



Committee Daily Bulletin

18th Congress
Second Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. II No. 54
November 10, 2020

COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Banks and Financial Intermediaries	HB 6899	Rep. Tiangco	Regulating the scope of a loan moratorium on credit facilities granted to local government units (LGUs)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Junie Cua, approved HB 6899 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Navotas City Rep. John Reynald Tiangco, author of HB 6899, said that his bill seeks to require financial institutions to implement a two-year grace period, without interests, penalties, fees, and charges, for all loans incurred by LGUs whose payments of principal loan and interest fall within a community quarantine period.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bill were Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) President Emmanuel Herbosa and Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) First Vice President Elcid Pangilinan. However, they reminded the body that a minimum 60-day grace period for loan payments during this pandemic is already provided for under the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act (Bayanihan 2) and that this provision of the law also covers LGUs. They added that talks with the LGUs are in progress on the possibility of restructuring their existing loans on a case-to-case basis.</p>
	HB 2435	Rep. Canama	Providing for the creation of the Cooperative Banking Act	The Committee requested the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) to submit a consolidated version of the three House bills taking into consideration the draft bill crafted by a technical working group (TWG) of which the BSP and the CDA are members.
	HBs 7765 & 7878	Rep. Tambunting and Deputy Speaker Garcia	Providing for the registration, regulation, and operation of cooperative banks	<p>Deputy Speaker Pablo John Garcia (3rd District, Cebu), author of HB 7878, manifested that the explanatory note of his bill be considered as his sponsorship speech. Based on the explanatory note, the bill aims “to create a more robust legal regime for cooperative banks by expanding the latter’s membership, powers, management, functions, and governance.” The bill also aims to place the cooperative banks under the joint regulation of the BSP and the CDA in order “to open cooperative banks to more allied undertakings and enrich the country’s financial system.”</p> <p>BSP Supervision and Examination Subsector Officer-in-Charge Ma. Belinda Caraan expressed her support for the bills. She apprised the body that the proposed law was already thoroughly discussed by a TWG, created by the executive branch, the members</p>

Continuation... Banks and Financial Intermediaries				<p>of which include the BSP, CDA, and the BANGKOOP (the national federation of cooperative banks in the Philippines). She said that the TWG already has a draft bill for submission to the Committee. However, the BSP and the CDA agreed to harmonize the TWG's draft bill with the three bills and to submit a consolidated version for consideration by the Committee.</p>
	HB 7606	Rep. Gatchalian	Regulating the debt collection practices of debt collectors to protect borrowers from abuses, harassment, unfair treatment, and misrepresentations	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to discuss further HB 7606.</p> <p>The bill seeks to prohibit and eliminate the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by debt collectors (financing and lending institutions) to protect borrowers from harassment, the misuse of their personal information, and the disclosure of their unpaid balances to other people.</p> <p>Rep. Cua recommended to improve the definition of "creditor" in the bill, while Deputy Speaker Garcia suggested the inclusion of a provision requiring solidary liability between the financing institution and the collecting agency in case of any violation of the proposed law.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bill were the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the National Privacy Commission (NPC).</p>
Mindanao Affairs	Substitute Bill to HB 7503	Rep. Dimaporo (M.K.)	Mandating the 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 (AFP) and terrorist groups, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte), approved the Substitute Bill subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Dimaporo, author of HB 7503, proposed to amend the bill by designating the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDa) as the implementing agency instead of the TFBM.</p> <p>The Members present expressed their support to the proposed amendment of the Chair.</p>
	HR 727	Rep. Dimaporo (M.K.)	Directing the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to submit a feasibility study on the Mindanao Railway Project	<p>The Committee adopted HR 727 subject to style and amendment. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the Committee Report incorporating therein the recommendations made by the author.</p> <p>Rep. Dimaporo, author of HR 727, gave the following recommendations to be incorporated in the resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The feasibility study for the Mindanao Railway Project (MRP) shall be done simultaneously for all phases and not phase by phase; and • The MRP should allow for the upgrading of the currently proposed single track, standard gauge, non-electrified system to dual track electric system so that it will be at par with international standards.

