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DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Public Works and Highways	Briefing by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) on the flood control project in Iloilo and the flooding problem in the City of Passi, Province of Iloilo	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Bayani Fernando (1st District, Marikina City), discussed with the DPWH the flood control system in the Province of Iloilo and the flooding problem in the City of Passi in Iloilo.</p> <p>House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga) related that during her visit to the province, Iloilo City Rep. Jerry Treñas informed her that the flood control project in Iloilo, which was implemented during her term as President, needs to be properly maintained. She also said that according to Rep. Treñas, Passi City does not benefit much from the existing flood control system due to its distant location. Thus, the city experiences flooding every time its three river systems overflow due to heavy rains or during a typhoon. The Speaker emphasized that through the Committee's oversight function, it can direct concerned agencies such as the DPWH to act on the problem.</p> <p>DPWH Flood Control Management Cluster Project Director Patrick Gatan reported that the Stage 1 of the Iloilo Flood Control Project, involving the construction of Jaro Floodway and improvement of the river systems in the area, was completed in 2012. However, the implementation of Stage 2 of the project was not pursued due to the huge number of informal settler families (ISFs) that will be affected. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the funding agency, suggested that a retarding basin should instead be constructed at the junction point of the Jaro Floodway and Tigum and Jaro Rivers. A retarding or detention basin is an excavated area adjacent to rivers and other bodies of water to reduce or prevent flooding by storing water for a limited period of time.</p> <p>Gatan also said that the retarding basin project will be included in the DPWH's flood risk management master plan and feasibility studies. He added that the kick-off meeting on the preparation of the master plan and feasibility studies was held last July 2018 and the project is expected to be completed in 2020. The project, which is financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), aims to improve the capability of the DPWH in implementing infrastructure projects.</p> <p>Meanwhile, DPWH Region VI Director Wenceslao Leaño Jr. informed the Committee that the flood control system in Iloilo had been provided funds for maintenance only for the first three years from the time it was established. According to Leaño, the maintenance cost is around P20 million per year, aside from the cost of a backhoe which is about P7-10 million. But he said he will check with the Bureau of Equipment of the DPWH if it can assign a backhoe in the project area as an immediate solution.</p> <p>Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo was pleased with the response of the DPWH to the issues and said that Rep. Treñas will have good news to convey to his constituents.</p>