



# Committee Daily Bulletin

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## COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
<b>Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources</b>	HB 7211	Rep. Ty	Establishing a fish port and fish processing facilities in the City of Oroquieta, Province of Misamis Occidental and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Leo Rafael Cueva (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Negros Occidental), approved the bill.</p> <p>Rep. Diego Ty (1<sup>st</sup> District, Misamis Occidental), author of HB 7211, informed the body that a similar bill was passed on Third Reading by the House of Representatives in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress.</p> <p>Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) General Manager Glen Pangapalan said that the PFDA already completed the feasibility study of the proposed fish port project in February 2019. He further said that his office has already endorsed the project to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) on May 9, 2019 for funding.</p>
	HB 6527	Rep. Dalipe	Providing for the improvement, rehabilitation, and modernization of the Sangali Fish Port Complex (SFPC) in Zamboanga City	<p>The Committee decided to lay on the table HB 6527.</p> <p>Rep. Cueva said the improvement and rehabilitation of the Sangali Fish Port Complex project is already approved for implementation, hence the enactment of a law on the matter is no longer necessary.</p> <p>Pangapalan confirmed that the project for the rehabilitation of the 30-year old fish port complex was already approved by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). He said the PFDA is already in the process of completing the engineering design of the project, with the construction phase expected to start next year. Funding for the project was already endorsed to DBM for inclusion in the FY 2021 budget.</p>
<b>Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. w/ Local Government</b>	HB 2155	Rep. Dimaporo (A.)	Creating the Kapatagan Valley Development Authority, prescribing its powers and functions and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Joint Committee, chaired by Rep. Eric Olivarez (1<sup>st</sup> District, Parañaque City), approved HB 2155 subject to style.</p> <p>Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Lanao del Norte) stressed the importance of creating an agency that will look into the problems confronting the Kapatagan Valley, which is the rice granary of the Province of Lanao del Norte. He said that pesticides and other chemicals used in the farms and soil from open fields have polluted the once rich fishing ground of Pangil Bay.</p> <p>The proposed Kapatagan Valley Development Authority shall be the primary government agency that shall coordinate, plan, manage, and implement the development programs and resource utilization in the Kapatagan Valley.</p>
	HB 4175	Rep. Haresco	Creating the Boracay Island Council	The Joint Committee approved HB 6214, in consolidation with the eight other bills, subject to style and amendment.

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Government Enterprises and Privatization jt. w/ Local Government</p>	<p>HBs 6214, 6285, 7249, 7256, 7280, 7294, 7313 &amp; 7360</p>	<p>Reps. Duterte, Bautista, Olivarez, Marquez, Villafuerte, Tambunting, Rodriguez, and Garcia (J.E.)</p>	<p>Creating the Boracay Island Development Authority (BIDA), defining its powers and functions, providing funds therefor</p>	<p>Rep. Eric Go Yap (Party-List, ACT-CIS), co-author of HB 6214, said he and his co-authors submitted a draft substitute bill to the Joint Committee which introduced some amendments to HB 6214 to make it more responsive to the needs of Boracay as a world-class tourist destination.</p> <p>Rep. Carlito Marquez (1<sup>st</sup> District, Aklan), author of HB 7256, said that his bill seeks to create the BIDA that will undertake zone-wide responses to the problems and difficulties plaguing the island paradise and its nearby frontier. He added that there is a need to re-establish an enhanced inter-agency or development authority, which will formulate, implement, and oversee policies, as well as strictly enforce national laws and local ordinances, to ensure the rehabilitation and ecological sustainability of Boracay Island and nearby Caticlan.</p> <p>Mayor Frolibar Bautista of the Municipality of Malay, Aklan expressed his concern that some of the powers of the BIDA may overlap with the powers of concerned local government units. Bautista was asked to submit to the Committee his position paper for consideration in the final draft of the proposed law.</p>
	<p>HB 6578</p>	<p>Rep. Tan (A.)</p>	<p>Creating the Lamon Bay Development Authority, defining its powers, functions, and duties, and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Joint Committee approved HB 6578 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4<sup>th</sup> District, Quezon), author of HB 6578, explained that her bill seeks to create a centralized agency that will be tasked to oversee and implement the overall development of Lamon Bay and its surrounding areas.</p> <p>Mayor Fernando de Mesa of Alabat, Quezon commented that some of the powers of the proposed Authority might overlap with the powers of the local government units concerned. He requested that a consultation with stakeholders be conducted first before the bill is approved.</p> <p>Rep. Tan said that she already conducted a series of consultations with the communities surrounding Lamon Bay before she filed the bill. Nevertheless, she expressed willingness to consider the suggestions from the resource persons.</p> <p>Expressing support for the proposed law were resource persons from the Departments of Tourism (DOT), Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Interior and Local Government (DILG), Trade and Industry (DTI), and Agriculture (DA).</p>
<p><b>Transportation</b></p>	<p>HB 2401</p>	<p>Rep. Suansing (E.)</p>	<p>Establishing the Rights of Passengers of taxis, tourist car transport services, and other similar vehicles for hire</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1<sup>st</sup> District, Western Samar), approved HB 2401.</p> <p>Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1<sup>st</sup> District, Nueva Ecija), author of HB 2401, said that her bill seeks to provide protection to passengers of taxis and other vehicles for hire. This is to ensure that passengers do not fall victim to drivers who take advantage of</p>

