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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Energy	HBs 6565 & 6960	Reps. Zarate and Garcia (J.E.)	Providing incentives and credit facilities for consumers of small solar power systems in the Philippines	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Rep. Carlos Roman Uybarreta (Party-List, 1-CARE), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the two bills.</p> <p>Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA), author of HB 6565, underscored the need to look into alternative sources of energy to relieve consumers from paying the high cost of commercial energy.</p> <p>For his part, Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2nd District, Bataan), author of HB 6960, emphasized the use of renewable energy as a viable solution to the depleting supply of energy in the country. Rep. Garcia added that it is high time for government to accelerate the exploration and utilization of renewable energy as a result of foreseeable decline of oil supply and the increasing cost of commodities.</p> <p>Commenting on the provision in the bill which mandates the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Social Security System (SSS), and Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) to provide for a solar rooftop credit and financing facility to their eligible members, GSIS Legal Advisory Department Manager Reynald Rey explained that it is not within the mandate of the GSIS to extend such credit but rather to provide social security benefits to its members as stipulated in its charter.</p> <p>On the other hand, HDMF Legal Department Manager Jose Roberto Po said that the HDMF has credit facilities for the installation of solar power systems as part of its home improvement loan to its qualified members.</p> <p>Solar Philippines President Leandro Leviste opined that a stand-alone solar rooftop system is not an ideal solution to lower energy cost due to high financial requirement involved. To promote solar energy as a basic energy source, Leviste suggested that users of small solar power systems should be qualified to enter into net metering agreements with distribution utilities without any barrier and discrimination.</p>

Continuation... Energy				<p>As defined in the bills, “net metering” refers to a system “in which a distribution grid user has a two-way connection to the grid and is only charged for his net electricity consumption and is credited for any overall contribution to the electricity grid.”</p> <p>The Department of Energy (DOE) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) were requested to submit their position papers on the proposed measures.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to invite representatives from the National Renewable Energy Board (NREB), Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and Department of Budget and Management (DBM), as well as from distribution utilities (DUs) to solicit their comments on the bills.</p>
Food Security (Special Committee)	Substitute Bill to HBs 247, 767, 3419 & 3937	Reps. Bordado, Aglipay-Villar, Banal, and Bag-ao	Creating a supplemental feeding program to address the nutritional needs of infants, and pregnant and lactating mothers and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Leo Rafael Cueva (2nd District, Negros Occidental), approved the Substitute Bill to the four bills.</p> <p>The bill will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for review of its funding provision.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 2496, 4263, 4675, 5746, 6235 & 6789	Reps. Estrella, Escudero, Nieto, Calixto- Rubiano, Deputy Speaker Garin, and Rep. Villafuerte	Reducing food waste through food donations and food waste recycling	<p>The Committee approved the Substitute Bill on the six bills.</p> <p>The bill will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for review of its funding provision.</p>
Good Government and Public Accountability	HR 1505	Rep. Vergara	Inquiry into the apparent corruption and irregularities in the imposition, collection and distribution of taxes and fees on the quarrying operations in the Province of Nueva Ecija and other provinces in the Philippines	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 1505 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Councilor Adelino Manabat of the Municipality of Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija narrated the ill-effects of quarrying operations in his town. He particularly mentioned the damage to agricultural lands in his town due to erosion and landslide caused by quarrying especially during the onslaught of Typhoon Lando in 2015.</p> <p>Rep. Rosanna “Ria” Vergara (3rd District, Nueva Ecija), author of HR 1505, asked about the apparent downward trend in the province’s quarry tax collections since 2013 or since the assumption to office of Rosario Rivera as the provincial treasurer of Nueva Ecija.</p> <p>Rivera denied accusations or insinuations that she is involved in any wrongdoing and that the revenue collections from sand and gravel operations are understated. She stressed that her office merely receives payments from various quarry operators.</p> <p>The Provincial Government of Nueva Ecija was asked to submit the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of the letters sent to various city,

Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability				<p>municipal and barangay treasurers in relation to the release of checks as revenue shares from sand and gravel/quarry operations, and acknowledgment receipts of these checks;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of quarry operators in the province; and • Copy of the legal opinion issued by the provincial government's legal department in relation to the issuance of a provincial ordinance in 2003 allowing the provincial government to issue quarrying permits for the extraction of sand and gravel. <p>The Committee agreed to issue subpoena to Nueva Ecija Governor Czarina Umali, former Nueva Ecija Governor Aurelio Umali, and Negros Oriental Governor Roel Degamo, to compel them to attend the next Committee hearing.</p> <p>Degamo was invited to attend the previous meetings of the Committee upon the request of Rep. Arnolfo "Arnie" Teves Jr. (3rd District, Negros Oriental), who claims that the Province of Negros Oriental has similar concerns to Nueva Ecija.</p> <p>The Committee likewise agreed to invite former DENR Undersecretary Arturo Valdez; Gilbert Paltao, quarry operator in Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija; and a certain "Fred Hermoso," who is believed to be the facilitator of alleged illegal quarrying in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija.</p> <p>On motion of Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu) and Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, the Committee directed the Secretariat to request from the provincial governments of Cebu and Catanduanes a list of quarry operators in their respective areas and other documents pertinent to the inquiry.</p>
Legislative Franchises	Substitute Bill to HB 6385	Rep. Go (M.)	Renewing the franchise granted to Philippine Communications Satellite Corporation (PHILCOMSAT) to construct, install, maintain and operate in the Philippines ground satellite terminal stations for telecommunication with satellite facilities and delivery to common carriers	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Franz "Chicoy" Alvarez (1 st District, Palawan), approved the Committee Report on HB 6385.
	Substitute Bill to HB 6429	Rep. Bravo (A.)	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to the Andres Bonifacio College Broadcasting System, Inc. under Republic Act No. 8120	The Committee approved the Committee Report on HB 6429.
Local Government jt. w/ Muslim Affairs and Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 92, 6121, 6263 & 6475	Deputy Speaker Sema, Reps. Macapagal-Arroyo & Dimaporo (M.K.), and Speaker Alvarez	Providing for the Basic Law for the Bangsamoro and abolishing the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), repealing for the purpose RA 9054, or the law strengthening and expanding the Organic Act for the ARMM, and RA 6734 or the law providing for an Organic Act for the ARMM	The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Reps. Pedro Acharon Jr. (1st District, South Cotabato and General Santos City), Mauyag "Jun" Papandayan Jr. (2nd District, Lanao del Sur), and Ruby Sahali (Tawi-Tawi), for the Committees on Local Government and on Muslim Affairs, and for the Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, respectively, held an executive session to discuss sensitive issues relative to the draft substitute bill.

Natural Resources	HB 4617	Rep. Ramirez-Sato	Establishing watershed reservations on certain parcels of land situated in Abra de Ilog, Calintaan, Magsaysay, Mamburao, Paluan, Rizal, Sablayan, Sta. Cruz, and San Jose in the Province of Occidental Mindoro, and Bulalacao, Mansalay, Puerto Galera, and San Teodoro in the Province of Oriental Mindoro	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Arnel Ty (Party-List, LPGMA), approved HB 4617.</p> <p>The National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) was requested to submit the technical description of the proposed watershed reservations.</p>
	HB 2360	Rep. Bravo (M. V.)	Declaring the Matang-Tubig a natural biotic area and providing for its management and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to study the bill further.
	HB 2685	Rep. Bravo (M. V.)	Declaring the Mount Diwata Watershed Forest Reserve and its surrounding areas situated in the Municipality of San Fernando, Ticao Island, Province of Masbate as natural biotic area pursuant to RA 7586, otherwise known as the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to study the bill further.
