



# Committee Daily Bulletin

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## COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Trade and Industry	HB 1911	Deputy Speaker Gonzales (A.)	Amending Sections 38, 39 and 40 of RA 4566, otherwise known as the Contractors' License Law (by imposing fines to contractors who engage in joint ventures without first obtaining an additional license and complying with other eligibility requirements; increasing existing fees for licensing, registration of application, and renewal of license; and setting the validity of license for one year from its issuance which may be renewed at least one month before its expiry date)	<p>The Committee, presided by Rep. Ma. Theresa Collantes (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Batangas), approved HB 1911 subject to style and amendment. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales Jr. (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Pampanga), author of HB 1911, said that the purpose of RA 4566 is to ensure that only qualified and reliable contractors are allowed to engage in construction activities in the country. However, the Deputy Speaker said RA 4566 now needs to be amended to rectify certain infirmities in the law and to update its provisions. The law was enacted way back in 1965.</p> <p>The proposed law seeks to penalize contractors who engage in joint venture without first obtaining an additional license and complying with other eligibility requirements. It imposes a fine of not less than P50,000 if the cost of the project is not more than P500 million, and a fine of not less P500,000 if the cost of the project is more than P500 million. Likewise, the proposed law increases existing fees for licensing, registration of application, and renewal of license to P5,000, P6,000, and P5,000, respectively. It also amends the validity of a contractor's license issued by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB).</p> <p>PCAB Executive Director Herbert Matienzo expressed support for the proposed law. He said that since the existing law provides that all licenses expire by June 30 of every year, the PCAB is swamped with applications for renewal as the date nears, making it unable to issue the licenses on time. He said that the proposal to remove the uniform June 30 expiration date and make the license valid for one year from the date of issuance will speed up the processing of PCAB licenses.</p> <p>On the existing fines, PCAB imposes a P5,000 per year fine for contractors operating without a license. Matienzo said that given the meager penalty being imposed, contractors are not afraid to engage in construction activities even without a license.</p> <p>PCAB Chair Pericles Dakay suggested that contractors with good standing be granted with a license valid for three years.</p>

Continuation... Trade and Industry				<p>Rep. Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA) suggested to also amend Section 35 (Penalties) of RA 4566 to make it consistent with the proposed penalties against contractors engaging in joint ventures without a license. Under Section 35, any contractor who undertakes construction works without first securing a license to engage in the business of contracting in the country shall be subject to a fine of not less than P500 but not more than P5,000.</p> <p>Rep. Manuel Zubiri (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Bukidnon) raised the concern of the small contractors and subcontractors who are severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent community quarantine. He requested the PCAB to make the licensing procedure for this sector easier to help them sustain their business.</p> <p>Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Nueva Ecija) asked if there are existing laws prohibiting the hiring of foreign nationals in jobs that can be done by Filipinos. She cited cases of Chinese nationals being hired as construction workers in the country.</p> <p>Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary Silvestre Bello III replied that foreign nationals who want to work in the Philippines are required to first secure an alien employment permit from the DOLE among other requirements.</p> <p>Expressing support for the proposed law were the representatives of the DOLE, National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Transportation, Philippine Constructors Association, Inc., Philippine Domestic Construction Board, and Construction Industry Arbitration Commission.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Mindanao Affairs	<p>Briefing by the Philippine National Police (PNP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), and the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) on the following issues and concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current peace and order and security situation in Mindanao</li> </ul>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1<sup>st</sup> District, Lanao del Norte), listened to the briefing of the PNP, AFP, MinDA, and PMS on various issues and concerns relative to Mindanao and its people.</p> <p>PCol Eduardo Abaday of the PNP's Directorate for Intelligence-Intelligence Research Center said that the average monthly crime rate (AMCR) in Mindanao decreased from 18.43% last January to July 2019 to 16.17% for the same period this year. The decrease in crime statistics, he said, is an indication that there has been an improvement in the PNP's campaign against crimes.</p> <p>Abaday said that there are at least 35 criminal gangs in Mindanao that are involved in kidnapping, extortion, carnapping, illegal drugs, and robbery. He said that six criminal gangs in Region IX are linked with the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), rogue Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) elements, and Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).</p>