Continuation... Transportation				situations when it is difficult to get a ride such as during the rainy season, Christmas season, and late at night. Her bill prescribes penalties for violation of the provisions of the proposed law.
	HB 3308	Rep. Nieto	Defining and prohibiting obstruction and slowdown of traffic while under the influence of road rage, providing penalties for violation thereof	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate HBs 3308, 3387 and 5759.
	HB 3387	Rep. Castelo	Imposing the penalty of two years of imprisonment and/or a fine of P200,000 against a driver of a motor vehicle found to have committed aggressive behavior indicative of road rage and prescribing guidelines therefor	Batanes Rep. Ciriaco Gato Jr. was designated as head of the TWG.  Rep. John Marvin "Yul Servo" Nieto (3 <sup>rd</sup> District, Manila), author of HB 3308, said that road rage aggravates the already congested traffic situation in Metro Manila and endangers the lives of commuters and drivers. Measures should therefore be taken to proactively address this problem, he added.
	HB 5759	Rep. Robes	Penalizing acts of road rage	San Jose del Monte City Rep. Florida "Rida" Robes, author of HB 5759, said that based on studies, 8 out of 10 Filipinos exhibit aggressive behavior on the road at least once a year. Such behavior often leads to accidents, injuries and even death. Hence, penalties must be imposed to address the rising cases of road rage and to make the roads safer for motorists and road users alike.  Expressing support for the proposed law were representatives from the Philippine National Police - Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG), Land Transportation Office (LTO), Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), and the Move as One Coalition.
	HB 2384	Rep. Robes	Instituting policies to mitigate the traffic crisis in the country	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to fine-tune HB 2384.  Rep. Eric Olivarez (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Parañaque City) was designated as head of the TWG.  Rep. Robes said that traffic congestion has been a perennial problem, not just in Metro Manila, but in the whole country, which prolongs the travel time of drivers and commuters. Rep. Robes believes that this continuing traffic crisis needs more innovative and lasting strategies that will redound to the benefit of stakeholders.  Expressing support for the bill were representatives from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), and the PNP-HPG.  Representing Move as One Coalition, urban planner and transport expert Robert Siy likewise expressed his support for HB 2384. According to Siy, addressing the traffic crisis will require long-term solutions including those that will make it convenient and advantageous for people to use public transport, ride a bicycle, and even just walk. He also said that instead of simply apprehending "colorum vehicles," the government should consider looking at the reason for their emergence, which is probably the inadequate public transport system.