Continuation... Mindanao Affairs	HR 728	Rep. Dimaporo (M.K.)	Directing the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) and DOTr to present the operational status and decongestion plan of all airports in Mindanao	<p>The Committee adopted HR 728 subject to style and amendment. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the Committee Report incorporating therein the amendments made by the author.</p> <p>Rep. Dimaporo, who is also the author of HR 728, recommended that all airports in Mindanao that were operating at full capacity prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, be given additional budget by the government to enable them to implement their respective decongestion plans.</p> <p>Replying to the queries of the Chair, CAAP Director General Jim Sydiongco said that the proposed projects for the development of airports in Mindanao under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) agreement are still under review and evaluation by NEDA. With regard to the Laguindingan airport, Sydiongco said that there is no allocated budget for the airport's development for FY 2021. He also said that the airport's budget for FY 2020 was realigned for COVID-19 response under the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act (Bayanihan 2).</p>
	HR 726	Rep. Dimaporo (M.K.)	Directing the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to present its compliance with the provisions of the Bangsamoro Organic Law	<p>The Committee will continue its discussion on the issues raised relative to HR 726 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Dimaporo asked the DPWH if a new law is necessary to create a DPWH regional or district engineering office in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Likewise, he asked if another legislation is necessary in order to include BARMM national roads in the national roads inventory or the Philippine National Road Network Information System of the DPWH.</p> <p>DPWH Project Director for Roads Management Cluster II Sharif Madsmo Hasim said that the creation of a Regional Project Management Office (RPMO) and PMOs in BARMM is already underway. He assured the body that the RPMO and PMOs will be as good as the DPWH regional office and district engineering offices of other regions in the country even with different names. He added that the RPMO and PMOs in BARMM will have a permanent status and will also have plantilla positions for their personnel.</p> <p>Hasim added that the RPMO will be an independent office with its own budget allocation that will be authorized to conduct its own bidding as well as monitor and supervise the implementation of DPWH projects in BARMM.</p> <p>With regard to the inclusion of BARMM national roads to the national roads inventory, DPWH Planning Service Director Constante Llanes Jr. presented the status of uploaded Road Inventory Data of BARMM as of November 6. He said that 32 roads in BARMM have already been uploaded to the Roads and Bridges Information Application (RBIA) system of the</p>

<p>Continuation... Mindanao Affairs</p>				<p>DPWH covering Regions IX and XII. He added that the process of data gathering and verification/validation is still ongoing.</p> <p>The Chair asked why roads in Region X are not yet included in the RBIA system.</p> <p>DPWH Region X Director Zenaida Tan explained that there was an issue with regard jurisdiction because Lanao del Sur was previously under the jurisdiction of DPWH Region XII. She said that this was clarified on August 26 through a letter from DPWH Undersecretary Maria Catalina Cabral stating that Lanao del Sur is now under the jurisdiction of DPWH Region X. Only then did the regional office started the gathering and updating of the road inventory data in Region X, according to Tan.</p> <p>BARMM Minister of Public Works Eduard Guerra welcomed the creation of the RPMO and PMOs in BARMM.</p> <p>Meanwhile, MinDa Assistant Secretary Romeo Montenegro said that regional disparities in budget allocation especially for infrastructure are still evident. He said that Mindanao continues to have a lower share of the budget as compared to Luzon.</p> <p>Rep. Dimaporo said that the Committee will do its best to ensure that Mindanao will get a fair share of the government's budget for infrastructure.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit to the Committee a copy of their reports presented during the meeting relative to HR 726.</p>
<p>Veterans Affairs and Welfare</p>	<p>Substitute Bill to HBs 702, 1921 & 5841</p>	<p>Reps. Biazon, Sy-Alvarado, and Cabochan</p>	<p>Mandating the use of proceeds from the development, lease, use or sale of certain government properties for veterans' affairs and welfare</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Geraldine Roman (1st District, Bataan), approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 702, 1921 and 5841 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Roman clarified that there is no provision in the substitute bill which allows the sale of properties under the Reparation Agreement between the governments of the Philippines and Japan. To be sure, she cited, the last paragraph of Section 2 of the proposed law states that "heritage properties proclaimed for veterans and those given by the Japanese government under the Reparation Agreement shall not be subject to sale." Rep. Roman hopes that this provision will allay the fears of those opposing the sale of the properties under the Reparation Agreement.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, author of HB 702, maintained that all properties covered by the proposed law should not be subject to sale. He said that in the original version of his bill, the sale of the properties is not an option given the experience of the</p>

