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BUDGET BRIEFING

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Appropriations	<p>Budget briefing by the members of the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) on the proposed FY 2021 national budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Budget and Management (DBM) – on the features of the proposed FY 2021 national budget 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Eric Go Yap (Party-List, ACT-CIS), opened its deliberations on the proposed FY 2021 National Expenditure Program (NEP) with a briefing on the features of the national budget for next year, as well as on the monetary, financial and external developments and outlook; overview of the Philippine economic performance; fiscal and revenue collection performance; and how the budget will be financed in 2021.</p> <p>In his opening statements, Speaker Alan Peter “Compañero” Cayetano (1st District, Taguig City-Pateros) said that scrutinizing the national budget has become much more important now because of the uncertainties that the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects bring. Hence, the Speaker said that Congress will work closely with the Executive to ensure the early passage of the General Appropriations Act of 2021. Likewise, he said that Congress recognizes the important role of mass media in informing the people of the details of the budget.</p> <p>Speaker Cayetano also announced that people from all walks of life will be allowed to directly participate in the budget process, giving them the opportunity to ask questions and make their recommendations through the social media. This would be the first time in the history of Congressional budget deliberations that this would be done.</p> <p>Noting the public perception of graft and corruption among agencies during the crisis, the Speaker said the Committee on Appropriations will look at how the various agencies performed and how they responded to the needs of the people during the pandemic. The Speaker hopes that in the course of the budget deliberations, “we will not be hearing old solutions that do not work for new problems” and that the people will be adequately informed about the immediate benefits of the 2021 budget.</p> <p>Rep. Yap remarked that Congress’ task is to scrutinize the budget and ensure that every centavo of the taxes paid by the public is spent appropriately. He appealed to both Congress and the Executive to work together in providing the services that the Filipino people deserve.</p> <p>DBM Secretary Wendel Avisado presented the proposed FY 2021 national budget of P4.51 trillion which is 9.9% higher than the FY 2020 national budget of P4.1 trillion. Avisado said that the proposed budget was prepared based on the theme “Reset, Rebound, and Recover: Investing in Resiliency and Sustainability,” which is consistent with the present administration’s goal of “saving lives and protecting communities while making the various sectors of the economy stronger and more agile” during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>In response to the current economic environment, Avisado said that the government would have to continue pump priming the economy by focusing spending on the improvement of health systems, increasing investment on infrastructure including digitization, ensuring food security, and adopting to the new normal.</p> <p>The FY 2021 budget is the major instrument of the national government to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The</p>

<p>Continuation... Appropriations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) – on the Philippine socio-economic performance and outlook 	<p>recommended budget is based on sound fiscal policies within means and on the right priorities and with measurable results under a regime of transparent, accountable and participatory governance. Avisado added that the DBM applied performance budgeting in determining the capacity of the departments and agencies to implement their priority programs and projects.</p> <p>By expense class, the 2021 national budget will be distributed as follows: personnel services, P1.32 trillion (29.2%); capital outlay (CO), P920.5 billion (20.4%); maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE), P699.4 billion (15.5%); and allotment to local government units, support to government-owned and controlled corporations, tax expenditures, and debt burden, P1.57 trillion (34.8%). The PS, which will get bulk of the budget, includes the hiring of additional health care workers; the second tranche implementation of the Salary Standardization Law of 2019; and the increased pension requirements of the military and uniformed personnel.</p> <p>The top 10 departments/offices to receive the highest budget are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education-related agencies - Department of Education (DepEd), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) – P754.4 billion; Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) – P667.3 billion; Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) – P246.1 billion; Department of National Defense (DND) – P209.1 billion Department of Health (DOH), including the budget for National Health Insurance Program – P203.1 billion; Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), – P171.2 billion; Department of Transportation (DOTr) – P143.6 billion; Department of Agriculture (DA) including the National Irrigation Administration – P97.8 billion; Judiciary – P43.5 billion; and Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) – P27.5 billion. <p>NEDA Acting Secretary Karl Kendrick Chua said that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Philippines could have become an upper middle-income country in 2020. He reported that in 2018, the country registered the lowest poverty incidence of 16.7%. It was also during this year that the country lifted six million Filipinos out of poverty, which is four years ahead of the country's 2022 target.</p> <p>The country experienced low and stable inflation at an average of 3% from 2016-2019. It likewise recorded the highest revenue (16.1%) and lowest debt (39.6%) in relation to the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019, which can be attributed to the comprehensive tax reform program of the government. In January 2020, the country experienced one of the country's lowest unemployment rate of 5.3% and underemployment rate of 14.8%. According to Chua, this performance reflects the progress achieved by the country vis-à-vis the administration's 10-Point Socioeconomic Agenda.</p> <p>As local transmission of the COVID-19 disease surged in March 2020, the government made the very difficult decision of placing a large part of the economy in enhanced community quarantine because the priority was clearly to save lives. Chua said that the benefits of shutting down 75% of the economy include improving the health system capacity, averting some 59,000 to 171,000 deaths due to COVID-19, and averting 1.3 to 3.5 million COVID-19 cases.</p>
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Continuation...
Appropriations