Continuation... Transportation				LTO Chief, Assistant Secretary Edgar Galvante, said that the emphasis of the anti-colorum campaign of the LTO is to ensure the safety of passengers. He said that there are instances when drivers of colorum vehicles do not possess the required driver's license category for transporting commuters, which puts the lives of the passengers at risk.
	HB 3206	Rep. Olivarez	Mandating all tollway operators to use unified electronic toll collection access pass	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to deliberate further on HBs 3206 and 6119.  Rep. Gavini "Apol" Pancho (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Bulacan) was designated as head of the TWG.
	HB 6119	Rep. Gatchalian	Establishing the national electronic toll collection system for all expressways in the country	Reps. Eric Olivarez (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Parañaque City) and Wes Gatchalian (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Valenzuela City), authors of HBs 3206 and 6119, respectively, agree that the various radio-frequency identification (RFID) tags being used by the different toll operators in the country make the use of toll ways complicated and often cause traffic jams in these areas. Both lawmakers advocated for a unified and interoperable system that will make reloading of RFID tags and use of toll ways hassle-free.  Expressing support for the bills were representatives from the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), and DOTr.  TRB Executive Director Abraham Sales said that the cooperation and compliance of the toll owners and operators will be essential in the implementation of a unified, interoperable toll way system. He informed the Committee that the TRB is already talking with the Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) and the San Miguel Corporation (SMC) Tollways concerning the matter.  MPTC manages the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx), Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx), Cavite Expressway (Cavitex), Harbour Link, and Cavite-Laguna (Cala) Expressway. On the other hand, the SMC Tollways manages the South Luzon Expressway (SLEx), Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEx), and STAR Tollway. The difference in the software and hardware being used by both operators is the main reason why interoperability of the country's tollway system continues to be a problem, Sales said.  Department of Trade and Industry-Bureau of Philippine Standards (DTI-BPS) Assistant Director Marimel Porciuncula likewise expressed DTI's support for the proposed law. She suggested that measures be put in place to ensure that the loss of employment that might result from the implementation of the new system is addressed. She also said that a "cash only" lane be retained to ensure consumers' Right to Choose as provided for in the United Nations (UN) 8 Consumer Rights.  Rep. Pancho asked the tollway operators to find a way to ease the traffic at the tollways due to the installation of RFID stickers in the area. He

Continuation... Transportation				<p>suggested that this can be done in another place along the highway instead of at the toll gate where it will not obstruct the flow of traffic, ad at an earlier time. SMC Tollways and MPTC agreed with Rep. Pancho's suggestions.</p> <p>MPT South Corporation President and General Manager Roberto Bontia and SMC Tollways President and CEO Manuel Bonoan informed the Committee that they have already made the needed adjustments to ensure the smooth flow of traffic despite the installation of RFIDs.</p> <p>Bontia said that the MPTC is encouraging government institutions and private establishments to allow the RFID sticker installations at their respective offices. On the part of the SMC Tollways, Bonoan said that RFID applicants may opt for online scheduling for the installation of RFIDs to minimize queuing at the installation sites.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Energy (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HB 7060	Rep. Dagooc	Promoting the use of microgrid systems to accelerate total electrification of unserved and underserved areas	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Sergio Dagooc (Party-List, APEC), terminated its discussion on the draft substitute bill to HB 7060. The Substitute Bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval in its next meeting.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Dagooc, author of HB 7060, said that the purpose of his bill is to expedite the total rural electrification of unserved and underserved areas in the country by utilizing non-traditional means and new technology such as the microgrid system which is more reliable, sustainable, and cost effective than the traditional grid extension.</p> <p>The TWG thoroughly discussed all the sections of the draft substitute bill and noted the comments and recommendations of resource persons, particularly from the Department of Energy (DOE), Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), and the National Electrification Administration (NEA).</p> <p>Among the amendments to the draft substitute bill that were approved during the meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include "electric cooperative" in the definition of terms based on the definition in RA 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) of 2001;</li> <li>• Change the acronym of Microgrid System Provider from MSP to MGSP since MSP is already referred in the EPIRA law as Metering Service Provider;</li> <li>• Include a provision on the grant of subsidies to MGSPs subject to qualifications and requirements to be determined by the NEA;</li> </ul>