<p>Continuation... Mindanao Affairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development plans and programs for Mindanao</li> </ul>	<p>He also reported that the PNP neutralized, this year, the leaders of the Villamar Group and the Masid gang. The Villamar group is a robbery group operating in Region XIII, while the Masid gang is notorious for carnapping, illegal drugs trading, and gunrunning operating in Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).</p> <p>Abaday reported that lawless groups engaged in gun-for-hire and kidnap-for-ransom activities are still a major concern. He disclosed that of the seven reported kidnap-for-ransom incidents this year, four occurred in the BARMM; out of the eight kidnap-for-ransom victims, two are still in the hands of the kidnapers.</p> <p>He also mentioned that the operations of the communist terrorist groups (CTGs) have weakened but are still continually felt in some areas in Mindanao. Abaday alleged that CTG-infiltrated alternative learning schools catering to indigenous peoples are being used to recruit new members and as conduit for funds coming from non-government organizations.</p> <p>Rep. Eufemia "Ka Femia" Cullamat (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA), a member of the Manobo Tribe, rejected Abaday's allegations against the indigenous peoples stressing that the Lumad schools were established to give the children access to education, at the same time teaching them the value of preserving and protecting their culture and ancestral domains.</p> <p>Brigadier General Antonio Nafarrete of the AFP Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom) said that the sustained focused military operations in the region resulted in a series of encounters and recovery of war materials. Two guerilla fronts were dismantled and 19 affected barangays previously controlled by the Western Mindanao Regional Party Committee were cleared of the CTGs. Some elements of the ASG, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), and the Daulah Islamiyah were also neutralized which resulted in the surrender of their members, as well as recovery of war materials and improvised explosive devices, Nafarrete said.</p> <p>Likewise, Brigadier General Leopoldo Imbang of the AFP East Mindanao Command said that there has been a significant decrease in all insurgency activities from 2017 to 2019 through the effective implementation of the Kalinaw sa Sidlakang Mindanao or Peace in Eastern Mindanao.</p> <p>Imbang said that like in the WestMinCom, the CTGs remain to be the primary threat in Eastern Mindanao. On the other hand, the MILF members value the peace agreement with the government and will try to prove themselves as credible partners for achieving lasting peace in the area, Imbang continued.</p> <p>The Chair requested the PNP and the AFP to submit a list of barangays in Mindanao that have security issues.</p> <p>MinDA Secretary Emmanuel Piñol asserted that military intervention alone will not end the decades-long conflict in Mindanao. He stated that the whole-of-nation approach is what will bring a sustainable development and long-lasting peace in the region. According to Piñol, the government's signing of the peace agreement with the MILF was a step in the right direction. At the same time, the government should also act swiftly on the other concerns of the Mindanaoans, such as the poverty situation and the slow rehabilitation of war-torn Marawi City.</p> <p>Piñol presented the various programs and projects that MinDA is set to implement to help in the development of Mindanao. These include the crafting of the Mindanao Food Supply and Demand Map indicating the products that have oversupply in each province and</p>
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<p>Continuation... Mindanao Affairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies concerning locally stranded individuals (LSIs)</li> </ul>	<p>where these products are needed. The repositioning of food supplies in areas where these are needed, he said, will ensure food security in Mindanao especially amidst the pandemic. Likewise, Piñol said that MinDA has partnered with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in providing solar-powered water system to remote villages of Mindanao and Palawan.</p> <p>MinDA will also use the P2.1 billion grant from the European Union (EU) for the projects that are intended to improve the productivity of the farmers and the fisherfolk in Mindanao. The identification and interventions of the priority projects, he said, will be area-based and commodity-based, identifying strategic areas and products that will trigger economic recovery.</p> <p>MinDA Undersecretary Agnes Lopez, on the other hand, presented MinDA's Assistance in Loan Access for Livelihood and Agriculture Industries (ALALAI). The ALALAI provides assistance in the preparation of feasibility and financial studies and other loan documents to farmers, fisherfolk, and women who would like to start their own small business.</p> <p>Piñol requested the repeal of Presidential Decree 1106 series of 1985 which bans the export of mature coconuts. He said that the coconut farmers of Mindanao will be the biggest beneficiaries of the repeal of this law. The Chair expressed his support for the exportation of mature coconuts.</p> <p>Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Lanao del Norte) said that full support for agricultural development particularly in the poverty-stricken areas in the region must be provided. He proposed that the Committee come up with a resolution urging the Department of Agriculture to help the Minadanaoan farmers improve their agricultural productivity and income to lift them out of poverty, which will ultimately help promote long-lasting peace in the region.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Amihilda Sangcopan (Party-List, AMIN) asked Piñol to submit a report on the status of the programs and projects presented by the MinDA.</p> <p>PMS Assistant Secretary Joseph Encabo said that the government, through the Hatid Tulong program, continues to assist locally stranded individuals (LSIs) and returning overseas Filipinos in going back to their respective home provinces. He added that there is proper coordination between the national government and the receiving local government units (LGUs) with regard to the transport of people and the observance of protocols so that the transmission or spread of COVID-19 in the provinces will be avoided.</p> <p>Encabo said that with the newly improved implementation of the Hatid Tulong program, there will be no more "one-time, grand send-offs" for LSIs. He said that the PMS will now adopt the "pocket send-off" which is calibrated, calculated, and in a graduated manner. The sending off will be on a weekly basis per province or per region to ensure compliance with the social distancing protocol and based on the capability of the LGUs to receive LSIs at a particular time.</p> <p>Commenting on the reported spike in COVID-19 cases in Mindanao and in other provinces attributed to the returning LSIs, Encabo said that these were cases of unmonitored and unsupervised movement of the LSIs.</p>
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