



# Committee Daily Bulletin

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## ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<b>Cooperatives Development</b>	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's amended Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee held an organizational meeting under its new chairperson, Rep. Presley de Jesus (Party-List, PHILRECA).</p> <p>Rep. De Jesus was recently elected by the House as Chair of the Committee, replacing Rep. Sabiniano Canama (Party-List, COOP-NATCCO), who is now the Chair of the Special Committee on East ASEAN Growth Area.</p> <p>During the meeting, the Committee's amended Rules of Procedure for the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Under the House Rules, the Committee shall have jurisdiction on "all matters directly and principally relating to cooperatives inclusive of cooperative movements and organizations; urban and rural-based credit, consumer, producers, marketing, service and multi-purpose cooperatives; electric cooperatives registered with the Cooperative Development Authority; and the implementation or amendment of the Cooperative Code of the Philippines."</p>
	Briefing by the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA) on its mandate, accomplishments, plans and programs and FY 2021 budget; and the state of the cooperative sector in the country	<p>The Committee listened to the briefing conducted by CDA Chair Orlando Ravanera on the state of the country's cooperative sector as well as the CDA's mandate, accomplishments, and plans and programs geared towards the growth and development of the cooperative movement in the country.</p> <p>The CDA is mandated to promote the viability and growth of cooperatives as instruments of equity, social justice, and economic development especially in the countryside.</p> <p>Ravanera reported that at present, there are 18,581 active cooperatives with 11.6 million members nationwide and a total asset of P512 billion. He also underscored the important contribution of the cooperatives sector to the economy having generated 513,000 direct employment and 2.5 million indirect employment.</p> <p>The cooperatives sector, Ravanera said, released an aggregate amount of P5.3 billion from the Community Development Fund (CDF) to provide assistance to cooperative members during the first eight months of the pandemic. Under Republic Act 9520 or the Cooperative Development Act, cooperatives are mandated to allocate not less than three percent of their net surplus to the CDF for the implementation of projects or activities that will benefit the community where the cooperative operates.</p> <p>Ravanera mentioned that the CDA programs, such as Koop Bayanihan, Koop Kapatid, Financial Inclusion Through Cooperativism (FIT-COOP), and SKOOPLARSHIP, are geared towards the development and sustainability of cooperatives in the country.</p> <p>For 2021, Ravanera said that the CDA will strive to improve the growth and viability of cooperatives enterprises; increase the number of cooperatives compliant with reportorial requirements and cooperative laws, rules and regulations; and enhance the regulatory and supervisory framework for cooperatives to protect</p>

<p>Continuation... Cooperatives Development</p>		<p>the cooperative members and the public in general. The CDA will also pursue institutional development programs, such as the formulation and implementation of the CDA Reorganization Plan to comply with RA 11364 or the Cooperative Development Authority Charter of 2019.</p> <p>Ravanera informed the body that under the 2021 General Appropriations Act, the CDA will have a budget of P649.94 million which will be distributed as follows: personnel services, P461.71 million (71.04%); maintenance and other operating expenses, P178.59 million (27.48%); and capital outlay, P9.64 million (1.48%).</p> <p>With the expanded powers and functions of the CDA under RA 11364, Ravanera said that a significant increase in its budget is necessary to allow it to effectively and efficiently fulfill all its responsibilities. He complained about the meager increase in the budget of the CDA for the past several years.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. De Jesus as to why the CDA's annual budget barely increased, CDA Administrator Pendatun "Penny" Disimban said that this could be attributed to the Department of Budget and Management's (DBM) misappreciation of the CDA's mandate. He said that the DBM believes that the CDA is merely a regulatory agency, hence it always disallows the budget being proposed by the CDA intended for programs and projects for the development of the cooperative sector.</p> <p>Rep. Sergio Dagooc (Party-List, APEC) asked the CDA to identify the priority projects that should be funded considering the budgetary constraints of the government. He likewise requested the CDA to review the fund allocations to the cooperative sector under the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act and the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act.</p> <p>The Members of the Committee, CDA officials, as well as the representatives of various cooperatives present in the meeting expressed their full support and cooperation to the Committee and its new Chairperson.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p><b>East ASEAN Growth Area</b> (Special Committee)</p>	<p>Update by the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) on its various programs to capacitate the different clusters of the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines (BIMP) - East ASEAN Growth Area (EAGA)</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sabiniano Canama (Party-List, COOP-NATCCO), listened to MinDA's report on the status of its various programs to capacitate the different BIMP-EAGA clusters to better respond to economic setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>MinDA Deputy Executive Director Romeo Montenegro informed the body that MinDA serves as the country's coordinating body for the three member countries (Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia) of the BIMP-EAGA. He said the goal of the BIMP-EAGA, which was established in 1994, is to spur economic development in the underdeveloped and geographically remote areas in the four-member countries. For the Philippines, the areas of focus are 26 provinces in Mindanao and the Province of Palawan.</p> <p>Montenegro presented the following key programs of MinDA to mitigate the effects of the pandemic and to adapt to the new normal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tienda Program –This involves the rolling out of temporary retail outlets for fresh and dry goods from Mindanao (Total sales of P2.76 million in Manila and P1.27 million in Baguio were generated by the program in October and November</li> </ul>

