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COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

| COMMITTEE | MEASURES | | SUBJECT MATTER | ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION |
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| | NO. | PRINCIPAL AUTHOR | | |
| Disaster Resilience | Substitute Bill to HBs 3418, 3543 & 3922 | Rep. Adiong, Deputy Speaker Hataman, and Rep. Balindong | Mandating Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM) to provide monetary compensation for the loss or destruction of residential and commercial properties as a result of the Marawi siege, armed conflict between the Armed Forces of The Philippines and terrorist groups, appropriating funds therefor | <p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez (4th District, Leyte), approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 3418, 3543 and 3922 subject to style.</p> <p>Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte), chair of the technical working group (TWG) that crafted and deliberated on the substitute bill, informed the body that amendments to the substitute bill were made to address the following issues raised by the country's economic managers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The award of compensation exclusively to Marawi City residents violates the equal protection clause of the Constitution; • The Compensation Board is redundant and unnecessary because its proposed functions are already being performed by the Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM); • The huge funding requirement for the proposed compensation package for affected Marawi residents will put a strain on government finances; • The appropriation of public funds for private purposes is violative of existing laws; and • The compensation to victims of human rights violations falls under the jurisdiction of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) in accordance with RA 11054 or the Organic Law for the BARMM. <p>Rep. Dimaporo said that additional recommendations to further improve the substitute bill may be proposed during the bill's deliberation in the plenary.</p> |
| | HR 377 | Rep. Torres-Gomez | Inquiry into the utilization of all disbursed funds and status of the recovery, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of Marawi City | The Committee will continue its inquiry relative to the issues raised in HRs 377 and 470 in its next meeting. Rep. Dimaporo presided over this meeting to give the Chair the opportunity to sponsor her resolution. |
| | HR 470 | Deputy Speaker Hataman | Inquiry into the present state of Bangon Marawi Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Recovery Program as mandated by Administrative Order 03, as amended, creating an inter-agency task force for the recovery, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of the City of Marawi and other affected localities | Rep. Torres-Gomez, author of HR 377, underscored the need to hasten the post-disaster recovery of Marawi City considering the years that passed since the siege happened and to review the effectiveness of the government's response to the incident to |

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| <p>Continuation... Disaster Resilience</p> | | | <p>serve as template or benchmark to similar man-made disasters that may occur in the future.</p> <p>She also said that concerned government agencies should report on the current status of the rebuilding of Marawi City including the disbursement of all funds pertaining to Marawi City's reconstruction.</p> <p>Rep. Amihilda Sangcopan (Party-List, AMIN) inquired on the status of KATHANOR profiling in Marawi City.</p> <p>TFBM Chairperson and Human Settlements and Urban Development Secretary Eduardo Del Rosario said that 49,785 households have been profiled to date, 17,793 of whom are residing in the most affected areas (MAAs).</p> <p>KATHANOR is the profiling of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Marawi City to know their number, location, status, and other characteristics. The TFBM consolidates the gathered data to build a comprehensive and definitive database to help the government improve its design and delivery of services for the recovery of Marawi City. (Source: Bangon Marawi website)</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA) on the target completion date of the rehabilitation of Marawi City, Secretary Del Rosario replied that all public infrastructures are scheduled to be completed by December 2021.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Deputy Speaker Mujiv Hataman (Basilan), Office of Civil Defense Director Edgar Posadas said that a total of P20.8 billion was allocated for the Marawi Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program since 2017. He said that P19.9 billion was already released to the program to date.</p> <p>Secretary Del Rosario also informed the body that IDPs will be allowed to stay in temporary shelters for a period of five years until all permanent shelters would have been constructed by then. However, he disclosed that what delays the clearing of areas where housing will be constructed is the delayed consent of residents to demolish their damaged properties.</p> <p>Marawi City Mayor Majul Gandamra reported that 1,086 building permits have already been issued to the rightful owners of lands which will allow them to construct their houses and other structures on their properties.</p> <p>The Committee will send a letter to the National Housing Authority (NHA) to ask its officials why, despite invitations sent to the agency, they failed to attend three Committee meetings including today's meeting. It will also</p> |
