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COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Flagship Programs and Projects (Special Committee)	HB 5456	Rep. Salceda	Granting President Rodrigo Roa Duterte special powers in adopting a national policy on speeding up the implementation of the "Build, Build, Build" Program on or before 2022 or within a period of two and half years, and subject to restrictions, to implement rules and regulations necessary and proper to carry out such powers	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Carlos Cojuangco (1st District, Tarlac), approved HB 5456 subject to style.</p> <p>Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), author of HB 5456, said that granting special powers to President Rodrigo Duterte will help fast-track the implementation of 100 priority infrastructure projects under the administration's "Build, Build, Build" program.</p> <p>Several Members said that right-of-way issues and differing requirements of local government units (LGUs) are major reasons hampering the implementation of the projects.</p> <p>The Presidential Adviser on Flagship Programs and Projects (FPPs) and the representative of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) said that while they support the intent of the bill, they believe that the initiative is rather late and that Congress should focus on reinforcing or strengthening existing laws, structures, and processes to address the challenges in implementing the FPPs.</p> <p>Rep. Wilfredo "Willy" Caminero (2nd District, Cebu) and Rep. Robert Ace Barbers (2nd District, Surigao del Norte) suggested that the bill should contain a provision that will ensure the continuity of these flagship projects onto the next administration.</p> <p>Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo (2nd District, Lanao del Norte) asked the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to conduct a full-blown feasibility study of the entire Mindanao Railway project for approval by the NEDA Board. He said that so far, only the Tagum-Davao-Digos segment, which is just the first phase of the massive railway project in Mindanao, seems to be the only phase that has been finalized and approved by NEDA.</p>
Higher and Technical Education	Substitute Bill to HB 2542	Rep. Daza	Converting the Balicuatro College of Arts and Trades in the Municipality of Allen, Province of Northern Samar, into the Northern Samar Polytechnic Institute, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, approved the Substitute Bill to HB 2542 subject to style and amendment.
	HBs 6110, 6220, 6241 & 6296	Deputy Speaker Estrella, Reps. Garcia (V.), Nograles	Establishing TESDA training centers in certain parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the four bills subject to style and amendment.

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education		(J.F.F.), and Lara		
	HB 5769	Rep. Mariano- Hernandez	Mandating the compulsory teaching of ethics subjects in Philippine tertiary education	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate HBs 5769 and 6003.
	HB 6003	Deputy Speaker Villanueva	Requiring the inclusion of anti-corruption and governance education in higher education curriculum, appropriating funds therefor	<p>Rep. Ruth Mariano-Hernandez (2nd District, Laguna), author of HB 5769, explained the merits of the mandatory inclusion of Ethics subject in the tertiary education to instill good moral values among students and eventually mitigate or eradicate corruption in the country.</p> <p>Rep. Macnell Lusotan (Party-List, MARINO) sponsored HB 6003 in behalf of the bill's author, Deputy Speaker Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" Villanueva (Party-List, CIBAC). He cited the important role of the youth in the fight against graft and corruption imbibing the good values early enough through education.</p> <p>Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Chair Prospero de Vera III informed the body that the CHED has formed its own TWG which is now working on the creation of an elective course on Ethics and Good Governance. He proposed that the CHED's TWG and the Committee's TWG coordinate with each other for synchronization purposes.</p> <p>Both Reps. Mariano-Hernandez and Lusotan agreed with CHED's proposal.</p>
	HR 30	Rep. Velasco	Inquiry into the Commission on Higher Education's (CHED) scholarship allowance for identified beneficiaries	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised relative to HR 30 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Lusotan sponsored HR 30 in behalf of its author Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco. He said that the resolution seeks to increase the financial support to students under CHED's Tulong Dunong Scholarship Program (TDSP) from P6,000 to at least P12,000 per semester per student, as the cost of living expenses has also increased and considering that tuition fees in private schools are much higher than in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs).</p> <p>De Vera interposed no objection to HR 30 as TDSP funding comes from congressional realignments. He added that CHED would be willing to implement the proposed increase if this resolution is adopted.</p>
	HRs 108 & 109	Rep. Elago	Investigation into the continued collection of various school fees in several state universities in violation of RA 10931, also known as the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the five resolutions in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Sarah Jane Elago (Party-List, KABATAAN), author of the five resolutions, underscored the need for an immediate review of RA 10931 particularly because its implementation only undermines the students' right to education. She mentioned that Cagayan State University is</p>
	HR 111	Rep. Elago	Calling for an immediate review of the implementation of voluntary opt-out mechanism as provided in RA 10931	