- Department of Finance (DOF) – on the National Government’s fiscal and revenue collection performance

However, the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent quarantines resulted in the contraction of the economy by 0.7% and 16.5% in the first and second quarters of 2020, respectively. Unemployment rate also reached as high as 17.7% in May with 7 million Filipinos becoming unemployed. Underemployment rate also increased to 18.9%.

Nevertheless, Chua said that as quarantine restrictions were eased, economic activities improved gradually. He reported that from July 1 to 15 when lower quarantine restrictions were in place, the unemployment rate decreased to 10% and underemployment rate to 17.3%. Between April and July 2020, 7.5 million jobs were restored, Chua further said.

The government is responding to the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic with a phased and adaptive recovery approach that prioritizes health and recovery of consumer confidence. Chua said that from March to May 2020, the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act (Bayanihan I) was used to address the “emergency stage” wherein subsidies to poor and low-income families were provided, among others.

From June to December 2020, the following legislative measures will support the government as it steers the country through the economic “recovery stage”: the proposed Bayanihan to Recover as One Act (Bayanihan II), Government Financial Institutions Unified Initiatives to Distressed Enterprises for Economic Recovery (GUIDE) Act, Financial Institutions Strategic Transfer (FIST) Act, and the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CREATE) Act.

For 2021 and the years ahead, the FY 2021 and 2022 General Appropriations Acts (GAA) and other reform laws will be instrumental to the country’s progress towards the “resiliency stage” where structural reforms to turn crisis into opportunities will be undertaken as the country prepares for the new normal.

Chua also underscored the importance of reopening the public transport to complement efforts in reviving the economy. He likewise said that infrastructure spending is crucial to the road to recovery given the multiplier effect of this economic activity.

Aside from the legislative measures mentioned earlier, NEDA’s other priority legislative measures are the amendments to the Public Service Act, Foreign Investment Act, and the Retail Trade Liberalization Act.

DOF Secretary Carlos Dominguez III reported that the bold tax reform measures passed by Congress combined with improved tax administration enabled the government to raise revenues in 2019 in the total amount of P3.14 trillion which is 10% higher than the 2018 level. This represents a revenue effort of 16.1% of GDP in 2019, the highest so far in two decades. In 2019, the country also registered a debt-to-GDP ratio of 39.6% which is the lowest since the country started recording this metric in 1986. The improvements were results of prudent management backed by steady economic growth, Dominguez added.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the total tax revenues for the first seven months of 2020 dropped to P1.69 trillion from previous year’s P1.81 trillion or a decrease of 6.8%. Nevertheless, the additional income and savings from prudent debt management would enable the government to fund the Bayanihan II. The projected revenue collections for 2020, 2021, and 2022 are P2.5 trillion, P2.7 trillion, and P3 trillion, respectively.

Meanwhile, the deficit-to-GDP ratio is projected to reach 9.6% by the end of 2020 as the government spends more to beef up the country’s