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| Continuation... Disaster Resilience | | | | <p>schedule another Committee meeting exclusively with the NHA.</p> <p>The resource persons were asked to submit the documents that were requested of them by the Members during the meeting.</p> |
| Games and Amusements | HB 1237 | Rep. Violago | Amending Section 6 (B) of RA 1169, as amended, or the law providing for charity sweepstakes, horse races, and lotteries (by making it mandatory for the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) to donate ambulances to state universities and colleges throughout the country) | <p>The Committee, chaired by Abra Rep. Joseph Stb. Niño Bernos, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to harmonize the two bills.</p> |
| | HB 7233 | Deputy Speaker Escudero | Institutionalizing a just and equitable disposition of the PCSO Charity Fund, amending for the purpose Section 6 of RA 1169, as amended | <p>Deputy Speaker Evelina Escudero (1st District, Sorsogon), author of HB 7233, said that her bill seeks to amend RA 1169 by earmarking the PCSO Charity Fund to specific projects or activities to put a stop to the arbitrary distribution of this fund and make its utilization transparent. She manifested during the meeting that she is amending her bill in such a way that 40% of the Charity Fund will go to PhilHealth for the implementation of the universal healthcare program, while the rest of the proposed recipients will each get 15% share.</p> <p>As originally stated in HB 7233, the PCSO Charity Fund is proposed to be earmarked at 20% equal cut, to each of the following: purchase, repair and maintenance of ambulances for PCSO's Ambulance Donation Program; charity clinics and medical assistance and service programs to private hospitals; Department of Health (DOH), including regional, district and provincial hospitals; and the President's Social Fund.</p> <p>Under Section 6 of RA 1169, 55% of the PCSO net receipts (gross receipts from the sale of sweepstakes tickets less the printing cost not exceeding 2% of such gross receipts) shall be set aside as Prize Fund for the payment of prizes. The remaining 45% shall be set aside for the Charity Fund and operating expenses and capital expenditure of the PCSO.</p> <p>PCSO Chair Anselmo Simeon Pinili expressed his support for the bills and gave the following recommendations to further enhance the charity assistance program of the PCSO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower PCSO's documentary stamp tax from 20% to 10% to free portions of the Charity Fund for priority health programs; • Repeal or amend all special laws requiring PCSO to provide funds for non-health related mandatory contributions, allowing PCSO to focus on raising funds exclusively for health programs; and • Exempt PCSO from RA 7656 or the law requiring government-owned and controlled corporations to declare dividends under certain conditions to the national |

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| Continuation... Games and Amusements | | | | <p>government, to maximize savings for charity programs.</p> <p>Meanwhile, PCSO Gender and Development Focal Point System Chairperson Gay Alvor apprised the Committee of the accomplishments of PCSO, some of which are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail sales of PCSO for 2019 amounted to P44.03 billion; • 164 ambulances were donated/released for the period January to August 2020 under the Ambulance Donation Program; • An amount of P874 million was released in June for its mandatory contributions to several government agencies and organizations; and • A total of P1.32 billion was released for COVID-19 response programs. <p>Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN) asked the PCSO on the possibility of removing the requirement of a local government unit (LGU) counterpart fund for the Ambulance Donation Program of the PCSO.</p> <p>PCSO Vice Chair and General Manager Royina Garma said that he would look into the matter.</p> <p>Under the PCSO's Ambulance Donation Program, a 60-40% ambulance cost sharing scheme applies to first, second, and third class municipalities. PCSO requires a Certification of Availability of Funds from the provincial, city, municipal, or barangay treasurer for the counterpart fund equivalent to 40% of the total cost of the ambulance unit. On the other hand, the fourth, fifth, and sixth class municipalities are exempt from this cost sharing scheme.</p> <p>Rep. Ronnie Ong (Party-List, ANG PROBINSYANO) inquired on the effect of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) on the ticket sales of the PCSO and the mitigating measures it undertook to achieve its sales target for this year.</p> <p>Garma replied that the ECQ decreased the sales by 90%. However, sales started to increase since the shift to the general community quarantine. He added that the PCSO is considering online/mobile betting and the use of vending machines for betting, in order to reach its target sale of P2.05 billion for the remaining months of 2020.</p> <p>The Committee requested the PCSO to submit its official position paper on the bills.</p> |
