



# Committee Daily Bulletin

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## COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Basic Education and Culture	HB 821	Deputy Speaker Gonzales (A.)	Requiring the establishment of a permanent clinic for every public and private school and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo, approved the consolidation of HBs 821, 3228, and 4232 subject to amendment.
	HBs 3228 & 4232	Reps. Nieto and Tutor	Establishing school health and safety offices in every public school in the country, providing funds therefor	The Secretariat will draft a substitute bill to the three bills.
	HB 4225	Rep. Amatong	Separating the Sibuco National High School-Lunday Annex in the Municipality of Sibuco, Province of Zamboanga del Norte from the Sibuco National High School, converting it into an independent national high school to be known as Lunday National High School and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 4225 subject to style and its conformity to the standard template for bills on conversion or separation of schools set by the Committee.
	HB 4227	Rep. Amatong	Converting Labason Central School in the Municipality of Labason, Province of Zamboanga del Norte into an integrated school to be known as Labason Integrated School and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 4227 subject to style and its conformity to the standard template for bills on conversion or separation of schools set by the Committee.
	HBs 205, 611, 1431, 1758, 3864 & 4990	Reps. Garcia (J.E.), Acop, Campos, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Almario, and Agabas	Expanding the purposes and application of the Special Education Fund (SEF), amending for the purpose certain sections of RA 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the nine bills.  Deputy Speaker Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte Jr. (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Camarines Sur), Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Bataan), and Rep. Resurreccion Acop (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Antipolo City), respective authors of HBs 1758, 205, and 611, explained the importance of expanding the utilization of SEF proceeds to be more responsive to the present needs of public schools.
	HB 1539	Rep. Garbin	Providing for inclusion of private schools as beneficiaries of the SEF, amending for the purpose RA 7160, as amended	Under the Local Government Code, the proceeds from the additional 1% tax on real property accruing to the SEF shall be allocated for the operation and maintenance of public schools; construction and repair of school buildings, facilities and equipment; educational research; purchase of books and periodicals; and sports development as determined and approved by the Local School Board.  The bills seek the inclusion of the following expenditure items: payment of compensation, salaries, wages, and allowances of teaching and non-teaching personnel in public elementary and secondary schools; purchase and maintenance of service vehicles; and
	HB 6684	Rep. Romulo	Amending the salient provisions of the Local Government Code on the SEF, amending for the purpose RA 7160, as amended	
	HB 6685	Rep. Romulo	Allowing the Department of Education (DepEd) to levy funds from the SEF for pre-emptive and responsive measures in times of national emergencies or when the Executive Department deems it necessary, amending for the purpose RA 7160, as amended	

Continuation... Basic Education and Culture				funding the Early Childhood Care and Development Program, among others.
	HB 6661	Deputy Speaker Villanueva	Authorizing the Secretary of Education to postpone the start of school year in case of a declaration of a state of emergency, state of calamity or similar occurrence, amending for the purpose RA 7977 or the law lengthening the school calendar from 200 days to not more than 220 class days	<p>The Committee agreed to include HB 6661 in the deliberations of the TWG created previously to consolidate several bills amending the school calendar in cases of state of emergency, calamity, or similar occurrences.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Evelina Escudero (1<sup>st</sup> District, Sorsogon) heads the TWG.</p>
	HB 4226	Rep. Amatong	Establishing a science high school in the Municipality of Siocon, Province of Zamboanga del Norte to be known as Siocon Science High School and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 4226.</p> <p>Department of Education (DepEd) Undersecretary Revsee Escobedo suggested that the existing Siocon National High School be converted into a national science high school considering that there is no available site where a new science high school may be located.</p> <p>The Committee will get the concurrence of Rep. Isagani Amatong (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Zamboanga del Norte), author of HB 4226, with regard to the suggestion of the DepEd.</p>
	HB 5760	Rep. Robes	Establishing the San Manuel National High School in the City of San Jose del Monte, Province of Bulacan, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 5760.</p> <p>Escobedo said that the San Manuel National High School has been operating since 2014 by virtue of a DepEd administrative order. However, there are no plantilla positions for its teachers yet because no request for such has been made.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Villafuerte said that there is no need to enact a law creating this school because it was already established administratively.</p> <p>San Jose del Monte City Rep. Florida "Rida" Robes, author of HB 5760, countered that the DepEd has not responded to her numerous requests for a copy of documents on the creation of the school.</p> <p>Escobedo assured the Committee and Rep. Robes that DepEd will comply with the request as soon as possible.</p>
<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>	HB 6526	Deputy Speaker Villafuerte	Establishing a Green Public Procurement Program for all departments, bureaus, offices, and agencies of the government	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez (Party-List, ALONA), will deliberate further on HB 6526 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Camarines Sur), manifested that the explanatory note attached to his bill be considered as his sponsorship speech. As stated in his explanatory note, green public procurement (GPP) involves a process whereby public organizations meet</p>