<p>Continuation... Appropriations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) – on the country’s monetary, financial and external developments and outlook 	<p>health system and provide relief to individuals and sectors hardest hit by the effects of the pandemic. But the deficit-to-GDP ratio is expected to decline to 8.5% in 2021 and 7.2% in 2022.</p> <p>Dominguez also said that the credit rating upgrades and affirmations given by external parties, like Moody’s, Fitch Ratings, and Japan Credit Rating Agency, among others, are a vote of confidence on the country’s ability to stage an economic recovery from the pandemic. These credit ratings have allowed the country to access financing at lower interest rates and longer repayment periods.</p> <p>Dominguez further said that as of the end of August, the DOF has secured a total of US\$8.83 billion in financing for COVID-19 response efforts from development partners and commercial markets such as the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Development Agency of France, and Japan International Cooperation Agency, among others.</p> <p>For the 18th Congress, the DOF pushes for the passage of the CREATE, FIST, and GUIDE bills.</p> <p>BSP Governor Benjamin Diokno said that the Philippines faced the global pandemic with firm macroeconomic fundamentals which helped the country “navigate in the early months of the crisis.” In fact, the country’s GDP growth averaged about six percent for the past 10 years. The robust growth of the domestic economy in recent years was achieved in an environment of generally stable inflation and was anchored on purposeful structural reforms. He added that the country’s strong track record of prudent policymaking has likewise led to robust external payments position, record-high international reserves, improved external debt matrix, and healthy public finances. At the same time, the Philippine banks continue to be sound and stable.</p> <p>However, Diokno said that just like in other countries, the Philippine economy has been seriously hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent community quarantines. After exhibiting 84 consecutive quarters of growth, the country recorded its lowest quarterly growth since 1981 with the GDP contracting by 16.5% in the second quarter of 2020. Inflation, though, remains manageable for the year with average headline inflation rate of 2.5% which is still within the government’s target of 3%. It is forecasted that average inflation will be at 2.6% in 2020, 3% in 2021, and 3.1% in 2022. There is also ample liquidity in the market and credit activity is seen to pick-up in the coming months as economic activities resume with the gradual reopening of the economy. The Philippine banks remain to be strong, resilient and sufficiently capitalized.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the country’s manageable inflation environment, high level international reserves buffer, and favorable market sentiment continue to provide support to the Philippine peso. As of August 28, the peso outperformed other regional currencies and appreciated against the US dollar by 4.43%, closing at P48.49 per US\$1.00. The country’s foreign exchange reserves are at all time high with US\$98 billion. This level of international reserves is equivalent to 8.9 months worth of imports cover. The country’s external debt to GDP ratio has declined, Diokno said, which has provided the government sufficient space for higher budget deficit as it responds to the pandemic through an aggressive fiscal stimulus.</p> <p>For 2021, the macroeconomic assumptions are: inflation will remain manageable; the average crude oil price will settle at US\$35-50 per barrel; and the peso-dollar exchange rate will remain stable with P50-54 per US dollar. Moving forward, Diokno said that the macroeconomic prospects are likely to improve in the near term, but there would be headwinds along the way which include the possibility</p>
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- Discussion/Comments

of a prolonged pandemic, tepid global economic recovery, and natural disasters.

Minority Leader Bienvenido Abante Jr. (6th District, Manila) said that the Minority Bloc recognizes the need to pass the 2021 national budget at the soonest possible time considering the magnitude of the challenges brought about by the pandemic and the work that needs to be done for the nation to get back on its feet. Hence, he said that the Minority Bloc will do its share to participate actively in the budget deliberations and speed things up. However, the Minority will stand by its position to review the budget, reassess the priorities and line items, and reallocate funds to other programs and projects that require additional financial resources. He then requested the submission of how the budget for Bayanihan I was spent and where the budget for it was sourced from.

Deputy Speaker Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte Jr. (2nd District, Camarines Sur) asked if there is a need to have another Bayanihan law (aside from the Bayanihans I and II), that will provide a bigger and better stimulus package for the economy to bounce back completely.

Dominguez said that the government is taking a cautious approach in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic. He opined that the pandemic is an unfolding phenomenon, thus it is more prudent to "not commit all your forces in the beginning." He added that the government needs to preserve all assets to make sure that the country has enough resources to survive the pandemic.

Quirino Rep. Junie Cua asked if the 2021 proposed budget can be considered as a comprehensive economic stimulus package that should be passed immediately. The NEDA head answered in the affirmative.

Deputy Speaker and Antique Rep. Loren Legarda asked what possible fiscal risks were seen in preparing the 2021 national budget. Dominguez replied that the major fiscal risk so far is resorting to borrowings to support the government's budget in light of the drop in revenues. Aside from the US\$8.83 billion that the government has borrowed for the first eight months of 2020, the government is planning to borrow around P3 trillion for each of the next two years.

Rep. Stella Luz Quimbo (2nd District, Marikina City) asked how the DBM would monitor the utilization of funds for COVID-19. Avisado replied that the DBM requires all agencies to submit monthly reports on their physical and financial accomplishments compared to their targets. Likewise, the DBM informs the agencies of the status of their funds and the level of disbursements.

Rep. Quimbo further commented that even if the unemployment rate recently dropped from 17.7% to 10%, there are still 4.5 million unemployed, 7.93 million underemployed, 12.1 million self-employed without any workers, and 3.18 million unpaid family workers. Given the huge number of workers greatly affected by the pandemic, Rep. Quimbo stressed that the budget allotted by DOLE to assist 2.1 million displaced workers is not enough to address the adverse effects of the pandemic on the labor sector.