	HBs 3439 & 3559	Rep. Alvarez	Incorporating the El Nido managed resource protected area and the Malampaya sound protected landscape and seascape, both located in the Province of Palawan, within the environmentally critical areas network system of Palawan and the NIPAS, providing for their management and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to deliberate further on HBs 3439 and 3559.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go sponsored HBs 3439 and 3559 on behalf of the author, Rep. Franz "Chicoy" Alvarez (1st District, Palawan).</p> <p>Atty. Robert Chan, executive director of Palawan Non-Government Organization Network, Inc. (PNNI), recommends that the supervision of the two protected areas be retained by the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) instead of placing them under the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD).</p> <p>Director Vicente Tuddao Jr. of DENR Region IV-B (MIMAROPA) said that the two bills should undergo consultations with the stakeholders of Palawan at the barangay level and the management of the two protected areas be retained with DENR in accordance with existing laws.</p>
	HB 6036	Rep. Biazon	Establishing the Philippine Rise Natural Park in the Province of Isabela as a protected area under RA 7586, providing for its management	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to study the bill further.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Jesulito Manalo (Party-List, ANGKLA).</p> <p>Having learned that several bills with similar subject matter have been referred to other Committees of the House of Representatives, the Committee agreed to request the Committee on Rules to change the referral of these bills to the Committee on Natural Resources.</p>
Public Order and Safety	HBs 1849 & 5616	Reps. Vargas and Yap (V.)	Creating a Barangay Community Peace and Order Council for the utilization of barangay officials and its constituents for crime prevention	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), will deliberate further on HBs 1849 and 5616 in its next meeting.

Continuation... Public Order and Safety				<p>Representatives from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM), and Philippine National Police (PNP) expressed support for the proposed law.</p> <p>Barangay Chair Oscar Tamayao of Sta. Cruz, Antipolo City, speaking in behalf of the barangay chairpersons present, also manifested support for the bills.</p> <p>Rep. Antonio Tinio (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS) voiced out some concerns regarding Section 5 of HBs 1849 and 5616, particularly on the function of the proposed Barangay Community Peace and Order Units to “identify barangay constituents with strong deviant behavior for referral to appropriate authorities.” According to Rep. Tinio, this provision might run counter to laws protecting an individual’s right to privacy as well as other laws protecting human rights.</p> <p>Rep. Gary Alejano (Party-List, MAGDALO) expressed his preference for a more comprehensive policy on peace and order.</p> <p>The PNP, DILG, and other concerned agencies were instructed to submit their respective position papers on the proposed law.</p>
HB 1035	Rep. Tan (A.)	Prohibiting the use of videoke/karaoke systems and other sound amplifying equipment that cause unnecessary disturbance to the public within the residential areas, and providing penalties therefor		<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on HB 1035.</p> <p>Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon), author of HB 1035, discussed the negative effects of sound pollution to a person’s health and to public order. Her statements were supported by Friends of the Environment in Negros Oriental (Fenor) volunteer Ruby Palma and concerned citizen Katherine Victa who shared her advocacy to minimize noise pollution.</p> <p>Rep. Acop underscored the need to strike a balance between encouraging business and protecting the health of the public.</p>
HR 763	Rep. Acop	Inquiry into the manifest breakdown of discipline in the Philippine National Police (PNP) in light of the recent high-profile criminal incidents allegedly involving officers and members of the organization		<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 763 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Alejano co-author of HR 763, presented data culled from the reports of the PNP, highlighting the significant number of deaths associated with police operations, particularly in line with PNPs anti-illegal drug campaign.</p> <p>He advised the members of the PNP to examine and learn from the experiences of other countries in their war on illegal drugs. In the case of Thailand, Rep. Alejano said half of those who died in its war on drugs turned out to be falsely accused and not involved in the illegal drug trade at all. He added that so-called watchlists, such as</p>

Continuation... Public Order and Safety				<p>the one being used by the PNP, often end up being used as a political tool by people who are in power.</p> <p>Rep. Arnolfo "Arnie" Teves Jr. (3rd District, Negros Oriental) confirmed Rep. Alejano's claim, saying that he was himself a victim of false accusations, by a former PNP colonel, in relation to the President's campaign against illegal drugs.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Henry Oaminal (2nd District, Misamis Occidental) commended the PNP for its efforts to cleanse its ranks. He advised the PNP to request funding for legal representation to assist PNP personnel who may face charges connected with the performance of their duty.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon and Rep. Alejano reiterated the need for the PNP to institute measures that would promote transparency and accountability to address any doubts over the propriety and legality of its operations.</p> <p>PNP Police Chief Superintendent Rolando Hinanay said that the PNP is committed to improving its performance, particularly during police operations. He added that one of the immediate measures the PNP will undertake to address transparency issues is to provide the police with body cameras to be used during police operations.</p>
Revision of Laws	HB 7125	Rep. Pacquiao	Declaring the last Monday of January of every year as a regular holiday, to be known as the National Bible Day	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Marlyn Primicias-Agabas (6th District, Pangasinan), approved HB 7125 subject to style and amendment.