Continuation... Energy (Technical Working Group)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lengthen the ERC's period of accreditation for MGSPs from 60 days to 180 days;</li> <li>• Harmonize the provisions of the draft substitute bill with existing DOE circulars on the competitive selection process (CSP) of MGSPs;</li> <li>• Allow the installation of microgrid systems in unserved or underserved areas by accredited MGSPs after the conduct of a CSP, provided that the installation shall require a waiver of rights and obligations to provide electric service from the distribution utility (DU) concerned, and shall not revoke the DU's franchise over the said area;</li> <li>• Add a provision stating that "the existence of MGSP in a franchised area of DUs shall not be used as a reason for not granting DUs a franchise renewal; and</li> <li>• Decrease the penalty for committing prohibited acts under the proposed law from a fine ranging from P5 to P20 million to a fine ranging from P1 to P5 million.</li> </ul>
<b>Suffrage and Electoral Reforms</b> (Technical Working Group)	HB 69	Rep. Barbers	Amending Sections 9 and 27 of RA 8189, otherwise known as the Voter's Registration Act of 1996 (by requiring the presentation of proof of residence for the purpose of voter registration and by removing from the law the provision on disenfranchising registered voters who failed to vote in two succeeding regular elections)	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Cyrille "Beng" Abueg-Zaldivar (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Palawan), terminated its deliberations on the five bills.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to draft a substitute bill incorporating therein the recommendations and suggestions of the Members and resource persons.</p> <p>Rep. Abueg-Zaldivar said that the draft substitute bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>In today's meeting, the TWG focused its discussion on whether or not to adopt the provision in HB 69 which will require the presentation of proof of residence for the purpose of voter registration. Likewise, the adoption of online voter registration was discussed during the meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA) manifested that while he understands the intention of HB 69 to address the perennial problem of "flying voters," he believes that the proposed presentation of proof of residence will not solve the issue and may end up disenfranchising more voters, especially the new registrants. According to Rep. Zarate, not all qualified voters are in possession of documents that will prove that they are residents of a particular locality.</p> <p>COMELEC representative, Atty. Albert Leonard Rodriguez, apprised the body that COMELEC En Banc Resolution No. 10549 (Rules and Regulations on the Resumption of the System of Continuing Registration of Voters), issued in 2019, contains a list of identification cards (ID cards) that may be presented for purposes of voter registration, which can already serve as proof of residency.</p> <p>COMELEC Deputy Executive Director Teopisto Elnas added that the COMELEC En Banc's</p>
	HB 578	Deputy Speaker Villanueva	Strengthening the procedure for registration of voters during barangay elections, amending for the purpose RA 8189	
	HB 7063	Majority Leader Romualdez	Adopting a system of online registration of voters, amending for this purpose Sections 8 and 10 of RA 8189	
	HB 7411	Deputy Speaker Villanueva	Authorizing the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) to use and implement an automated and online system for voter registration, providing funds therefor	
	HB 7746	Rep. Crisologo	Creating an Electronic Voters Registration System, amending for this purpose RA 8189	

<p>Continuation...          Suffrage and Electoral Reforms (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>decision to include "any valid ID" in the Resolution takes into consideration the national ID system, the implementation of which is already underway.</p> <p>Representing Rep. Robert Ace Barbers (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Surigao del Norte), author of HB 69, Chief of Staff Mervin Natalicio spoke against putting the phrase "any valid ID" at the end of the list of IDs that may be presented for voter registration. He opined that this will give leeway for the election officers to accept or deny documents as proof of residence.</p> <p>Legal Network for Truthful Elections (LENTE) Head of Special Operations Helen Graido reiterated her group's position that the proposed amendment is unconstitutional as it violates Article V, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution which states that "No literacy, property, or other substantive requirement shall be imposed on the exercise of suffrage."</p> <p>Meanwhile, the TWG is inclined to adopt a provision establishing a permanent system of online voter registration, as well as online reactivation of registration and change or correction of voter registration.</p> <p>Rep. Rodolfo "Ompong" Ordanes (Party-List, SENIOR CITIZENS) asked the COMELEC about its timeline should the proposed law be passed in time for the 2022 national and local elections.</p> <p>Elnas said that the COMELEC has yet to consult with its IT Department and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) on how to implement an online voter registration for the 2022 elections. Nevertheless, he assured the Committee that COMELEC will do its best to comply with the requirements of the proposed law once enacted.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p><b>Energy</b></p>	<p>Briefing by the Department of Energy (DOE), National Electrification Administration (NEA), National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), Manila Electric Company (MERALCO), and Philippine Rural Electric Cooperative Association (PHILRECA) on the initiatives undertaken to address the damages on power distribution lines and structures brought about by Typhoon Rolly</p>	<p>The Committee, presided by its Senior Vice Chair, Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Pampanga), listened to the presentation of the DOE, NEA, NGCP, MERALCO and PHILRECA on their respective initiatives to repair or fix damaged or downed power distribution lines and structures caused by Super Typhoon Rolly.</p> <p>Rep. Arroyo said that the purpose of today's meeting is to get updates on the measures undertaken by government agencies and private entities to restore power in affected localities or communities where distribution lines were heavily damaged by the typhoon and to identify other forms of intervention that will aid electric cooperatives in resuming its operations.</p> <p>DOE Electric Power Industry Management Bureau Director Mario Marasigan informed the body that the total damages on power facilities in Bicol amounted to P330 million. He also said that although majority of power facilities incurred minimal damage, some had to shut down to prevent further damages during the onslaught of Typhoon Rolly. The restoration of power was also hampered in areas where the transmission and distribution lines</p>

Continuation...  
Energy

were badly hit and because of other measures being done to prepare for Typhoon Ulysses.

