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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources	HB 875	Rep. Tiangco	Providing for the improvement, rehabilitation, and modernization of the Navotas Fish Port Complex	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Leo Rafael Cueva (2 nd District, Negros Occidental), approved HB 875.
	HBs 4443 & 4939	Reps. Acosta and Amatong	Establishing fish ports in Barangay Macarascas, Puerto Princesa, and in Barangay Macuyon, Municipality of Sirawi, Zamboanga del Norte, respectively, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HBs 4443 and 4939.
	HB 5027	Rep. Amatong	Establishing a fish port in Barangay Gil Sanchez, Municipality of Labason, Province of Zamboanga del Norte and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 5027 with amendment. The proposed fish port will be established in Barangay Malintubuan, Zamboanga City, instead of in Barangay Gil Sanchez.
	HBs 1282, 1283 & 1284	Deputy Speaker Villafuerte	Establishing fish ports in the Municipalities of Libmanan, San Fernando, and Minalabac, all in the Province of Camarines Sur and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee deferred consideration of the three bills pending the re-assessment of the sites of the proposed fish ports by the concerned local government units (LGUs) and the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA).
Cooperatives Development	HBs 287, 619, 1058, 2436, 2851 & 3024	Reps. Suansing (E.), Marquez, Loyola, Canama, Villaraza-Suarez, and Palma	Making the position of a cooperatives officer mandatory in the municipal, city, and provincial levels, amending for the purpose RA 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sabiniano Canama (Party-List, COOP-NATCCO), approved HB 287 in consolidation with HBs 619, 1058, 2436, 2851 and 3024. Rep. Canama informed the body that a similar bill was approved on Third Reading by the House during the 17 th Congress but the Senate was not able to act on the bill. Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1 st District, Nueva Ecija), author of HB 287, said that her bill will further promote the development of cooperatives in the country especially at the grassroots level. She mentioned that the cooperatives officer, as proposed in her bill, shall develop plans and strategies for the integration of cooperative principles and methods in programs and projects which the governor or mayor implements; and shall provide technical assistance to cooperatives. Rep. Sergio Dagooc (Party-List, APEC) expressed his apprehension that the proposed law may run in conflict with the existing regulatory system for electric cooperatives, which are under the jurisdiction of the National Electrification Administration (NEA). Regular cooperatives, on the other hand, are supervised and regulated by the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA).

Continuation... Cooperatives Development				<p>Rep. Suansing explained that the position of cooperatives officer is already existing in some local government units (LGUs) and that the bill will only institutionalize and mandate the creation of such position in all LGUs. She added that based on her experience in her district, no conflict in jurisdiction has been reported between the LGU cooperatives officer and electric cooperatives.</p> <p>The CDA and the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) expressed their support for the bills as well as the representatives from the following cooperatives present in the meeting: Philippine Cooperative Center, Sta. Cruz Savings and Development Cooperative, ACES Credit Cooperative Development, Inc. Multipurpose Cooperative (ACDI MPC), San Isidro Development Cooperative (SIDEKO), Cooperative Banks Federation of the Philippines (BANGKOOP), and TMX Employees Consolidated Multi-Purpose Cooperative.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Basic Education and Culture (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 54, 285, 614, 758, 1312, 1400, 1915, 2136, 3311, 4099, 4116, 4127, 4214, 4399 & 4667	Reps. Cabochan, Suansing (E.), Vargas, Biazon, Gatchalian, Olivarez, Castelo, Villar, Fortun, Villarica, Guico, Tambunting, and Dy (F.)	Instituting services for learners with disabilities in support of inclusive education, establishing learning resource centers in all public school districts, providing for standards and guidelines and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Christopher de Venecia (4th District, Pangasinan), terminated its deliberations on the draft substitute bill.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to finalize the bill, incorporating therein the recommendations of the resource persons. The bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>The Department of Education (DepEd) was requested to determine and draw up the appropriate staffing pattern and budgetary requirements for the establishment of the proposed resource centers for learners with disabilities. Likewise, the stakeholders were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill.</p>
People's Participation (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 99 & 1974	Rep. Acosta-Alba and Deputy Speaker Villanueva	Institutionalizing industry cluster-based programs and projects through inter-local cooperation and people's participation	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by its Committee Secretary, Rolando Cronico, PhD., will present the final draft of the substitute bill to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval, incorporating therein the inputs of the resource persons.</p> <p>Cronico manifested that a similar bill was approved on Third Reading by the House during the 17th Congress.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 1643, 2003, 2036, 2856, 3474, 3852, 4967 & 5200	Reps. Vargas, Sy-Alvarado, Nieto, Herrera-Dy, Agabas, and Noel	Encouraging volunteerism during emergencies by protecting volunteers from liability	The TWG will present the final draft of the substitute bill to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval, incorporating therein the inputs of the resource persons.

AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)	Briefing by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) on its budget, accomplishments, and plans and programs for Regions I and II, and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Abra Rep. Joseph Sto. Niño Bernos, listened to the briefing conducted by the NIA on its budget, accomplishments, and plans and programs, particularly for the regions in North Luzon – Regions I and II and CAR.</p> <p>Rep. Bernos underscored the need to discuss and review NIA's plans and programs for the three regions considering the benefits of the irrigation system to agricultural production in the North. He also said that it is high time to implement more effective programs and projects that will manage better the risks attendant to typhoons and other natural calamities to spare the farmers and communities from further harm.</p> <p>NIA Administrator Ricardo Visaya reported that as of December 31, 2018, the total estimated irrigable area in the country is 3.13 million hectares, of which 1.92 million hectares are already developed and with irrigation facilities, while 1.22 million hectares need to be further developed. For North Luzon, 591,693 hectares or 71.03% of the 833,033 hectares irrigable area are already developed.</p> <p>Visaya also discussed the major irrigation projects for North Luzon for fiscal year 2017-2022 under the Philippine Investment Program.</p> <p>For Region I, NIA Acting Region I Manager Angelito Miguel reported that an estimated 190,128 hectares or 61.15% of the 318,892 hectares irrigable area have already been developed.</p> <p>As of October 31, 2019, Miguel said that P1.45 billion was already obligated out of the total P1.67 billion allocation for the irrigation system in Region I. He added that of the 279 irrigation projects lined up for the region for the current year, 96 projects were already completed, 140 are ongoing, and 43 are awaiting implementation. Miguel also presented the proposed irrigation programs for Region I for CY 2020.</p> <p>For Region II, NIA Region II Manager Raymundo Apil reported that 297,475 hectares or 65.06% of the total 457,246 hectares irrigable area have already been developed. He added that a budget of P1.5 billion was allocated this year for the implementation of 155 irrigation projects in the region. Of these projects, 57 have been completed while 97 are ongoing. The region's proposed budget allocation for CY 2020 is P1.4 billion which would fund the development and restoration of its irrigation systems, Apil added.</p> <p>Reporting on the status of CAR's irrigation projects, NIA Acting Regional Manager Benito Espique said that 98,250 hectares or 52.99% of the total 185,406 hectares potential irrigable area have already been developed. For 2019, out of the 304 irrigation projects in CAR, 56 projects have already been completed while 247 are still ongoing. The region's 2019 budget allocation is P1.5 billion, while its proposed budget for CY 2020 is P1.09 billion, all for the implementation of irrigation projects.</p> <p>On the query of Baguio City Rep. Mark Go concerning the slow pace in the completion of projects, Visaya said that it is due to the delayed release of funds by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the country's weather conditions.</p> <p>The Members agreed to help the NIA with its coordination with the DBM for the timely release of its funds.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit documents pertaining to the concerns raised by the Members during the meeting.</p>