Chua believes that the economy can naturally create the jobs so long as economic activities are not prevented. He cited the imposition of strict quarantine measures as a major challenge for the economy to bounce back and provide jobs.

Rep. Edcel Lagman (1st District, Albay) asked why the President has not yet signed the proposed Bayanihan II. He averred that the delay will prejudice the recovery of people and businesses greatly affected by the pandemic.

<p>Continuation... Appropriations</p>		<p>Dominguez explained that the Office of the President has requested the members of the Economic Cluster to comment on the proposed Bayanihan II to help the President decide on whether to sign it or not.</p> <p>Reps. Sarah Jane Elago (Party-List, KABATAAN) and France Castro (Party-List, ACT-TEACHERS) questioned the budget allocated to the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) amounting to P19.13 billion which has increased exponentially. The budget for the NTF-ELCAC is included in the DILG's proposed budget of P246.1 billion. They noticed that this is bigger than the proposed budget for the DOH, which is P203.1 billion. The lady legislators emphasized that the budget for health should be given utmost priority and attention considering that the country is under a public health emergency.</p> <p>Avisado answered that the budget for the DOH has increased by 26% to enable the Department to respond to the pandemic. He added that the NTF-ELCAC, through its support to barangay development program, plays an important role in helping communities and the people previously affected by armed conflicts to rebuild their lives.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA), Avisado explained that the government has no savings from operations. The unutilized appropriations or unobligated allotments automatically expire once the validity of the allocation lapses and are therefore reverted back to the National Treasury.</p> <p>Some lawmakers called on the DBM to allocate a higher budget for the agriculture sector under the 2021 proposed national budget. While Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon) also called for the increase in the budget for the Health Facilities Enhancement Program under the DOH.</p> <p>The Committee also allowed University of the Philippines Diliman Professor Ranjit Rye and two concerned citizens to raise their questions and comments during the meeting, which the DBCC economic managers answered.</p>
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COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food	Substitute Bill to HBs 914, 1335, 1368, 2617 & 2658	Rep. Tan (A.S.), Deputy Speaker Romero, Reps. Go (E.), Albano, and Dy (I.P.)	Establishing the Philippine Corn (PhilCorn) Research Institute and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Wilfrido Mark Enverga (1st District, Quezon), approved the Substitute Bill to the five bills with amendments.</p> <p>The Substitute Bill will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for review of its funding provision.</p> <p>The authors agreed with the recommendations of the resource persons to include as members of the PhilCorn's Board of Trustees the Department of Agriculture's (DA) Undersecretary for Operations and Agri-Fisheries Mechanization, as well as a representative from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HB 6721	Rep. Defensor (L.)	Establishing agriculture information system in all cities and municipalities	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 6721 with amendments.

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Agriculture and Food</p>				<p>The Substitute Bill will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for review of its funding provision.</p> <p>Rep. Wilfredo "Willy" Caminero (2nd District, Cebu) suggested the inclusion of a provision that would mandate the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to oversee the proper implementation of the proposed law, particularly by the local government units (LGUs).</p> <p>Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija) recommended that the DA should provide financial assistance to 5th and 6th class municipalities in the amount of P50,000 per city/municipality for the implementation of the proposed law.</p> <p>Rep. Lorenz Defensor (3rd District, Iloilo), author of HB 6721, said that he is amenable to the suggestions of his colleagues. Likewise, DA Undersecretary for Policy and Planning Rodolfo Vicerra accepted the suggestion of Rep. Suansing.</p>
	<p>HB 6566</p>	<p>Rep. Tan (S.A.)</p>	<p>Developing the tikog industry, creating for the purpose the Banig Subsidy Fund and the Tikog Research and Development Center, and declaring the Municipality of Basey in the Province of Samar as the Banig Capital of the Philippines</p>	<p>The Committee approved HB 6566.</p> <p>Rep. Sharee Ann Tan (2nd District, Samar), author of HB 6566, said that her bill seeks to rehabilitate, develop, and augment the banig industry in Basey, Samar in order to preserve its historic and cultural legacy and make the industry commercially competitive to provide greater economic upliftment to the people of Basey. She explained that Typhoon Yolanda damaged the work areas of the women weavers and prevented the "tikog", a special reed plant used in the creation of the banig, from naturally growing.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bill were the DA, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Science and Technology, Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority, and the Samar State University.</p>
<p>Dangerous Drugs</p>	<p>Substitute Bill to HBs 68, 368, 742, 896, 1547, 1548, 2765, 2995, 3755, 4104 & 5932</p>	<p>Reps. Barbers, Yap (V.), Biazon, Mariño, Garbin, Rodriguez, Castro (F. L.), and Cabochan</p>	<p>Strengthening drug prevention and control, amending for the purpose RA 9165, as amended, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Robert Ace Barbers (2nd District, Surigao del Norte), approved the Substitute Bill to the 11 bills and the corresponding Committee Report, subject to style.</p> <p>The Committee acceded to the request of Rep. Jose Christopher Belmonte (6th District, Quezon City), author of HB 5761, to exclude him as co-author of the substitute bill and that his bill be discussed as a separate measure. Rep. Belmonte explained that he still has questions about the substitute bill which he will raise when it is deliberated on in the Plenary.</p> <p>HB 5761, which was originally one of the bills substituted, seeks to amend RA 9165, as amended, by strengthening the drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation and appropriating funds therefor</p>