With regard to oil supply and mobilization, Marasigan reported that oil supplies are sufficient at the moment. However, there are delays in the mobilization or transportation of fuel as some gas stations still have no electricity.

NEA Deputy Administrator for Technical Services Artis Nikki Tortola presented the NEA's power monitoring report. He said that as of November 10, 73.78% of households got electricity back while 26.22%, which is equivalent to 548,522 households, did not have power yet. He also reported that out of the 20 electric cooperatives (ECs) that were affected by Typhoon Rolly, 13 are already at 76% to 100% operating level. However, he lamented that because of Typhoon Ulysses, efforts by ECs to restore power in affected communities will be further delayed.

NGCP Spokesperson and Head of Corporate Communications and Public Affairs Cynthia Alabanza reported on the measures undertaken by the NGCP to prepare for Typhoon Rolly as well as its power restoration efforts after the typhoon. According to Alabanza, the typhoon left the Bicol Region with 755 damaged transmission structures including 47 toppled backbone structures. As of November 9, the NGCP was able to restore power in many municipalities in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> district of Albay as well as other remaining municipalities in Camarines Sur.

PHILRECA Executive Director and General Manager Janeene Colingan stated that PHILRECA's Power Restoration Rapid Deployment - Task Force Kapatid (PRRD-TFK) is responsible for deploying lineworkers and vehicles to assist ECs in immediately rehabilitating their distribution lines in times of calamities. In response to Typhoon Rolly, the PRRD-TFK was able to deploy 103 vehicles (boomtrucks and utility vehicles) and 437 line workers and was able to assist 60 ECs as of November 10.

MERALCO Senior Vice President and Head of Networks Ronnie Aperocho reported that the total cost of damage by Typhoon Rolly on MERALCO's facilities is P12.55 million and that 237 circuits out of MERALCO's 736 operational circuits were affected. He said that 1.3 million customers experienced sustained power interruptions from November 1 to 3. Power was restored for all customers by November 4. Aperocho also said that in support of the PRRD-TFK, MERALCO deployed four teams to three affected provinces on November 7 involving 206 personnel and 65 vehicles.

On the query of Rep. Arroyo on the areas that still have no electricity, Tortola responded that the whole of Catanduanes still does not have electricity and that some areas utilize generator sets (gensets) as alternative power source.

DOE Undersecretary Felix William Fuentebella explained that the DOE coordinates with the NEA and the private sector in providing alternative power source to affected communities such as the use of gensets since the Department does not have the budget to purchase such equipment. With regard to Catanduanes, he said that the DOE is targeting full power restoration in the province before Christmas.

Reps. Godofredo Guya (Party-List, RECOBODA) and Sergio Dagooc (Party-List, APEC) asked the concerned agencies to formulate a long-term plan that would minimize damages on transmission and distribution structures to avoid shutting down power during typhoons. Rep. Dagooc added that towers may just be reinforced. NGCP's Head of Engineering Rico Vega agreed to look into the matter