| Public Accounts jt. w/ Good Government and Public Accountability | HRs 1066, 1068, 1069, 1073 & 1074 | Reps. Tambunting, Barbers, Defensor, Vargas, and Zarate | Investigation into the alleged corruption in the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) | The Joint Committee, presided by Rep. Michael Defensor (Party-List, ANAKALUSUGAN), Chair of the Committee on Public Accounts, will continue its inquiry pursuant to the five resolutions in its next meeting. |

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| <p>Continuation... Public Accounts jt. w/ Good Government and Public Accountability</p> | | | | <p>In today's meeting, the Joint Committee focused its discussion on the mandatory premium contribution imposed on overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) under RA 11223 or the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act of 2019 which was being opposed by the OFWs.</p> <p>Rep. Defensor said that under the UHC Law, the OFWs were classified as direct contributors or "those who have the capacity to pay premiums, are gainfully employed and are bound by an employer-employee relationship, or are self-earning, professional practitioners, migrant workers, including their qualified dependents and lifetime members."</p> <p>Since they are classified as direct contributors, their employers are in effect mandated to pay 50% of their premium. However, foreign employers of OFWs cannot be required to pay the premium as Philippine laws do not have jurisdiction over them. Hence, the OFWs end up paying 100% of the premium.</p> <p>Rep. Defensor added that the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the UHC Law which was crafted by the Department of Health and PhilHealth, provides that the payment of PhilHealth premium is a prerequisite for the issuance of an Overseas Employment certificate (OEC) – a document needed for the deployment of OFWs. This requirement is "a violation of their right," Rep. Defensor further said.</p> <p>The UHC Law also provides the increase in premium for 2020 which shall be 3% for a monthly income ranging from P10,000 to P60,000. Starting next year, this will increase to 3.5% until the premium rate reaches 5% in 2025 for incomes between P10,000 to P100,000.</p> <p>Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. (4th District, Cavite) asked PhilHealth's rationale for issuing PhilHealth Circular No. 2020-0014 which provides that overseas Filipinos are considered direct contributors under the UHC Law, and therefore the payment and remittance of premium contributions is mandatory. Rep. Barzaga said that the Circular was issued during the pandemic which drew the ire of OFWs.</p> <p>PhilHealth Overseas Filipino Program Senior Manager Chona Yap explained that as early as December, PhilHealth has already crafted the circular and routed the same to the different offices of PhilHealth for their review. It is just that the Circular was signed by PhilHealth CEO Ricardo Morales only in April, Yap said.</p> <p>On May 4, President Rodrigo Duterte ordered PhilHealth to suspend the collection of higher premiums from the OFWs and to make the</p> |
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| <p>Continuation... Public Accounts jt. w/ Good Government and Public Accountability</p> | | | | <p>PhilHealth premium payment for OFWs voluntary.</p> <p>PhilHealth Social Health Insurance Officer Antonio Danao said that as per the understanding of PhilHealth, the directive of the President is only applicable during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hence, the collection of premiums from the OFWs will resume after the pandemic in compliance with the UHC Law.</p> <p>Representing the OFWs in the United Arab Emirates, Jay Tolentino averred that the mandatory payment of PhilHealth premium by the OFWs is an additional burden to them. He added that the 3-5% PhilHealth premium imposed on OFWs is not commensurate to the minimal coverage that PhilHealth provides to OFWs.</p> <p>Rep. Stella Luz Quimbo (2nd District, Marikina City) asked for the total number of OFWs who are PhilHealth members and PhilHealth's policies in collecting the premiums from this sector.</p> <p>Yap said that there are more than three million OFW PhilHealth members but only around 320,000 are actively paying their contributions. She explained that the overseas Filipino members pay their contributions through accredited collecting agents (ACAs) of PhilHealth. To become more efficient with the collection of premiums, the PhilHealth has been coordinating with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), she added.</p> <p>Minority Leader Bienvenido Abante Jr. (6th District, Manila) suggested that should the IRR of the UHC Law be revised, the same should be presented to the congressional oversight committee which was mandated by law to review the implementation of RA 11223.</p> <p>Blas Ople Policy Center's Founder and President Susan Ople said that there should be mandatory consultations with the OFWs before setting the PhilHealth premium rates.</p> <p>Rep. Defensor, along with several Members, underscored the need to amend the UHC Law to address the concerns of the OFWs.</p> <p>Rep. Defensor proposed to add a provision in the law that shall mandate the PhilHealth, in coordination with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and other concerned agencies and private entities, to issue a separate circular regarding premium contributions for both land-based and sea-based Filipino migrant workers.</p> <p>In its next meeting, the Joint Committee will focus its investigation into the hospitals or health care institutions (HCIs) that have pending cases of fraud.</p> |