	HB 2059	Rep. Unabia	Declaring the 22 nd of June of every year as a special non-working public holiday in the Municipality of Sugbongcogon, Province of Misamis Oriental to be known as the Sugbongcogon Charter Day in celebration of its Charter Day	The Committee approved HB 2059 subject to the submission of documents required by the Committee.
	HB 2991	Rep. Pacquiao	Declaring November 28 of every year as a special non-working holiday in the Province of Sarangani in commemoration of its founding anniversary	The Committee approved HB 2991.
	HB 4807	Rep. Pacquiao	Declaring October 27 of every year a special non-working holiday in the Province of Sarangani	The Committee approved HB 4807 subject to style and amendment.
	HB 6611	Rep. Mercado	Declaring February 17 of every year as a special working holiday in the whole Province of Southern Leyte in commemoration of the victims of the landslide in Barangay Guinsaogon, Municipality of St. Bernard, Province of Southern Leyte to be known as the Guinsaogon Day	The Committee approved HB 6611 subject to style and amendment.
	HB 7212	Deputy Speaker Hernandez	Declaring January 17 of every year as James L. Gordon Day, a special non-working holiday in the City of Olongapo,	The Committee approved HB 7212 subject to style and amendment.

Continuation... Revision of Laws			and January 17 to February 20 of every year as James L. Gordon Month in the City of Olongapo in recognition of the achievements and contribution of James Leonard Tagle Gordon to said city on the occasion of his 100 th birth anniversary	
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development	Substitute Bill to HB 3335	Rep. Noel	Promoting the development of entrepreneurship skills among government employees to inspire innovativeness and to ensure their productivity even beyond government service	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Peter "Sr. Pedro" Unabia (1st District, Misamis Oriental), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 3335, subject to style.
	Substitute Bill to HB 5158	Rep. Unabia	Providing a socialized microfinancing program for micro enterprises, thereby promoting entrepreneurship	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 5158 subject to style and amendment.
Trade and Industry	HB 532	Rep. Batocabe	Regulating the packaging, use, sale, distribution, and advertisements of electronic smoking devices, amending for the purpose RA 9211, otherwise known as the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ferjanel Biron M.D. (4 th District, Iloilo), will deliberate further on the three bills in its next meeting. Laban Konsyumer, Inc. (LKI) President Victorio Mario Dimagiba said that the fundamental issue that the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) should address is the absence of product standards for e-cigarettes and e-juices (the liquid put inside an e-cigarette cartridge).
	HB 4325	Rep. Olivarez	Regulating the manufacture, distribution, sale, importation and use of electronic cigarettes in the Philippines	DTI Undersecretary Ruth Castelo said that e-cigarettes and e-juices are not considered consumer products as the latter refer to goods that are used everyday by an ordinary household. Thus, Castelo added, issuing product standards for these items is not within DTI's jurisdiction. She expressed support to the bills knowing that their aim is to protect the consumer's right to safety and right to information, particularly on the safety of ingredients or materials used on e-juices and e-cigarettes. Rep. Biron said that the regulation of e-juices falls under the FDA.
	HB 7289	Rep. Noel	Regulating the trade of vaporized nicotine products, particularly the use, sale, packaging, distribution, and communications thereof	Philippine E-cigarette Industry Association (PECIA) President Joey Dulay pointed out that e-cigarettes should be treated differently from regular cigarettes to avoid the impression that they are also harmful to one's health. As such, e-cigarettes should not be subjected to excise tax in order to make them more accessible price-wise and encourage more cigarette smokers to switch to e-cigarettes. Rep. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BIKOL) maintained that e-cigarettes need to be regulated to avoid them being sold to minors, among others. Deputy Speaker Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA,) agreed with Rep. Batocabe and expressed support for the passage of the bills. The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills.