<p>Continuation... Energy</p>		<p>On Rep. Dagooc's comment on NEA's lack of funds which prevents it from performing some of its functions, NEA Deputy Administrator for Corporate Resources and Financial Services Sonia San Diego confirmed that only P250 million was released by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to the NEA for FY 2020.</p> <p>According to San Diego, the original budget proposal of the NEA for FY 2020 was P750 million but the DBM only approved P500 million. Furthermore, she said that the unreleased portion of NEA's budget amounting to P250 million was realigned for COVID-19 response under the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act (Bayanihan 1).</p> <p>Rep. Dagooc maintained that the budget of the NEA should be increased so that it will be able to effectively support the ECs in their rural electrification initiatives.</p> <p>The DOE was requested to submit a report on the damages on the country's energy sector caused by Typhoon Rolly including data on all affected localities, electric cooperatives, and transmission structures.</p>
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DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p><b>Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources</b></p>	<p>Briefing/discussion with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) on the status of House Bills establishing multi-species hatcheries that are pending in the Senate</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Leo Rafael Cueva (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Negros Occidental), discussed with BFAR the status of the House Bills establishing multi-species hatcheries that are pending in Senate.</p> <p>Rep. Cueva said that there were 21 House Bills passed in the House of Representatives which seek to establish multi-species hatcheries in certain parts of the country. Before these were passed by the House, the BFAR was consulted and expressed no negative comment on the passage of these bills. However, when the 21 bills were being considered at the Senate, nine were deferred because these were not supported by BFAR during the deliberations. Hence, Rep. Cueva said that he called the meeting today to know the status of the nine bills.</p> <p>BFAR Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Division Officer-in-Charge Elymi Ar-J Tunaco reported that during the time that the Senate deliberated on the nine bills, there were no feasible areas yet for the proposed multi-species hatcheries. However, she updated the Committee that to date, the BFAR confirmed that there are already areas available and feasible for the proposed multi-species marine hatcheries for HBs 7384, 7547, and 7543; and crab hatchery for HB 7704 in Concepcion, Iloilo; Batad, Iloilo; Pasacao, Camarines Sur; and Kumalarang, Zamboanga del Sur, respectively.</p> <p>On the other hand, for HBs 7432 and 7385 which propose the establishment of multi-species hatcheries in Ajuy and Estancia, Iloilo, respectively, Tunacao said that the areas are not suitable for such purpose. She said BFAR has already coordinated with the bills' authors who agreed that the proposed projects may not push through for lack of feasible sites.</p> <p>For HBs 7423 and 7433, BFAR is currently coordinating with the author, Rep. Fernando Cabredo (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Albay), to ask if his office has alternative sites for the multi-species hatcheries in Pioduran and Oas, Albay. Tunacao said that the sites earlier identified by Rep. Cabredo in his bills are not feasible for the multi-species hatcheries.</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources</p>		<p>Tunacao also gave an update on the status of HB 7545, which seeks to establish a central multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Villaba, and satellite multi-species marine hatcheries in the Municipalities of Calubian and Leyte, all in the Province of Leyte. She said that BFAR has already identified a suitable site for a multi-species marine hatchery in Villaba. However, BFAR still needs to validate with the lot owners if they are willing to sell the lot for the proposed satellite multi-species marine hatcheries in the Municipalities of Calubian and Leyte.</p> <p>Earlier in the meeting, Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) General Manager Glen Pangapalan presented the procedure in establishing and funding fish ports upon the request of Rep. Cueva.</p>
<p><b>North Luzon Growth Quadrangle</b> (Special Committee)</p>	<p>Consultative meeting with the Department of National Defense (DND) and the National Security Council (NSC) on the status of their current plans and programs for Regions I &amp; II and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)</p>	<p>The Committee, presided by Rep. Christopher de Venecia (4<sup>th</sup> District, Pangasinan), listened to the updates of the DND and the NSC on the status of their plans and programs for Regions I, II, and CAR.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. De Venecia said that the purpose of today's meeting is to know the status of the programs of the DND and NSC for North Luzon including their COVID-19 response programs.</p> <p>National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr., who is also Vice Chair of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC), informed the body that the NTF-ELCAC is mandated to implement development programs and projects to communities that were cleared from insurgents for the period 2016 to 2019. However, due to the pandemic, the schedule of the release of funds for the projects is withheld at the moment.</p> <p>The NTF-ELCAC was created by virtue of Executive Order No. 70 which was signed by the President on December 4, 2018. The President heads the NTF-ELCAC while the cabinet members lead the Regional Task Force - ELCAC (RTF-ELCAC), according to Esperon.</p> <p>NTF Director Cecilia Pacis presented the NTF-ELCAC Barangay Development Projects (BDP) for North Luzon. She explained that under the BDP, each cleared barangay will receive a budget of P20 million for the implementation of programs through the following Departments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Agriculture (DA) and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) – farm-to-market road projects amounting to P12 million;</li> <li>• Department of Education (DepEd) – construction of four-classroom school buildings amounting to P3 million;</li> <li>• Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) – installation of water and sanitation systems amounting to P2 million;</li> <li>• Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – implementation of the National Greening Program amounting to P1.5 million; and</li> <li>• Department of Health (DOH) – creation of health stations amounting to P1.5 million.</li> </ul> <p>According to Pacis, 822 barangays have been cleared nationwide for the period 2016 to 2019 which include two barangays from Region I, six barangays from Region II, and eight barangays from CAR. For 2020 alone, a total of 502 barangays were cleared from insurgents, 16 of which came from Region I while 45 and 18 barangays came from Region II and CAR, respectively.</p> <p>Pacis also informed the body that the 822 barangays that were cleared from 2016 to 2019 will have a total budget of P16.4 billion</p>

Continuation...  
North Luzon Growth  
Quadrangle  
(Special Committee)

for their BDPs, which is already included in the FY 2021 National Expenditure Program (NEP) of the government. The budget needed for the BDPs of the 502 barangays that were cleared this year is P10.4 billion, of which P1.58 billion will go to the 79 barangays in North Luzon. However, this amount was not yet included in the 2021 NEP.