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education	HRs 394 & 395	Rep. Elago	Urging the Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) Board to scrap its definition of "similar or related fees," which allows the illegal collection of redundant, exorbitant, and dubious school fees, in the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA 10931	<p>requiring students to sign a waiver which contains terms that could be violative of RA 10931.</p> <p>Based on the bill, "voluntary opt-out mechanism" lets students with the financial capacity to pay for their education in the SUC and local colleges and universities to voluntarily decline tuition and other school fees subsidy.</p> <p>Rep. Joseph "Jojo" Lara (3rd District, Cagayan) said that he will look into the matter since Cagayan State University is located in his province, and promised to report his findings to the Committee.</p> <p>On the reported collection of various school fees in some SUCs, De Vera said that while CHED did not authorize such additional fees, the SUC Boards have the power to impose such fees. He further clarified that there are some school fees that are not covered by RA 10931, such as activities or programs that are specific to particular courses. However, he assured the body that the additional school fees were based on reasonable parameters. He offered to submit the list of school fees to the Committee.</p> <p>The SUCs that were mentioned in the five resolutions will be invited to attend the Committee's next meeting to hear their respective comments.</p>
	HR 693	Deputy Speaker Hernandez	Inquiry to assess and evaluate the implementation of RA 10687, otherwise known as the UniFAST Act, to ensure that the mandate of the law is effectively and efficiently carried out	The Committee deferred consideration on HB 693 to give the author the opportunity to discuss the merits of his bill in the next meeting.
Natural Resources	HBs 265, 3351 & 4860	Reps. Ramirez-Sato, Arroyo (J.M.), and Rodriguez	Providing for a revised Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. (4 th District, Cavite), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to discuss the measures further and come up with a substitute bill.
	HR 248	Rep. Barzaga	Investigation into the illegal wildlife trade in the Philippines and review of relevant existing laws	<p>The Committee requested all stakeholders to submit their official position paper on the proposed measures.</p> <p>The head of the Wildlife Resources Division of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB), Atty. Theresa Tenazas, expressed support for the measures. Tenazas said that RA 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act is a 19-year-old law that needs to be amended to address syndicated trafficking of wildlife species. Tenazas also proposed the imposition of higher penalties for violators to give more teeth to the law.</p> <p>Rep. Barzaga inquired on the status of the arrest made by the DENR and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) of two men in Barangay Dahican in Mati City, Davao Oriental for illegal</p>

Continuation... Natural Resources				<p>possession and sale of wildlife species last April 8, 2019. According to Rep. Barzaga, authorities have found that the smugglers stuffed crate cages with approximately 450 animals, which include various species of endangered birds, lizards, and mammals illegally caught from the forests of Indonesia and Papua New Guinea which were worth around P50 million.</p> <p>Tenazas replied that a case has been filed against the perpetrators and DENR is awaiting decision by the court.</p> <p>The DENR-BMB was asked to submit to the Committee all documents pertaining to the case.</p> <p>Representatives from the Philippine National Police (PNP), Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and the Department of Justice (DOJ) expressed their support for the measures.</p>
	HB 1117	Rep. Atienza	Amending RA 9147, otherwise known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act [by prohibiting <i>lambateros</i> from setting up fishnets (<i>lambat</i>) or similar materials to gather, capture or otherwise take control or possession of any of the species described in the Act including race pigeons and other species]	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to study the bill further.</p> <p>Rep. Jose Atienza Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY), author of HB 1117, said that pigeon racing has long been a popular sport and recreational activity among Filipino youth and enthusiasts. However, most breeders are discouraged by the unscrupulous practices of “lambateros” who set up nets to catch the pigeons during the race proper. Photos of the apprehended pigeons are then posted on social media where the “birdnappers” ask for ransom from their owners. Rep. Atienza said that the proliferation of these “lambateros” poses hazards not only to the pigeon racers but also to other endangered wildlife species.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Rufus Rodriguez (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), Tenazas replied that pigeons are generally domestic birds and are not classified as wildlife species.</p> <p>Rep. Rodriguez suggested that instead of amending RA 9147, a stand-alone bill should be filed penalizing the setting up of fishnets (<i>lambat</i>) or similar materials to gather, capture, or otherwise take control or possession of racing pigeons.</p> <p>The TWG was instructed to amend the title and provisions of the bill based on the recommendation of Rep. Rodriguez.</p> <p>Jaime Lim, representative of the Pigeon Racing Association, expressed support for the bill as he deplored the rampant “birdnapping” of racing pigeons.</p>
Rural Development	HBs 3030 & 6130	Reps. Palma and Yap (V.)	Establishing the Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition Improvement (BIDANI) of the rural poor as	The Committee, presided by Rep. Alfred delos Santos (Party-List, ANG PROBINSYANO), agreed to draft a substitute bill to the two bills