<p>Continuation... Veterans Affairs and Welfare</p>				<p>Philippine government with the sale of Fort Bonifacio properties in Taguig which were sold for a minimal amount compared to what their values are now. Rep Biazon stressed that the sale of such properties is disadvantageous to the government. Should the government really see the need to sell the properties covered under the proposed law at a later time, then Congress can just legislate another law for that purpose, he added.</p> <p>Rep. Manuel Cabochan III (Party-List, MAGDALO) suggested that instead of enacting another law in the future, a provision should be included in the bill stating that the sale of the properties covered under the proposed law would be the last option. Rep. Biazon agreed to the suggestion of Rep. Cabochan so long as the conditions for the sale will be clearly stated in the bill.</p> <p>Rep. Arlene Brosas (Party-List, GABRIELA) agreed that heritage sites and the properties in Japan should not be subject to sale. She reminded the body that these properties should be considered as historical pieces of infrastructure which should be preserved.</p> <p>Rep. Raymond Democrito Mendoza (Party-List, TUCP) manifested that the proceeds from the use or the development of these heritage properties be utilized for the benefit of the World War II veterans and their descendants.</p> <p>The body agreed to put a provision in the bill that all the properties in Japan under the Reparations Agreement shall be declared as heritage sites.</p> <p>The Committee also agreed that 10% of the revenues that may be raised from the development, lease, and use of the properties under the Reparation Agreement shall accrue to the Veterans Welfare and Development Trust Fund, which will be created under the proposed law.</p>
	<p>HR 1105</p>	<p>Rep. Roman</p>	<p>Inquiry into the undelivered Philippine Veterans Bank (PVB) shares by the Board of Trustees of the Veterans of World War II (BTVWWII) with the objective of implementing measures that would facilitate the prompt and timely delivery of these shares to our aging World War II veterans</p>	<p>The Committee adopted HR 1105 and thereafter approved the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Cabochan presided over the meeting at this point to allow Rep. Roman to sponsor her resolution.</p> <p>Rep. Roman said that RA 3518 or the law creating the PVB provides that within five years from the organization of the bank, all shares of stocks equivalent to 51% subscribed capital stock held by the government of the Republic of the Philippines for and in behalf of the veterans, their widows, orphans or compulsory heirs shall be transferred to and under the name of the veterans. The Board of Trustees of the Veterans of World War II (BTVWWII) was designated as trustee of all issued but</p>

<p>Continuation... Veterans Affairs and Welfare</p>				<p>undelivered shares of stock under RA 7169 or the law rehabilitating the PVB.</p> <p>However, since the enactment of RA 3518 in 1963, there are still 33,335 stockholders whose stock certificates remain to be undelivered or transferred to their compulsory heirs. Hence, Rep. Roman urged the PVB and BTVWWII to fast track the distribution of these shares.</p> <p>BTVWWII Chief Operating Officer Joel Joseph Cabides attributed the delay to the difficulty in locating the whereabouts of the veterans or their heirs because many have changed addresses without notifying the BTVWWII. Cabides said that the BTVWWII has tapped the Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP) and the sons and daughters of Filipino World War II veterans in tracking down the beneficiaries. He added that they are also coordinating with local government units all over the country in locating them.</p> <p>PVB Director Federico Manalo confirmed that from 1963 to 1968, all 1,000,000 shares were issued to the veterans entitled to the shares but more than 33,000 shares remained undelivered to date. He clarified that it was the Philippine Veterans Administration, now Philippine Veteran Affairs Office (PVAO), that prepared the Master List of PVB stockholders, and not PVB.</p> <p>PVAO Administrator Ernesto Carolina admitted the difficulty in delivering the shares to the intended beneficiaries. He suggested that PVB should ease its stringent requirements for transferring the shares from the veterans to their heirs and conduct a massive information campaign nationwide regarding the distribution of these shares. Carolina blamed the BTVWWII for the delay in the delivery of the stocks. He said that the BTVWWII should have exerted great effort in locating the beneficiaries as it is the agency mandated by law to distribute these shares of stocks.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Roman on whether PVB, BTVWWII, and PVAO have a master list of the veterans who have not received their shares, the officials of the three entities claimed that they have but that they have not cross checked each other's lists yet.</p> <p>The Committee requested the PVB, BTVWWII, and PVAO to submit a copy of their respective lists of beneficiaries and enjoined them to make a full disclosure of the status of distribution of the shares of stocks.</p>
	<p>HR 1157</p>	<p>Rep. Robes</p>	<p>Commending Quartermaster 2nd Class (QM2) Raymond Joseph Olley for his heroic acts for the Philippines during World War II</p>	<p>The Committee approved the Committee Report on HR 1157.</p> <p>HR 1157, authored by San Jose del Monte City Rep. Florida "Rida" Robes, seeks to commend the late QM2 Raymond Joseph Olley, an</p>