Continuation... Sustainable Development Goals				<p>their needs for goods, services, works, and utilities in a way that benefits not only the organization but also society and the economy, while minimizing damage to the environment.</p> <p>Under the bill, government offices are mandated to establish their own Sustainable Procurement Program (SPP) which shall take into consideration the lowest life-cycle cost of products and services for submission to the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB).</p> <p>In turn, the GPPB shall appoint a competent third-party verifier of claims of sustainability of products and services.</p> <p>GPPB Technical Support Office Deputy Executive Director Melissa Santiago-Yan presented to the Committee the Philippine government procurement system and the green public procurement (GPP) roadmap for 2017-2022.</p> <p>As a background, Yan mentioned that the GPPB issued Resolution No. 15-2013 on May 10, 2013 declaring its support to the implementation of sustainable public procurement or green public procurement in the government. In 2016, the GPPB also approved a list of 10 common-use supplies and equipment (CSEs) and non-CSEs for priority procurement under the GPP scheme.</p> <p>Under the GPP roadmap, the medium-term goal is for all procuring entities at the national, provincial and local levels to already adopt the GPP system.</p> <p>The GPPB, Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management, National Economic and Development Authority, and the Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Inc. expressed their support for the bill.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill.</p>
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DEFEAT COVID-19 AD HOC COMMITTEE (DCC) MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Health and COVID-19 Response Cluster	HB 6707	Rep. Garin (J.)	Encouraging a baseline polymerase chain reaction (PCR) COVID-19 testing for vulnerable members of society for the purpose of intercepting COVID-19 transmission	The Cluster, co-chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4 <sup>th</sup> District, Quezon) and Rep. Janette Garin (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Iloilo), approved HB 6707 subject to style and amendment. The Cluster will submit its report on the bill to the Defeat COVID-19 Ad Hoc Committee (DCC) for consideration and approval.