<p>Continuation... East ASEAN Growth Area (Special Committee)</p>	<p>2020, respectively);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organic Rice Certification and Marketing Project – This aims to develop high-value organic rice by imposing stringent documentation requirements and involving a third-party organic certification;</li> <li>• Vegetable Derby and Festival – This showcases the best vegetable farming technologies, practices, and innovations including the planting of quality seeds and adoption of post-harvest techniques. It aims to ensure the availability, accessibility, and affordability of vegetables by boosting productivity; and</li> <li>• Installation of automated teller machines (ATMs) in Lanao del Sur towns – This involves the installation of ATMs in “unbanked” towns of Malabang and Balabagan in Lanao del Sur, in partnership with the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), to spur economic activities in the area.</li> </ul> <p>Montenegro also briefly discussed the BIMP-EAGA 2020-2025 Vision (BEV 2025), which was prepared with the support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The BEV 2025 provides a way forward for members to continue narrowing development gaps, promote stronger connectivity, and sustainably manage natural resources. He said the priority infrastructure projects under BEV 2025 are the following: roads, railways and bridges; airports and seaports; information and communications technology infrastructures; power and energy infrastructures; and other infrastructures to facilitate and promote trade and urban development.</p> <p>The Committee Chair requested the MinDA to submit a draft House Resolution calling for the construction of cell sites in the southern part of Palawan by telecommunications companies such as Globe Telecom, Inc. and Smart Communications, Inc., which was suggested by MinDA in the previous meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Canama also asked the Secretariat to continue to coordinate with MinDA on other proposed legislations that will enhance the ongoing programs of the BIMP-EAGA. He likewise asked the Secretariat to request the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to submit a report on the peace and order situation in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). He explained that the peace and order situation in BARMM is a crucial factor in the reopening of interconnectivity routes in the BIMP-EAGA areas, particularly the Davao-Gensan-Bitung route (a sea route arrangement between the Philippines and Indonesia).</p> <p>Rep. Canama mentioned that the Committee will take up in its next meeting HR 791, which directs the MinDA, Philippine Coordinating Office in BIMP-EAGA (PCOBE), and the National Secretariat for the BIMP-EAGA Subregional Initiative to vigorously undertake convergence strategies with national government agencies and local government units concerned as outlined in the BEV 2025. The resolution is authored by Deputy Speaker Rogelio “Ruel” Pacquiao (Sarangani).</p> <p>Rep. Gil “Kabarangay Jr.” Acosta (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Palawan) requested the Committee to invite in its next meeting the Philippine Ports Authority for a briefing on the prospects of opening the trade route between the Buliluyan Port in Bataraza, Palawan and Kudat Port in Malaysia.</p>
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