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| Continuation... Public Accounts jt. w/ Good Government and Public Accountability | | | | Upon the suggestion of Rep. Teodorico Haresco Jr. (2 nd District, Aklan), the Secretariat was instructed to seek guidance from the Department of Justice for the possible imposition of hold departure order against the PhilHealth officials. |
| Sustainable Development Goals | HR 856 | Rep. Villaraza-Suarez | Urging all private and public television stations in the country to allot at least three hours per day to educational programs that foster holistic learning and education to keep government on track in its commitment to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) | <p>The Committee, presided by Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte), adopted HR 856 with amendments. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez (Party-List, ALONA), author of HR 586, said that the shows that will be broadcast on television may not be limited to programs that will promote the academic advancement of children but may also include shows that teach life skills or new skills that will improve an individual's marketability or chance for employment.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the measure were the Department of Education, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Commission on Higher Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Presidential Communications Operations Office, National Council for Children's Television, PTV 4, IBC 13, GMA 7, and the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas.</p> <p>Several Members also expressed their support for the measure, citing the importance of engaging all sectors of the economy to help the government achieve the SDGs.</p> <p>Rep. David "Jay-Jay" Suarez (2nd District, Quezon) proposed to delete the paragraph exempting TV networks from donor's tax. He explained that tax incentives for corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs of businesses are already in place. Moreover, he said that the deletion will expedite the adoption of the resolution by the House of Representatives.</p> <p>Rep. Villaraza-Suarez said that she is amenable to the suggestion.</p> |

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES

| COMMITTEE | MEASURES | | SUBJECT MATTER | ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION |
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| | NO. | PRINCIPAL AUTHOR | | |
| Dangerous Drugs (Technical Working Group) | HBs 68, 2765 & 5932 | Reps. Barbers, Rodriguez, Cabochan | Strengthening drug abuse prevention and control, amending for the purpose RA 9165, as amended, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 | The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Alfredo Garbin Jr. (Party-List, AKO BICOL), will deliberate further on the 12 bills in its next meeting. |
| | HB 368 | Rep. Yap (V.) | Adopting the higher prescribed penalty, including death, of the national law of an alien found guilty of trafficking dangerous | The TWG used HB 68 as the lead bill. The Committee Chair, Rep. Robert Ace Barbers (2 nd District, Surigao del Norte), who is also the author of HB 68, explained the rationale for |

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| Continuation... Dangerous Drugs (Technical Working Group) | | | drugs and other similar substances, amending for the purpose RA 9165 | <p>the inclusion of legal presumption of who can be considered as financier and protector or coddler of illegal drugs in the pertinent sections of RA 9165. This, he said will assist the investigating and law enforcement authorities in the prosecution of drug offenders.</p> <p>According to Rep. Barbers, legal presumption is a rebuttable or disputable presumption. While it cannot substitute for evidence, it is used only when there is no evidence or when there is great difficulty in obtaining direct evidence relative to the case. However, if an evidence is presented, the legal presumption ceases. This is necessary as the fight against illegal drugs is not an easy task considering that illegal drug syndicates have all the means to evade criminal prosecution considering their resources and influence.</p> <p>The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), and Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) put forward their suggestions on the bill.</p> <p>Among the agreements reached during the meeting that were pertinent to the bill were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In any sale or lease of property, it is the duty of the owner or his/her authorized representative to disclose to the buyer or lessee that the property was previously used as a clandestine laboratory. The lessor must include in the lease contract a provision that the property should not be used for any illegal activity, particularly the illicit manufacture of dangerous drugs and/or controlled precursors and essential chemicals; • Dangerous drugs found concealed in any compartment, which includes luggage and other personal properties that are specifically constructed for the purpose, in any premise, vehicle, vessel or any kind of transportation, shall, until the contrary is proven, be presumed to have been possessed and/or concealed with the knowledge of the occupant, administrator, owner or person in-charge of the property; • Illegal possession of controlled precursors and essential chemicals shall carry the penalty of imprisonment ranging from 12 to 20 years and fine ranging from P100,000 to P500,000; • A person apprehended or arrested, who is found to be positive for use of any dangerous drug after a confirmatory test, shall be referred to an appropriate rehabilitation or treatment program, as recommended by a qualified Department of Health (DOH)- |