DND's Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Region I Director Eugene Cabrera presented the programs and accomplishments of OCD Regional Office I for CY 2020. He also briefly discussed the flood control and rehabilitation projects of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) for Region I. (The OCD is the implementing arm of the NDRRMC). Cabrera mentioned that there are 2,681 COVID-19 cases in the region with 474 active cases to date.

OCD Region II Acting Director Harold Cabrerros presented the infrastructure projects of the DPWH under the NDRRM Framework. According to Cabrerros, six out of nine regional evacuation centers have already been completed by the DPWH from years 2016 to 2019. For the period 2020-2022, Cabrerros said that six out of the 15 regional evacuation centers that were proposed to be constructed within this period have already started construction. However, the funding for the construction of the remaining nine regional evacuation centers is still uncertain given that the funds for 2020 were realigned for COVID-19 response.

On the current COVID-19 situation in Region II, Cabrerros said there are 3,031 cases with 318 active cases to date. Full sets of personal protective equipment (PPE) costing about 192,000 have been distributed to various hospitals, rural health units, local government units (LGUs), and frontline agencies in Region II. Two quarantine facilities have also been established with two more undergoing construction.

For CAR, OCD-CAR Director Albert Mogol said that the region has a budget allocation of P11.87 billion under the FY 2021 NEP. The amount will be used for the following: general administration and support services, disaster risk reduction and management, civil defense enhancement, and quick response fund. He also informed the body that all projects of the NDRRMC for FY 2018 have already been completed while there are projects that are still ongoing for FY 2019. He explained that there were delays in the release of funds due to the pandemic.

Deputy Speaker Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1<sup>st</sup> District, Ilocos Sur) asked about the possibility of extending the NTF-ELCAC program to all barangays in the country. He said that the program with a whole-of-nation approach intends not just to address insurgency and attain peace and order but also to develop communities in the countryside.

Esperon replied that covering all the 42,000 barangays in the country would be challenging as it would require a budget of P840 billion to implement the BDPs of each barangay.

On the query of Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma on why her province was not included in the NTF-ELCAC program, Esperon explained that it is the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) which recommends the areas for development based on the barangays/communities it has cleared.

Rep. De Venecia queried on how the NTF-ELCAC program and the BDPs will be able to curb or end insurgency. Esperon responded that the program aims to reintegrate former insurgents or returning rebels into the society through the provision of

<p><i>Continuation...</i> North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>		<p>livelihood programs. The community or barangay is also given development projects in order to stir economic activities in the area, thus reducing poverty which is one of the causes of insurgency.</p>
<p><b>Transportation</b></p>	<p>Update by concerned government agencies on the implementation of the direct cash benefit to transport operators and the public utility vehicle (PUV) service contracting program under the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act (Bayanihan 2)</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1<sup>st</sup> District, Western Samar), discussed with concerned government agencies the status of implementation of the direct cash benefit to transport operators and the PUV service contracting program under the Bayanihan 2.</p> <p>Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) - National Capital Region Regional Director Zona Tamayo informed the Committee that public transport operators can start receiving a direct subsidy of P6,500 per unit within the next two weeks.</p> <p>With regard to the PUV service contracting program, Tamayo said that a system manager has already been selected to monitor PUV operators and their respective routes. Last week, the Program started pilot testing in the National Capital Region (NCR), Metro Cebu, and Metro Davao.</p> <p>Under the PUV service contracting program, the government will be paying operators and drivers of public transportation units based on vehicle-kilometers travelled and specific performance indicators. The Program has an allocation of P5.58 billion under the Bayanihan 2.</p> <p>In response to queries by House Members, Tamayo said that drivers and operators need not purchase a global positioning system (GPS) for the Program. Instead, they can make use of their existing cellular phones or buy new ones from which they will be asked to “time in” and “time out” via an app being developed by the system manager.</p>

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