Continuation... Rural Development			a linkage program for all state universities and colleges (SUCs) and community colleges and appropriating funds therefor	<p>incorporating therein the recommendations of the resource persons.</p> <p>A bill with a similar subject matter was approved on Third Reading in the previous Congress.</p> <p>Rep. Godofredo Guya (Party-List, RECOBODA), who sponsored HB 3030 on behalf of the author Rep. Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II (1st District, Zamboanga Sibugay), underscored the importance of establishing BIDANI to address the problem of malnutrition at its very core.</p> <p>On the other hand, Rep. Leonardo Babasa Jr. (2nd District, Zamboanga del Sur), who sponsored HB 6130 on behalf of the author Rep. Victor Yap (2nd District, Tarlac), manifested that the explanatory note of the bill be registered as his sponsorship speech.</p> <p>The primary goal of the BIDANI is to put nutrition at the forefront of research and development by integrating modern principles of medicine to address nutritional gaps among the poor, and linking the SUCs and the local government units (LGUs) in its implementation.</p> <p>Those who support the bills were BIDANI Program Head and Associate Professor at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), Dr. Angelina Felix, as well as representatives from other SUCs, namely, Director Eugenia Baltazar from Central Luzon State University (CLSU), Director Armando Mendoza Jr. from Batangas State University (BSU), Director Pedrita Medrano from Isabela State University (ISU), Dr. Fernando Magdato Jr. from University of Southeastern Philippines, Associate Professor Maria Aurora Tabada from Visayas State University, and Director Lester Narvaez from Bicol University.</p> <p>The members of the academe said that that their respective universities continue to conduct research programs despite meager budget in support of government efforts to improve the nutrition and general well-being of the people especially the poor.</p>
Ways and Means	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	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2 nd District, Albay), approved with amendments the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to HBs 99 and 1974.
	HB 1043	Rep. Singson-Meehan	Granting incentives to qualified taxpayers by exempting them from audit and investigation if they pay at least twenty percent more of income tax, VAT, excise and percentage taxes paid during the previous taxable year	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 1043 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Salceda said that the country must foster a "tax culture" wherein taxpayers recognize their responsibility to pay their taxes on time, knowing that failure to do so would result in penalties and other negative consequences.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill for consideration by the Committee.</p>

Continuation... Ways and Means	HB 883	Rep. Cabochan	Consolidating the laws granting rewards to informers of violations of internal revenue and customs laws, repealing for this purpose Section 282 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, and Section 3513 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to further look into the proposed threshold amount of the informer's reward and to finalize the informer's reward system.</p> <p>Rep. Kristine Singson-Meehan (2nd District, Ilocos Sur) was designated as TWG Chair.</p>
	HR 79	Deputy Speaker Savellano	Investigation into the manufacturing of illegal cigarettes, fake cigarette labels, and fake revenue stamps; smuggling of fake cigarettes and cigarette-making machines; and loss of revenue because of uncollected taxes	<p>The Committee decided to schedule an executive session in relation to the two raids conducted by the Bureau of Customs (BOC) in the Province of Nueva Ecija involving the manufacture of counterfeit cigarettes of various brands.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1st District, Ilocos Sur), author of HR 79, recommended that officials of the Technology Resource Center of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-TRC) be invited to be present in the executive session to explain why its warehouse in Cabiao, Nueva Ecija was used as the place for manufacturing illegal cigarettes.</p> <p>Rep. Maricel Natividad-Nagaño (4th District, Nueva Ecija) informed the body that the warehouse raided in Gapan, Nueva Ecija in August 2018 led to the arrest of 17 undocumented Chinese nationals. The warehouse raided in Cabiao in the same province last January led to the arrest of 29 Chinese nationals, some of whom were already involved in the previous raid, and more than 100 Filipinos. Illegally manufactured cigarettes and cigarette-making machines with an estimated value of P1 billion were also seized by the authorities in Cabiao.</p> <p>She also disclosed that the warehouse that was raided in Cabiao is owned by the DOST-TRC.</p> <p>The Senior Vice Chair of the Committee, Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija), asked why the BOC conducted the raid and not the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), which has jurisdiction over locally manufactured products. BOC Deputy Commissioner for Enforcement Group Teddy Sandy Raval explained that it is because the illegal activities involved cigarette-making machines that were imported abroad for unlawful purposes.</p> <p>When asked if such raids were coordinated with the BIR, Director Beverly Milo of BIR's Large Taxpayers Service replied that his Bureau had no knowledge of the raids and only learned about them through media reports.</p> <p>Rep. Suansing directed BOC and BIR to submit all pertinent reports to the Committee Secretariat within the week.</p>
Welfare of Children	HBs 626, 4676 & 6334	Reps. Almario, Nieto, and Tallado	Strengthening the early childhood care and development system, revising for the purpose RA 10410, otherwise known as	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Yedda Marie Romualdez (Party-List, TINGOG SINIRANGAN), approved the substitution of the three bills.