Ways and Means	Substitute Bill to HBs 575, 4545 & 4649	Reps. Panganiban, Rodriguez (M.), and Brosas	Providing for a free and culture-sensitive civil registration system for indigenous peoples (IPs)	The Committee, presided by Deputy Speaker Sharon Garin (Party-list, AAMBIS-OWA), approved the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to the three bills.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 69 & 2510	Reps. Salceda and Cua	Collective Investment Schemes Law	The Committee approved the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to HBs 69 and 2510 with amendments.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 3165 & 4565	Reps. Pimentel and Salo	Providing for the legal framework and mechanisms for the creation, operation, and administration of transnational higher education in the Philippines, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to HBs 3165 and 4565 with amendments.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 2275 & 3916	Reps. Kho and Bravo (M. V.)	Converting the Dr. Emilio B. Espinosa, Sr. Memorial State College of Agriculture and Technology (DEBESMSCAT) in the Municipality of Mandaon, Province of Masbate, into a state university to be known as the Dr. Emilio B. Espinosa, Sr. – Masbate State University (DEBESMSU), and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to HBs 2275 and 3916 with amendments.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 182, 812, 970, 1220, 1527, 2388, 2540 & 3040	Reps. Olivarez, Batocabe, Romualdez, Umali, Macapagal-Arroyo, Abad, Tambunting, and Roque (H.)	Institutionalizing energy efficiency and conservation, enhancing the efficient use of energy, granting incentives to energy efficiency and conservation projects	The Committee deferred consideration of the tax provision of the Substitute Bill pending the submission of documents from the Department of Finance (DOF).
	Substitute Bill to HBs 3577, 983, 1966, 2655, 3130, 3579, 3801, 4181, 4183, 4542 & 4626	Reps. Suansing, Fortun, Campos, Revilla, Macapagal-Arroyo, Castelo, Tambunting, Rodriguez (M.), and Deputy Speaker Andaya	Regulating the production, importation, sale, provision, use, recovery, collection, recycling and disposal of plastic products	The Committee deferred the approval of the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to give the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) and other stakeholders the opportunity to comment on the issues raised during the meeting. Likewise, the DOF was requested by the Committee to submit its elasticity assessment report as well as its feasibility study on the Department's administration and collection relative to the bill's tax provision.
	Substitute Bill to HB 595	Rep. Pichay	Establishing the Surigao del Sur Special Economic Mining Zone and Freeport in the Municipalities of Carrascal, Cantilan, Madrid, Carmen, and Lanuza in the Province of Surigao del Sur, providing funds therefor	The Committee deferred consideration of the tax provisions of the Substitute Bill pending the submission of the author's comment on the objection raised by the DOF.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Special Committee on Climate Change (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 201, 2969 & 5672	Reps. Cari, Ermita-Buhain, and Acosta-Alba	Adopting an integrated coastal management as a national strategy to ensure the sustainable development of coastal and marine environment and resources, establishing supporting	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Elisa "Olga" Kho (2nd District, Masbate), will deliberate further on the two draft substitute bills in its next meeting.

Continuation... Special Committee on Climate Change (Technical Working Group)			mechanisms for its implementation, and providing funds therefor	<p>In today's meeting, the discussion focused on whether to incorporate the bills on the National Coastal Greenbelt Program (NCGP) into the bills on the integrated coastal management (ICM), and on the appropriate funding scheme that will be adopted for the bills.</p> <p>Nilda Baling, chief of the Integrated Coastal and Marine Partnership Section of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), expressed support for the two proposed laws and suggested that the two be enacted separately.</p> <p>BMB consultant Carlo Custodio agreed with Baling, explaining that ICM is a framework while the NCGP is an "action bill" which has penal provisions.</p> <p>Assistant Director Dimpna Lejos of the Local Government and Regional Coordinating Bureau (LGRCB), Department of Budget and Management, objects to the appropriations provision of the ICM bill which mandates the DBM to provide for a continuing allocation of P5 billion per year for ten years for the rehabilitation and improvement of coastal and marine life and resources. Lejos stressed that budget appropriation is a function of Congress and not of the DBM.