



# Committee Daily Bulletin

18<sup>th</sup> Congress  
Second Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. II No. 53  
November 9, 2020

## TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
<b>Civil Service and Professional Regulation</b> (Technical Working Group)	HBs 1567 & 7431	Reps. Angara and Rodriguez	Providing for a comprehensive nursing law towards quality health care system and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Joy Myra Tambunting (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Parañaque City), directed the Secretariat to come up with a Substitute Bill to the 10 bills for the TWG's consideration in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Ferdinand Gaité (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA), author of HB 3477, said that his bill provides for a comprehensive nursing law that will be responsive to the various problems affecting the nurses in the country and provides them adequate protection and benefits especially during a pandemic. He noted that it has been 18 years since the enactment of the Philippine Nursing Act of 2002, thus it is just right for the law to be updated at this time.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bills were the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and its Board of Nursing (PRBON), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Philippine Army Nursing Service (PANS), Philippine Nurses Association, Inc. (PNA), and the Filipino Nurses United (FNU).</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills for the TWG's reference in its consideration of the draft substitute bill.</p>
	HBs 1877 & 3477	Reps. Rodriguez and Gaité	Providing for a comprehensive nursing law towards safe and quality health care system, repealing for this purpose RA 9173, otherwise known as the Philippine Nursing Act of 2002 and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 4371	Deputy Speaker Santos-Recto	Instituting reforms to further protect and develop the nursing profession, amending for the purpose RA 9173	
	HB 5321	Rep. Tan (A.S.)	Instituting a comprehensive policy for the nursing profession in the Philippines, amending for this purpose RA 9173	
	HBs 7265, 7281, 7289 & 7344	Reps. Rodriguez, Villafuerte, Tambunting, and Majority Leader Romualdez	Amending certain sections of RA 9173, providing for an advanced nursing education program	

## DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<b>North Luzon Growth Quadrangle</b> (Special Committee)	Consultative meeting with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) on the status of infrastructure programs for FY 2020 and update on the proposed plans and programs for FY 2021 for Regions I and II and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ramon Guico III (5<sup>th</sup> District, Pangasinan), listened to the briefing of the DPWH on the status of infrastructure programs for FY 2020 and on the proposed plans and programs for FY 2021 for Regions I and II and the CAR.</p> <p>Rep. Guico stressed the importance of resuming the implementation of critical infrastructure projects in North Luzon to revitalize the economic activity in the region. He said that the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent quarantine measures have resulted in economic impasse, increasing the unemployment rate and poverty incidence in the country. He mentioned that the infrastructure sector is one of the country's major economic drivers, hence, implementing vital infrastructure projects will generate additional foreign and local investments, help revive local economies, and generate more jobs.</p> <p>The DPWH Region I representative, Engr. Florelyn Fernandez, presented the status of high impact projects in the Provinces of</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>		<p>Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, and Pangasinan including the construction of bypass and diversion roads, missing links/new roads, and bridges; as well as the acquisition of the right of way for these projects.</p> <p>Meanwhile, DPWH Region II OIC-Regional Director Loreta Malaluan reported that Region II's regular infrastructure program for 2020 has an appropriation of P19.14 billion, covering 1,076 projects. Out of these projects, 343 or 43.71% have already been completed and 438 are ongoing; while 1,074 or 99.81% already have the detailed engineering design and 295 have not yet started.</p> <p>With regard to the Basic Educational Facilities Fund (BEFF), Malaluan reported that a total of P603.47 million was allocated for the construction of 221 classrooms this year. The DPWH has so far accomplished only 33.81% of the classroom projects. Malaluan also reported that the amount of P532.35 million was appropriated to implement 38 farm-to-market road projects, while P780 million was allocated to fund 50 tourism road infrastructure projects in the region.</p> <p>DPWH CAR Regional Director Khadaffy Tanggol presented the FY 2021 the region's infrastructure program based on the budget proposal submitted to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). According to Tanggol, DPWH-CAR proposed a 2021 budget of P17.46 billion which will be distributed among the region's six provinces and Baguio City. For the current year, Tanggol presented the status of the FY 2020 infrastructure program of the region with a budget appropriation of P18 billion.</p> <p>Rep. Guico raised the question relayed to him by Rep. Faustino Michael Carlos Dy III (5<sup>th</sup> District, Isabela). Rep. Dy would like to know the remedial measures being undertaken by the DPWH Region II to address funding problems affecting projects under a multi-year contractual authority (MYCA). Malaluan explained that the schedule of fund releases for projects under MYCA is not followed due to budgetary constraints considering that there is a ceiling on the amount of the appropriations allowed for release per legislative district.</p> <p>MYCA is a document being issued by DBM, either for locally funded projects (LFPs) or foreign-assisted projects (FAPs) implemented by agencies, authorizing the latter to enter into multi-year contracts for programs or projects that will take more than one year to complete and requires multi-year appropriations.</p> <p>On the query of Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, Tanggol said that there are infrastructure projects of national agencies that are included in the list of projects under the DPWH district engineering offices. Tanggol, however, said that he is not aware if the funds for such national projects are included in the fund "ceiling" per legislative district.</p> <p>Rep. Go manifested that it would be better if the budget for the infrastructure projects of national agencies be separated from the budget for local infrastructure projects to distinguish one from the other.</p>
<p><b>Trade and Industry</b></p>	<p>Inquiry into the growing reported cases of online fraud and the recent spate of internet scams, fake online bookings, and sale/distribution of illegal drugs online or via social media</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Wes Gatchalian (1<sup>st</sup> District, Valenzuela City), will deliberate further on the issues raised relative to increasing cases of online fraud and drug-related transactions via the internet in its next meeting.</p> <p>In today's meeting, Rep. Gatchalian said that the data and information that will be presented by the resource persons will</p>