Continuation... Welfare of Children			the Early Years Act of 2013, and providing funds therefor	<p>The substitute bill will be transmitted to the Committee on Appropriations for consideration of its funding provision.</p> <p>Rep. Michael Defensor (Party-List, ANAKALUSUGAN), who sponsored the bills in behalf of the authors, said that the proposed law seeks to increase and extend the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation's (PAGCOR) support for the establishment of child development centers nationwide to P1 billion every year for another five years. The amount shall be directly remitted in four quarterly installments to a special account of the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Council.</p> <p>RA 10410 provides that PAGCOR shall contribute P500 million per year for five years (2013 to 2018) for the establishment of National Child Development Centers (NCDCs) in various local government units nationwide.</p> <p>PAGCOR lawyer Maelyn Almonte said that the amount needed to implement the proposed law should come from the 50% share of the government from the annual net earnings of PAGCOR. However, the Committee agreed that PAGCOR should get the contribution from its 10% gross income subject to the approval of the Committee on Appropriations.</p> <p>On the query of Lapu-Lapu City Rep. Paz Radaza if the ECCD Council can use the contributions from PAGCOR for the payment of allowances and trainings of child development workers, ECCD Council Executive Director Teresita Inciong answered in the affirmative but said that this needs further study.</p> <p>Rep. Romualdez requested PAGCOR to submit its position paper on the bill.</p>
	HB 2203	Rep. Sy-Alvarado	Prohibiting the spread of online viral challenge that is detrimental to the moral, mental, and physical development of children	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the six measures.</p> <p>Rep. Raymond Democrito Mendoza (Party-List, TUCP) was designated to head the TWG.</p>
	HB 2517	Rep. Yu	Requiring internet service providers to create and maintain a child-friendly internet package for subscription of parents or guardians, free Wifi providers, computer rental shops, and other subscribers, and providing penalties for violation thereof	<p>Rep. Romualdez said that the bills seek to mandate internet service providers to remove illegal, harmful, and inappropriate content in the internet to protect the welfare of children.</p>
	HB 5307	Deputy Speaker Fernandez	Regulating the use of social media, providing protection for children, minors and consumers	<p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, author of HB 5407, said that his bill seeks to prohibit the collection of data, by a website or online service, from children to protect their privacy.</p>
	HB 5407	Rep. Biazon	Providing protection for children using the internet	<p>San Jose del Monte City Rep. Florida "Rida" Robes, author of HB 5542, said that her bill seeks to ban mobile phone use in elementary and middle school for school-aged children 15</p>
	HB 5542	Rep Robes	Banning the use of mobile phones and other electronic gadgets by children less	

Continuation... Welfare of Children			than 16 years of age in all public and private schools	years old and below in all public and private schools.