</p> <p>Lejos also took exception to the provision in the ICM bill allowing local government units (LGUs) to create a Special Account, through an ordinance, to which a portion of revenues generated from coastal and marine resources will go. She said that special accounts are created by law enacted by Congress.</p> <p>Director Val Simon Roque of the Department of Foreign Affairs' (DFA) Division II-Environmental Security informed the TWG that the issue on boundaries and jurisdiction over coastal areas will be referred to DFA's Maritime Ocean Affairs (MOA) as they may involve matters covered by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).</p> <p>Other resource persons present during the meeting refrained from giving their comments until an official position has been released by their respective offices.</p>
	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 527, 1509 & 3260	Reps. Batocabe, Alejano, and Aglipay-Villar	Establishing the National Coastal Greenbelt Program and providing penalties therefor	

AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Mindanao Affairs	Briefing by the Department of Transportation (DOTr) on its proposed 2019 budget, plans and programs for Mindanao	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Maximo Rodriguez, Jr. (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), listened to the briefing by the DOTr officials on the Department's proposed 2019 budget, plans and programs for Mindanao.</p> <p>OIC-Area Manager Ed Mangalili of DOTr's Office of the Undersecretary for Projects presented the DOTr's proposed budget allocation for</p>

<p>Continuation... Mindanao Affairs</p>	<p>maritime and airport projects for 2019, amounting to P979 million and P3.38 billion, respectively.</p> <p>Rep. Henry Oaminal (2nd District, Misamis Occidental) asked how the DOTr identified the location of the proposed ports and how the local government units (LGUs) may be involved in the DOTr's port program.</p> <p>DOTr Assistant Secretary for Maritime Lino Dabi said that the proposed port projects are part of the three-year rolling infrastructure program of the government. To be included in the list of projects, the proposed port should provide access to island communities and should improve tourism in the area.</p> <p>Iligan City Rep. Frederick Siao asked if DOTr has a masterplan for the infrastructure sector for the entire Mindanao. Dabi answered in the negative, explaining that the DOTr relies on the project suggestions of LGUs. Rep. Siao manifested that DOTr should not only rely on the proposals of LGUs but should also be proactive in looking for potential areas for development in Mindanao.</p> <p>Rep. Amihilda Sangcopan (Party-List, AMIN) lamented the slow implementation of DOTr's infrastructure projects, urging the Department to evaluate its policies and processes and check whether they are in keeping with the times.</p> <p>Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo inquired about the measures being undertaken by the DOTr to ensure the smooth implementation of the infrastructure projects in Mindanao.</p> <p>Dabi explained that the DOTr is constantly reviewing its processes to speed up the implementation of projects. However, based on the Department's assessment, the delay can be attributed to the lengthy preparation of the detailed engineering and design (DED). Hence, the DOTr is currently looking for ways to address it, such as acquiring new technology and increasing its manpower.</p> <p>Also during the meeting, DOTr Assistant Secretary for Railways Mark Tolentino reported on the status of the Mindanao Railway Project. The first phase of the project will cover Tagum-Davao-Digos segment, which is about 102 kilometers and is worth P35.91 billion.</p> <p>On the query of Tawi-Tawi Rep. Ruby Sahali, Tolentino said the bidding for the project is set in the third quarter of 2018 and construction is expected to commence by the end of this year.</p> <p>Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) Secretary Abul Khayr Dangcal Alonto emphasized the importance of the Mindanao Railway Project in the economic growth of Mindanao.</p> <p>The Committee asked the DOTr, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), represented by Chair Martin Delgra III, and the Land Transportation Office (LTO), through Assistant Secretary Edgar Galvante, to submit their list of proposed projects in Mindanao per region for 2019, including the corresponding budgetary requirements.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to draft house resolutions on the following subject matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require proposed infrastructure projects to pass through the Regional Development Council (RDC) and to seek the approval of concerned district representatives; • Request for a detailed feasibility study on all the phases of Mindanao Railway Project; and • Urge the President to consider fast-tracking the implementation of the Mindanao Railway Project.