Continuation...  
Trade and Industry

- Lazada Philippines

the quarantine period, PDEA has already conducted buy-bust operations which led to the arrest of certain personalities. Ferolino added that in January of this year, Lazada turned over 3.6 kilos of marijuana to the PDEA. She, however, recognized that the use of online platforms for selling illegal drugs have become prevalent during the pandemic. She remarked that the shift in drug transactions from face-to-face to digital means is a huge challenge to PDEA and other law enforcement agencies.

Ferolino went on to say that the PDEA has a Facebook page named "Isumbong Mo Kay Wilkins!" wherein the public can report online drug-related transactions they come to know. Recent data show that 877 cases have been reported through this platform, and out of these, eight cases have been validated and forwarded to PDEA's operating units for further validation. (The Facebook page was named after PDEA Director General Wilkins Villanueva)

On the request of PDEA to allow its authorized agents to be provided with personal details of suspected drug sellers from online shopping platforms to expedite processing of cases, online shopping platform representatives from Lazada and Shopee agreed under the condition that a subpoena or court order should be presented first.

Meanwhile, Rep. Gatchalian asked about the circumstances surrounding the 3.6 kilos of marijuana that Lazada turned over to PDEA in January.

Lazada Philippines Vice President and Head of Legal Joustine Campaña requested an executive session to discuss the details of the case, to which the Committee agreed to set at a later date.

Lazada's attention was likewise called by the Committee about reports that there were drug-related items being sold through its app. Campaña explained that Lazada utilizes mechanisms such as image search and setting filter or key words to screen or filter out prohibited items from the platform. However, unscrupulous persons mislabel prohibited items to be able to go past the screening mechanism of Lazada. Rep. Gatchalian deemed that merely relying on artificial intelligence to filter such items may be inadequate and thus requires human intervention.

Reps. Luis Campos Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Makati City) and Paul Ruiz Daza (1<sup>st</sup> District, Northern Samar) agreed that the relevant government agencies may require more funding to efficiently and effectively spot and prosecute illegal activities or transactions via online.

With regard to Lazada consumers who receive items different from their order, Lazada Chief Executive Officer Ray Alimurung and Campaña said that they are refunded of the payment made. The two Lazada officials added that investigations into certain fraudulent online transactions, particularly the delivery of stones and wooden blocks instead of laptops and cellphones ordered by the consumers, are still ongoing.

The PNP-ACG and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, as well as other government agencies present, were asked to submit relevant data and statistics on online fraud and related complaints.