	HR 342	Deputy Speaker Marcoleta	Inquiry into the adverse effects of character-based video games on children and prescribe counter measures to curb, if not discourage, youngsters from engaging in such character-based video games	<p>Deputy Speaker Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP), author of HR 342, underscored the need to determine the adverse effects of character-based video games and to prescribe measures that will address the matter.</p> <p>National Privacy Commission (NPC) representative, Atty. Erlaine Lumanog, expressed support for the bills but suggested that the provisions in HBs 5307 and 5407 should be harmonized with the Data Privacy Act.</p> <p>Child Rights Network (CRN) Project Officer Camille Madiz said that the CRN launched Shutdown Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC) to prevent online exploitation. The CRN also conducts legislative mapping of existing laws to help in legislating measures that will be responsive to the needs of the children. (CRN is an alliance of organizations pushing for children's rights legislation in the Philippines.)</p> <p>Meanwhile, the Philippine National Police (PNP), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and Facebook suggested that concerned agencies should have an interagency collaboration to aid in the gathering of data needed to prevent the occurrence of cybercrime and cyber violence.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the proposed law.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources (Technical Working Group)	HBs 7, 122, 1542, 2827, 3010, 3240, 3471, 4350, 4480, 6185 & 6226	Speaker Cayetano, Reps. Arroyo (J.M.), Garbin, Rodriguez, Tupas, Salimbangon, Villaraza-Suarez, Deputy Speakers Santos-Recto and Romero, Reps. Salo and Cabatbat	Creating the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, providing for its powers and functions, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The joint technical working group (TWG), co-chaired by Rep. Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN), for the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Batanes Rep. Ciriaco Gato Jr., Vice Chair of the Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources, will deliberate further on the 11 bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Argel Joseph Cabatbat (Party-List, MAGSASAKA), author of HB 6226, sat as the presiding officer during the joint TWG meeting.</p> <p>Among the recommendations discussed during the meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A complete fisheries and coastal resource inventory shall be established to ensure an effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism; and • The proposed new Department will be aptly renamed as the "Department of

Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources (Technical Working Group)				<p>Oceans, Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DOFAR)."</p> <p>Representatives from the local government units (LGUs) and the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) will be invited to attend in the next meeting.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills for consideration by the TWG.</p>
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PUBLIC HEARING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples	Investigation into the alleged human rights violations committed by OceanaGold Philippines, Inc. against the indigenous peoples (IPs) in Brgy. Didipio, Municipality of Kasibu, Province of Nueva Vizcaya as reported by the United Nations to the Philippine government	<p>The Committee, chaired by Kalinga Rep. Allen Jesse Mangaoang, held a public hearing at the Didipio Mine Community Center, Municipality of Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya on February 28 to hear the sentiments of the IPs in the area.</p> <p>The public hearing was based on a letter from the UN to the Philippine government dated February 13, 2019 that OceanaGold Philippines – a mining company based in Australia – allegedly committed human rights violations against the IPs in Didipio, where the mining company is operating, among other issues.</p> <p>Rep. Mangaoang enumerated the alleged violations of the mining company as mentioned in the UN letter, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forced eviction of around 180 families from their homes in 2008 when the company arrived in the area with their bulldozers and members of the Philippine National Police (PNP); • Cutting down of some 17,000 trees; and • Caused air pollution and the contamination of the Didipio River. <p>Officials from the provincial government of Nueva Vizcaya and Barangay Didipio raised several issues against OceanaGold which include harassment, arson, illegal demolition, unfulfilled commitments based on the memorandum of agreement between the mining company and the IPs and community residents, and other violations.</p> <p>Atty. Joan Adaci-Cattilling, Senior Legal Counsel of OceanaGold, denied the accusations hurled against the mining company and presented its side of the issues.</p> <p>Representatives from the PNP, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Commission on Human Rights, and various people's organizations were also present during the public hearing to shed light on the issues raised in the UN report.</p> <p>Aside from Rep. Mangaoang, other House Members who attended the public hearing were: Quirino Rep. Junie Cua, Ifugao Rep. Solomon Chungalao, Mt. Province Rep. Maximo Dalog Jr., and BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. Ferdinand Gaite.</p> <p>The Committee requested concerned parties to submit documents relative to the issues raised. It will decide later whether another hearing will be held in the province.</p>

AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Rural Development	Briefing by the Department of Science and Technology-Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI) on the problem of malnutrition among Filipino children and the youth and on the accomplishments of the Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition Improvement (BIDANI)	<p>The Committee, presided by Rep. Alfred delos Santos (Party-List, ANG PROBINSYANO), listened to the briefing conducted by the DOST- FNRI on the problem of malnutrition among Filipino children and the youth and by the BIDANI program head on the accomplishments of the BIDANI.</p> <p>The representative of the FNRI Nutritional Assessment and Monitoring Division, Dr. Imelda Angeles-Agdeppa, presented the nutritional status among Filipino children and the youth and how the country is fairing in terms of the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) and the sustainable development goal (SDG) targets.</p> <p>Angeles-Agdeppa said that the 2018 national nutrition survey (NNS) covers 117 areas involving 45,957 households and 159,926 individuals using an electronic data collecting system. Following are some of the survey results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stunting among children under five years old - PPAN target of 21.4% by 2022 might not be met inasmuch as the rate of decrease is only 1% per year or from 33.4% in 2015 to 30.35% in 2018; • Wasting (low weight-for-height) among children under five years old - PPAN target for 2022 of reducing it by 5% can be achieved, with a 0.5% decrease per year or from 7.1% in 2015 to 5.6% in 2018; • Overweight/obesity among children and adults – PPAN targets may not be met, given a yearly increasing trend instead of a decreasing trend; • Nutritionally at-risk pregnant women - PPAN target of 20% by 2022 may be met, with 20.1% prevalence in 2018; • Proportion of infants exclusively breastfed from 0-5 months - PPAN target of 33.3% by 2022 may be met, with an increasing trend or from 24.7% in 2015 to 29% in 2018; • Proportion of children 6-23 months old meeting minimum acceptable diet (complimentary feeding) - PPAN target of 22.5% may not be achieved given that the rate is decreasing from 18.6% in 2015 to 13.4% in 2018; and • Prevalence of anemia among females aged 20-39 - PPAN target of 6% by 2022 may be difficult to meet, given a lower rate of decrease from 12.1% in 2013 to 9.7% in 2018. <p>Angeles-Agdeppa underscored the need to review the targets and employ creative and innovative strategies to address issues hampering the attainment of the country's nutritional goals.</p> <p>BIDANI Program Head and Associate Professor at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) Dr. Angelina Felix apprised the Committee of the history, mission and vision, and strategies of BIDANI.</p> <p>Felix said that BIDANI started in 1978 as the Nutritional Improvement Model project in UP Los Baños and was later transformed into BIDANI in 1984. She said that UPLB started training other state universities and colleges (SUCs) under the BIDANI program. In 1990, with bilateral funding assistance from the Netherlands Government Directorate for Development Cooperation, Felix said BIDANI expanded into a network of 46 SUCs. In 2000, BIDANI was institutionalized as a continuing extension program in UPLB and UP Visayas.</p>

Continuation... Rural Development		<p>Felix stated that BIDANI aims to promote nutrition-in-development through a local participative and integrated management system facilitated by SUCs' extension programs. She informed the Committee that BIDANI already reached 743 barangays, 6 cities, 30 towns, 13 provinces, and 8 regions nationwide.</p> <p>According to Felix, among the innovative strategies employed by BIDANI include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barangay Integrated Development Approach (BIDA) - enhances the capacity of local leaders in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development programs/projects and activities; • Barangay Management Information System (BIMS) - facilitates the identification of barangay needs vital to nutrition and development and the capacity development of Barangay Development Councils in e-governance; and • Participative Nutrition Enhancement Approach (PNEA) - prevents malnutrition through the life cycle approach (from womb to tomb) and promotes food production and livelihood activities at the household level.
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DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Ways and Means	Discussion on the entry of US\$160 million worth of cash hand-carried by Chinese nationals into the country via different airports during the period December 2019 to February 2020	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), agreed to conduct a <i>motu proprio</i> inquiry on the huge amount of cash brought into the country by arriving Chinese nationals in an executive session to be scheduled on March 3, 2020.</p> <p>Bureau of Customs (BOC) Assistant Commissioner for Post-Clearance Audit Group Vincent Philip Maronilla confirmed the entry into the country of about US\$160 million worth of cash brought by Chinese nationals. However, he clarified that the Chinese nationals concerned were able to declare the sources and purposes of these cash which were mostly for investment, gambling, or tourism purposes. He also said that all necessary information on the matter were submitted to the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) as required under RA 9160 otherwise known as the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001, as amended.</p> <p>Under the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' regulations, and in compliance with international conventions against money-laundering, a person may carry up to USD 10,000 (or its equivalent in any other foreign currency), in cash or other monetary instruments, into and out of the Philippines. In excess of this limit, the traveler must be able to declare and justify the same.</p>