Continuation... Health and COVID-19 Response Cluster				<p>The Health and COVID-19 Response Cluster is one of the five smaller bodies under the DCC, which was created during the special session of Congress on March 23, with House Speaker Alan Peter “Compañero” Cayetano (1<sup>st</sup> District, Taguig City-Pateros) as chairperson and the Majority Leader, Rep. Martin Romualdez (1<sup>st</sup> District, Leyte), as co-chairperson.</p> <p>Rep. Garin, author of HB 6707, underscored the importance of conducting PCR testing for COVID-19 on vulnerable members of society, including those asymptomatic but with co-morbidities, now that the country is transitioning to the “new normal” phase and employees are gradually returning to work. This, according to Rep. Garin, will give a clear picture of the COVID-19 situation in the country as well as minimize the possibility of spreading the virus through asymptomatic carriers.</p> <p>Rep. Garin also suggested that the government should directly purchase the PCR testing kits from the manufacturers to bring down the cost of testing.</p> <p>When asked if asymptomatic individuals are included in the DOH’s COVID-19 expanded targeted testing, DOH Undersecretary for Health Facilities and Infrastructure Development Lilibeth David said that asymptomatic persons with exposure or close contact with COVID-19 patients are among the groups that are in the Department’s priority list.</p> <p>DOH Undersecretary for Health Regulation Maria Rosario Singh-Vergeire commented that testing asymptomatic individuals is not cost-effective considering the limited resources of the country. She added that the DOH does not recommend baseline testing for those returning to work.</p> <p>Responding to the query of several House Members, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) representative Mark Galvez said that PhilHealth will only cover the COVID-19 testing of individuals who fall under the categories identified by the DOH under its expanded targeted testing. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patients or healthcare workers with severe or critical symptoms and history of travel or exposure;</li> <li>• Patients or healthcare workers with mild symptoms, relevant history of travel or exposure, and considered vulnerable;</li> <li>• Patients or healthcare workers who are not considered vulnerable but with mild symptoms and relevant history of travel or exposure; and</li> <li>• Those with no symptoms but have relevant history of travel or exposure.</li> </ul>
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Continuation... Health and COVID-19 Response Cluster				<p>Rep. Stella Luz Quimbo, (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Marikina) maintained that conducting mass testing, including even asymptomatic individuals, is the best way to prevent the spread of the disease and will allay the fears of people as the country transition to the “new normal.” According to Rep. Quimbo, the expenses that will be incurred in testing 30,000 individuals daily is lower than the P18 billion economic loss for each day of the lockdown due to COVID-19.</p> <p>With regard to contact tracing, Deputy Speaker Ferdinand Hernandez (2<sup>nd</sup> District, South Cotabato) suggested putting in place a centralized database system to facilitate the efficient and effective contact tracing of individuals who might have been exposed to confirmed COVID-19 cases. He also emphasized the need to protect the rights of people classified under probable, suspect or confirmed COVID-19 cases pursuant to the Data Privacy Law.</p> <p>Singh-Vergeire assured the Cluster that the protocol on contact tracing is being observed and that the patients’ information are kept confidential.</p> <p>All the Members present expressed their support for the bill as they urged the DOH to accredit more testing laboratories to bolster the country’s testing capability.</p>
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DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>	Report by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) initiated by the United Nation (UN)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez (Party-List, ALONA), listened to the report of the NEDA on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to the achievement of the SDG targets.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Villaraza-Suarez informed the body that the Committee has been converted from a special committee to a standing committee during the House’s plenary session on March 10, 2020, which is timely as the country struggles to fight the adverse effects of the pandemic and to recover the gains achieved in relation to the SDGs.</p> <p>NEDA Undersecretary for Policy and Planning Rosemarie Edillon said that it is still premature to change the SDG targets amid the COVID-19 crisis. With the massive problems caused by COVID-19 across the globe, the UN member states should all the more persevere to accelerate efforts to attain the SDGs by 2030 and even earlier, Edillon said.</p> <p>Edillon focused her discussion on SDG 3.3 (Fighting Communicable Diseases), which is linked to 11 goals and 33 targets. Among the crucial factors that would help achieve SDG 3.3 are the following: prevent and treat substance abuse; implement the World Health Organization’s Framework Convention on Tobacco Control; protect biodiversity and natural habitats; support research development and universal access to</p>

<p>Continuation... Sustainable Development Goals</p>		<p>affordable vaccines and medicines; increase health financing and support health workforce in developing countries; and achieve universal healthcare coverage.</p> <p>According to Edillon, the new normal would also affect the attainment of other SDGs such as Quality Education (SDG 4) and Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10). Thus, she said, addressing the “digital divide” and ensuring nationwide connectivity is a must for the government.</p> <p>Rep. David "Jay-Jay" Suarez (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Quezon) asked how much should be invested in the health sector to fight COVID-19 and what opportunities are available for the informal sector during the pandemic. Edillon answered that NEDA does not have a figure yet on the amount of investments needed. As for the informal sector, she said that workers may take advantage of the high demand for delivery drivers.</p> <p>With regard to the 35% budget cut in some agencies in accordance with the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act, Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1<sup>st</sup> District, Lanao del Norte) inquired how this will affect the programs aimed at achieving the SDGs. Edillon responded that NEDA's Second Quarter Report on SDGs will be released by July. She added that their data collection pertaining to SDGs has been hampered by the lockdowns.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Yedda Marie Romualdez (Party-List, TINGOG SINIRANGAN) on the continuity of learning amid the pandemic, Edillon said that flexible learning modalities, including online teaching and offline teaching or the use of broadcast media, are being considered.</p>
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