| | HB 742 | Rep. Biazon | Amending certain provisions of RA 9165 [by strengthening the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and establishing the PDEA Academy, among others] | |
| | HBs 896 & 1548 | Reps. Mariño and Garbin | Providing for the immediate destruction/disposition of the confiscated, seized and/or surrendered dangerous drugs, plant sources of dangerous drugs, and controlled precursors and essential chemicals, amending for the purpose RA 9165, as amended | |
| | HB 1547 | Rep. Garbin | Providing for the legal procedure in the disposition and rehabilitation of drug dependents and/or drug pushers or dealers who voluntarily surrender, amending for the purpose RA 9165, as amended | |
| | HB 2995 | Rep. Castro | Exempting journalists from acting as anti-drug operations witnesses and amending RA 10640 or the law further strengthening the anti-drug campaign of the government, amending for the purpose Section 21 of RA 9165 | |
| | HB 3755 | Rep. Rodriguez | Amending Section 36 of RA 9165, on drug testing (by providing for random drug testing instead of a mandatory one) | |
| | HB 4104 | Rep. Rodriguez | Further amending Section 21 of RA 9165, as amended by RA 10640 (by allowing the presence of media to cover anti-drug operations for journalism purposes only) | |
| | HB 5761 | Rep. Belmonte | Strengthening the drug abuse prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation, amending for the purpose RA 9165 | |

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| <p>Continuation... Dangerous Drugs (Technical Working Group)</p> | | | | <p>accredited physician;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the pendency of the case in the Regional Trial Court, no property or income derived from drug-related activities, which may be confiscated and forfeited, shall be disposed, alienated or transferred, and the same shall be in <i>custodia legis</i> (in the custody of the law) and no bond shall be admitted, for the release of the same. The prohibition shall not apply to any firearm explosive or weapon which shall be confiscated, forfeited; and disposed of immediately by the court in favor of the government, for the use of the PDEA or other law enforcement agencies involved in fighting illegal drug trafficking. <p>The DOH, NBI, and PDEA were requested to submit their position papers for the consideration of TWG.</p> <p>Likewise, these agencies were asked to submit the statistics on repeat offenders of illegal drug-related cases.</p> |
| <p>Trade and Industry jt. w/ Health (Technical Working Group)</p> | <p>Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 40, 500, 1508, 1510, 1703, 2277, 2862, 2929, 3049, 3083, 4816, 5072, 5099, 5310, 5510, 5561, 5630, 5702, 5752 & 5873</p> | <p>Reps. Biazon, Barbers, Garbin, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Garcia (J. E) Salo, Castelo, Tan (A.), Olivarez Singson-Meehan, Roman, Garin (S.). Herrera-Dy, Alonte, Minority Leader Abante, Reps. Rodriguez, Deloso-Montalla, and Bagatsing</p> | <p>Regulating the manufacture, use, sale, packaging, distribution, and communication of electronic nicotine and non-nicotine delivery systems (ENDS/ENNDS) and heated tobacco products (HTPs)</p> | <p>The joint technical working group (TWG), co-chaired by Rep. Wes Gatchalian (1st District, Valenzuela City), Chair of the Committee on Trade and Industry, and Rep. Jose Enrique "Joel" Garcia III (2nd District, Bataan), Vice Chair of the Committee on Health, terminated its deliberation of the draft substitute bill.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to finalize the bill which will be submitted to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1st District, Ilocos Sur) suggested the inclusion in Section 2 (Declaration of State Policies) of a provision which reads as "It is further declared the policy of the State to consider harm reduction measures as a public health strategy by ensuring that non-combustible alternatives to cigarettes are properly regulated." He said that the proposed provision will reflect that harm reduction is a public health tool to combat smoking epidemics.</p> <p>On the contrary, Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon said that introducing the said provision will practically endorse the use of the product as a harm reduction method, which preempts science-based studies which intend to determine if the ENDS/ENNDS are indeed harm reduction products.</p> <p>Likewise, Department of Health Disease Prevention and Control Bureau Director, Dr. Fatima de Guzman, said that there are no established studies yet that would prove that</p> |

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| Continuation... Trade and Industry jt. w/ Health (Technical Working Group) | | | | <p>ENDS/ENNDS are harm reduction products that do not cause harm to the users.</p> <p>After much discussions on the matter, majority of the Members agreed to the provision suggested by Deputy Speaker Savellano, and the TWG adopted the same.</p> |