Continuation... Dangerous Drugs	Substitute Bill to HBs 5405 & 5804	Reps. Baronda and Belmonte	Creating anti-drug abuse councils (ADACs) in all provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays throughout the country and providing funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 5405 and 5804 and the corresponding Committee Report, subject to style.
	HB 5627	Rep. Cabochan	Mandating the administration of regular drug tests in correctional and penal institutions	<p>The Committee approved HB 5627 subject to amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Manuel Cabochan III (Party-List, MAGDALO), author of HB 5627, lamented that despite government's efforts to curb the manufacture, sale and use of illegal drugs, drug trade and drug use within the confines of the country's correctional and penal institutions have remained unabated. Rep. Cabochan said that it is imperative for the government to ensure that measures are in place to address this perennial problem.</p> <p>Expressing support for the bill were resource persons from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Health (DOH), Bureau of Corrections (BuCor), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), and Commission on Human Rights (CHR).</p> <p>However, PDEA representative Michael Manjares, BJMP Chief Allan Iral, and BuCor Legal Division head Roy Lawagan were one in saying that additional funds are needed to implement the provisions of the proposed law, especially if treatment and rehabilitation facilities will be constructed to accommodate inmates found positive of drug use.</p>
	HB 6781	Rep. Tutor	Creating a National Anti-Illegal Drug Campaign and Research Program, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 6781 subject to style and amendment.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 533, 3631, 5068, 5545, 929, 1572, 5482, 629, 1308, 1549, 2975, 3208, 3427, 3726, 5719 & 5805	Reps. Paduano, Nieto, Rodriguez, Cabochan, Deputy Speaker Abu, Reps. Fariñas (R.C.), Almario, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Garbin, Sagarbarria, Olivarez, Aumentado, Tambunting, Lara, and Erice	Establishing drug rehabilitation centers in every locality and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to the 16 bills.</p> <p>Rep. Cabochan, chair of the TWG tasked to study the bills, reported to the Committee the group's recommendations, which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include a provision for the establishment of drug rehabilitation facilities inside jails, detentions, and correctional facilities; • Provide additional funding for the construction, operation, and maintenance of drug treatment and rehabilitation centers; • Create a Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Bureau under the DOH in place of its Dangerous Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program; and • Increase support for community-based drug rehabilitation programs.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Climate Change (Technical Working Group)	HB 3180	Rep. Tolentino	Commissioning a research on climate change drinking water adaptation	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Committee Secretary Erwin Vicman Lara, will deliberate further on HB 3180 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Undersecretary for Scientific and Technical Services Renato Solidum Jr. objected to Section 1 of the bill, which provides that: "the DOST, in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), shall establish and provide funding for a program of directed and applied research which will be conducted through a non-profit water research foundation. It will be sponsored by drinking water utilities to assist suppliers of drinking water in adapting to the effects of climate change."</p> <p>According to Solidum, creating a research foundation will only add another layer in the bureaucracy. He said that the DOST, along with several research institutions, is already conducting researches on water potability nationwide. Also, he explained that a single entity cannot be expected to handle all researches on water considering its broad scope.</p> <p>The resource persons recommended to include water resources and management as among the areas to be studied or researched on by the proposed water research foundation.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1st District, Ilocos Sur) requested the DOST and other concerned agencies to submit their respective water programs for the entire country.</p> <p>The Committee Secretary said that he will discuss with Rep. Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino (8th District, Cavite), author of HB 3180, the comments and suggestions of the resource persons during today's TWG meeting.</p>

Comments, suggestions and requests for copies may be sent to the Committee Publication Staff, Committee Management Support Service I, 3rd Floor, Ramon V. Mitra, Jr. Bldg., House of Representatives, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, through cms1.cad.hrep@gmail.com or at tel. nos. 8932-6118/8931-5001 local 7122. Also available at <http://www.congress.gov.ph>