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Visayas Development (Special Committee)	Discussion on the proposed budget, plans and programs for Regions VI, VII, and VIII by the Departments of Agriculture (DA) and Public Works and Highways (DPWH)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Alejandro Mirasol (5th District, Negros Occidental), discussed with the resource persons from the DA and DPWH the 2019 budget, plans and programs for the Visayas Region.</p> <p>Rep. Arnolfo “Arnie” Teves Jr. (3rd District, Negros Oriental) recommended an increase in the budget of DA’s farm-to-market roads (FMR) project from P27 million to P100 million. On the other hand, Rep. Wilfredo Caminero (2nd District, Cebu) proposed that the DA assign an agriculturist in every congressional district who shall relay the concerns of the district directly to the DA regional office.</p> <p>DA Assistant Secretary for the Visayas Hansel Didulo promised to relay the lawmakers’ proposals to the DA Secretary.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Deputy Speaker Fredenil “Fred” Castro (2nd District, Capiz) raised the issue on roads being constructed at substandard quality due to the policy of awarding the project to the lowest bidder and where there is no minimum bid price.</p> <p>DPWH Region VII Director Ador Canlas agreed with the observation of Rep. Castro and explained that RA 9184 (Government Procurement Reform Act) allows such bidding procedure.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu) believes that RA 9184 should be amended to address the current loopholes in the procurement system. She also advised DPWH to set stricter guidelines in pre-qualifying contractors who can participate in competitive public biddings, and to come up with a comprehensive record of blacklisted contractors.</p> <p>The DPWH regional directors support the suggestion of the Deputy Speaker and will comply with the request to have an inventory of blacklisted contractors.</p> <p>Before the meeting adjourned, the Committee Members grouped themselves according to the region to which they belong and met with the respective DA and DPWH regional directors to discuss specific concerns in their districts.</p>
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OTHER MATTERS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development	Review of draft Resolutions to be filed by the Committee requesting for additional funds for the program/projects for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) for FY 2019	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Peter "Sr. Pedro" Unabia (1st District, Misamis Oriental), after presenting to the body the draft resolutions requesting for additional funding for MSME programs and projects for FY 2019, directed the Secretariat to file the two House Resolutions. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution requesting His Excellency, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, to allocate P6 billion for FY 2019 for the <i>Pondo sa Pagbabago at Pag-asenso</i> (P3) Program being implemented by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), through the Small Business Corporation (SB Corp.); and • Resolution requesting His Excellency, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, to increase the budget for FY 2019 for the programs/projects for MSMEs, specifically the Kapatid Mentor ME Program, Shared Service Facilities (SSF) Project, and the trade fairs of the Bureau of Domestic Trade Promotion (BDTP). <p>Rep. Jocelyn Limkaichong (1st District, Negros Oriental) lauded the efforts done by SB Corp. in implementing the P3 Program in 2017. The program promotes the growth of MSMEs by providing them an accessible micro lending facility with an interest rate lower than the</p>

<p>Continuation... Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development</p>	<p>prevailing market rate, instead of the usurious “5-6” money lending scheme.</p> <p>SB Corp. Senior Vice President Melvin Abanto informed the Committee that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) supports the allocation of additional funds for the P3 Program.</p> <p>Upon the recommendation of Rep. Limkaichong, the Committee directed the Secretariat to furnish a copy of the resolution on the P3 Program to Presidential Consultant for Entrepreneurship Jose Ma. “Joey” Concepcion III. (Concepcion is known for his <i>Go Negosyo</i> advocacy which aims to address poverty through entrepreneurship.)</p> <p>Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Assistant Secretary Blesila Lantayona provided the Committee with the list of projects under the Shared Service Facilities (SSF) Project for FY 2019, as submitted by the DTI regional and provincial offices.</p> <p>Lantayona said that the DTI has scheduled a meeting with the DBM on March 22, 2018 to discuss the proposed budget for the SSF for FY 2019.</p> <p>Lantayona said that the 2018 budget of the DTI for the SSF is only P1 billion, of which P800 million goes to capital outlay for the purchase of machineries and equipment, while the remaining P200 million covers the cost for maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE). She underscored the need to increase the budget for SSF to meet the demand for additional machineries and equipment to improve the competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency of MSMEs.</p> <p>As to the Kapatid Mentor ME Program, Lantayona stated that its budget allocation for FY 2018 amounts to P150 million, which should be increased to P300 million for FY 2019 to augment the funds for the honoraria, airfare and accommodation of the mentors.</p> <p>With regard to the budget allocation for the trade fairs of BDTP, the draft resolution proposes the amount of P44 million for the conduct of four major trade fairs in FY 2019, from P22 million for two major “Sikat Pinoy” trade fairs in FY 2018.</p> <p>DTI’s BDTP Director Rhodora Leaño discussed a new approach to trade fairs, which is called the “virtual trade fairs,” where the products are shown online 365 days a year.</p> <p>DTI Bureau of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Director Jerry Clavesillas informed the body that the two draft House Resolutions are in support of the policies and strategies of the DTI for MSMEs.</p>
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