical and feasible than creating a new department considering the long process and the huge budget involved to create a new body.</p> <p>CDA Administrator from Visayas Benjie Oliva and CDA Executive Director Ray Elevazo both agree that the CDA can undertake the functions of the proposed department by strengthening its powers and increasing its budget for human resources.</p> <p>However, CDA Administrator from Luzon Eulogio Castillo favors the creation of a Department of Cooperatives explaining that it would allow a more focused intervention in the development of all forms of cooperatives. He claimed that for the past 25 years, the CDA has failed to fully achieve its mandate of promoting the growth of cooperatives as instruments of social justice and economic development.</p> <p>ACDI Multi-Purpose Cooperative Development President Alfredo Ramirez preferred to strengthen the CDA to be able to make the cooperative sector at par with other countries, particularly in terms of being active partners in nation-building.</p> <p>ACDI is an institutional cooperative whose members are in the active military service, retirees, in the reserve force, and regular civilian employees of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their positions papers on the bills.</p>