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| AGENCY BRIEFING | | |
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| COMMITTEE | SUBJECT MATTER | DISCUSSIONS |
| <p>Sustainable Development Goals</p> | <p>Briefing on the status of implementation of SDG 4: Quality Education by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)</p> | <p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez (Party-List, ALONA), listened to the briefing of the DepEd, DSWD, CHED and TESDA on their respective measures to implement SDG 4: Quality Education in the country.</p> <p>DepEd Undersecretary Nepomuceno Malaluan informed the body of its <i>Sulong EduKalidad</i> Program which is aimed at raising the quality of the country's basic education by addressing the challenge to change in the way learners are taught in order to produce new breed of learners, upgrade capacity of teachers, and improve facilities and equipment. The program focuses on four aggressive reforms in basic education: K to 12 curriculum review and update; improvement of learning environment; teachers upskilling and reskilling, and engagement of stakeholders for support and collaboration.</p> <p>In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, Undersecretary Malaluan said that DepEd needed to refocus and implemented its Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan (BE-LCP) in order for the students to continue learning while ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of all learners, teachers, and personnel of DepEd. The BE-LCP streamlined the K to 12 Curriculum to the Most Essential Learning Competencies and provides multiple learning delivery modalities with blended learning and distance learning as major options.</p> <p>DSWD Social Welfare Officer Mary Grace Blando presented the major contributions of the DSWD in the implementation of the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) System. The ECCD System refers to the full range of health, nutrition, early education, and social services programs that provide for the holistic needs of young children from birth to age six, to promote their optimum growth and development.</p> <p>To promote health and nutrition, the DSWD implements its Supplementary Feeding Program in the month of June of every school year. As of June 2020, a total of 1.71 million or 91.20% of children out of the 1.81 million target beneficiaries were served. The DSWD is also implementing its Parenting Effectiveness Service Program and Empowerment and Reaffirmation of Paternal Abilities Program to assist parents and parent substitutes to develop and strengthen their knowledge and skills so they can assume the major role in their child's growth and development.</p> <p>Meanwhile, CHED Commissioner Aldrin Darilag discussed the implementation of the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act, which provides free higher education and tertiary education, as well as the Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program, which is a comprehensive educational assessment program that determines the appropriate college degree for students.</p> |

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| <p>Continuation... Sustainable Development Goals</p> | <p>-</p> | <p>In terms of teacher quality, Darilag said that there has been an increase in the number of teachers who are holders of master's and doctoral degrees.</p> <p>In response to the pandemic, CHED has launched the PHL CHED Connect website where learning materials can be accessed by the faculty and students. CHED has made representations with telecommunication companies for zero-rated access to the site and also launched teacher training programs to capacitate those who are not familiar with online teaching.</p> <p>TESDA Deputy Director General Aniceto Bertiz III highlighted TESDA's online program which has served 2.1 million users since 2012. The online program offers free online courses across 13 categories which include: agriculture, automotive, electronics, entrepreneurship, air-conditioning and refrigeration, human health/health care, information and communications technology, tourism, maritime, lifelong learning skills, and community development and other services.</p> <p>Rep. France Castro (Party-List, ACT-TEACHERS) asked the DepEd about the number of students that are not enrolled for school year 2020 to 2021. Undersecretary Malaluan replied that the number of enrollees in public and private schools decreased by 4.4 million from last school year to this school year. He added that approximately 400,000 students from private schools have transferred to public schools.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Jose Enrique "Joel" Garcia (2nd District, Bataan) on the options provided by DepEd for individuals who were not able to complete their education, Malaluan said that the Alternative Learning System can be a practical option for those who cannot access formal education in schools.</p> <p>Rep. Geraldine Roman (1st District, Bataan) inquired on the status of CHED's <i>Tulong Dunong</i> Program and if it will be continued for school year 2020-2021. Unified Student Financial System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) OIC-Executive Director Ryan Estevez said that only the budget for the first and second quarter of the academic year 2019-2020 has been released for the <i>Tulong Dunong</i> Program amounting to P1.78 billion.</p> |
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