Continuation... Veterans Affairs and Welfare				American soldier, for his exceptional gallantry and heroism in fighting for freedom alongside General Douglas McArthur in the Battle of Leyte. She praised Olley for the love and affection he exhibited towards the Filipinos during and even long after the war, as exemplified by the numerous humanitarian and fund-raising efforts he made for the parishioners of San Ramon in Leyte.
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Natural Resources (Technical Working Group)	HB 4088	Deputy Speaker Arenas	Reclassifying the Mangabul Reservation in the Municipality of Bayambang, Province of Pangasinan, into alienable and disposable land of the public domain for the purpose of redistributing the same to the bona fide and long-term farmers/occupants thereof	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by the Committee Chair, Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. (4th District, Cavite), will deliberate further on HB 4088 in its next meeting.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Barzaga noted that a bill with similar subject matter was already approved by the House of Representatives during the 17th Congress. However, due to time constraints, it was not passed into law.</p> <p>Rep. Barzaga also mentioned that the TWG was created to review the bill to resolve the issues pertaining to the boundaries and actual size of the Mangabul Reservation.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Rose Marie "Baby" Arenas (3rd District, Pangasinan), author of HB 4088, said that the Reservation, which used to be partly forested and partly a lake, has since been transformed. The timberland or forested portions were converted to agricultural use, while the constant accumulation of sediments and lahar from the Mt. Pinatubo caused the lake to recede into a few shallow creeks during the dry season. She added that at present, the area has become farmlands and site of residential houses.</p> <p>The Deputy Speaker also said that the bill's passage into law and the eventual distribution of the land to bona fide and long-term farmers/occupants in the area will greatly improve their lives. Further, she maintained that the subject public land may be covered by RA 6657 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988.</p> <p>Bayambang Municipal Mayor Cezar Quiambao expressed support for the bill, adding that local farmers in the area will immensely benefit when the land they actually till is finally awarded to them.</p> <p>Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region I Executive Director Crizaldy Barcelo said that based on the actual ground survey of the area, the timberland in the Mangabul Reservation measures 2,086.52</p>

<p>Continuation... Natural Resources (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>hectares. He also mentioned that around 2,043 hectares are highly susceptible to flooding based on the geohazard assessments conducted by the DENR-Mines and Geoscience Bureau. He, therefore, recommended that these areas be retained as timberland.</p> <p>The representatives from the Forest Management Bureau (EMB) and the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) support the views, assessment, and recommendation of Barcelo.</p> <p>Rep. Barzaga inquired if the area is indeed prone to flooding and if there were cases when lives were lost because of this.</p> <p>Quiambao admitted that certain portions of the Reservation experience flooding during heavy rains. However, he was quick to state that it does not take long for the waters to subside and flow into the Agno River. He also said that there were no reported fatalities in the area because of flooding.</p> <p>Rep. Barzaga directed the DENR Region I, NAMRIA, and the Municipality of Bayambang to conduct a joint ground survey and agree on the technical boundaries of the Mangabul Reservation. The result of this survey will be presented to the TWG in its next meeting.</p>
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