



ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Bicol Recovery and Economic Development (Special Committee)	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Internal Rules	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jocelyn Fortuno (5th District, Camarines Sur), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Internal Rules for the 18th Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee has jurisdiction over "all matters directly and principally relating to policies and programs to promote and enhance development of the Bicol area exclusive of developmental projects, care programs and the Bicol river basin project."</p>
Climate Change (Special Committee)	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Edgar Chatto (1st District, Bohol), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18th Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee has jurisdiction over "all matters directly and principally relating to policies and programs for the adaptation to and mitigation of the impact of climate change to the environment, as characterized by global warming, greenhouse effect, rising of sea levels, and shifts in meteorological patterns."</p>
Food Security (Special Committee)	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Internal Rules	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Wilfredo "Willy" Caminero (2nd District, Cebu), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Internal Rules for the 18th Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee has jurisdiction over "all matters directly and principally relating to programs and policies on food production and distribution, including the factors affecting food supply in the country, and other actions intended to achieve sustained growth and self-reliance in the production of basic food commodities, the availability and accessibility of these commodities to the people, and long-term food security for the nation."</p>
Foreign Affairs	Organizational meeting, adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure, and creation of subcommittees	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ann Hofer (2nd District, Zamboanga Sibugay) held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18th Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee has jurisdiction over "all matters directly and principally relating to the relations of the Philippines with other countries, diplomatic and consular services, the United Nations and its agencies, and other international organizations and agencies."</p> <p>Among the Committee's legislative agenda for the 18th Congress are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishing the Philippine archipelagic sea lanes in the Philippine archipelagic waters, prescribing the rights and obligations of foreign ships and aircrafts exercising the rights of archipelagic sea lane passage;• Declaring and defining the maritime zones under the jurisdiction of the Republic of the Philippines;• Providing for a new passport law, repealing for the purpose RA 8239, otherwise known as the "Philippine Passport Act of 1996";• Reorganizing the Foreign Service Corps of the Philippines;• Creating a Foreign Policy Advisory Board; and

Continuation... Foreign Affairs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating the Center for West Philippine Sea Studies attached to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).
Globalization and WTO (Special Committee)	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Shernee Tan-Tambut (Party-List, KUSUG TAUSUG), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18th Congress was adopted.</p> <p>A brief presentation was conducted featuring the Committee's profile, officers, Members, organizational structure, and accomplishments in the 17th Congress.</p> <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee has jurisdiction over "all matters directly and principally relating to the effects on various social sectors of WTO policies and other actions to harness opportunities offered by globalization for economic development."</p>
Social Services	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sandra Eriguel (2nd District, La Union), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18th Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee has jurisdiction over "all matters directly and principally relating to social development and social services and interventions that develop and enhance the quality of individual and community life, including welfare of persons with disabilities and special needs."</p>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food	HB 24	Deputy Speaker Escudero	Developing the pili industry, creating for the purpose the Pili Subsidy Fund and the Pili Research and Development Center, and declaring the Province of Sorsogon as the pili capital of the Philippines	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Wilfrido Mark Enverga (1 st District, Quezon), approved HBs 24 and 2859. Thereafter, the Secretariat was directed to prepare a substitute bill for the two bills.
	HB 2859	Rep. Bordado	Promoting the cultivation, production, processing, marketing, and distribution of the pili nut	Several Members expressed their support for the bills as well as resource persons from the following government agencies and institutions: Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Agriculture (DA), and the Sorsogon State College.
	HBs 1274 & 3309	Deputy Speaker Villafuerte and Rep. Villar	Institutionalizing bamboo industry development in the Philippines, creating the Bamboo Industry Research and Development Center (BIRDC), appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the five bills. Thereafter, the Secretariat was directed to prepare a substitute bill for the five bills.
	HB 3373	Rep. Garin (S.)	Promoting and strengthening the Philippine bamboo industry, prescribing its scientific propagation, processing, utilization, and business development as a priority program, and allocating funds therefor	Expressing their support for the bills were the following government agencies: DTI, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR).
	HB 3469	Deputy Speaker Savellano	Institutionalizing a Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Program	Rep. Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), author of HB 3373, underscored the need to come up with a policy sustaining the bamboo industry.
	HB 4009	Rep. Villarica	Providing for an Integrated National Bamboo and Rattan Development Program, establishing the Philippine	Meanwhile, Rep. Manuel Zubiri (3 rd District, Bukidnon) informed the body that reviving the bamboo industry is a priority of the DTI. He said

Continuation... Agriculture and Food			bamboo and rattan centers, and appropriating funds therefor	that this initiative is very timely in order to capacitate the industry to export more, as it used to do before, instead of importing raw materials from Vietnam for furniture production, as in the case at present.
	HR 197	Deputy Speaker Savellano	Proclaiming the month of September as Philippine Bamboo Month	The Committee adopted HR 197. Thereafter, the Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.
Foreign Affairs	HCR 4	Rep. Hofer	Giving consent to Ambassador Raul S. Hernandez to receive the award of the "Order of Diplomatic Service Merit, First Class" from the Government of the Republic of Korea	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ann Hofer (2 nd District, Zamboanga Sibugay), adopted HCR 4 and the corresponding Committee Report. Rep. Manuel Sagarbarria (2 nd District, Negros Oriental) sat as the presiding officer to give way to the Chair to deliver her sponsorship speech.
	HR 386	Rep. Hofer	Recognizing the importance of the 2019 ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Commemorative Summit and welcoming the Summit between the Presidents of the Philippines and South Korea	The Committee adopted HR 386 and the corresponding Committee Report. Rep. Ian Paul Dy (3 rd District, Isabela) sat as the presiding officer to give way to the Chair to deliver her sponsorship speech.
	HBs 93, 2385, 2533, 4444 & 4631	Reps. Sarmiento, Robes, Espino, Caoagdan, and Deputy Speaker Savellano	Establishing passport issuance offices under the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in certain parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee agreed to substitute the five bills with House Resolutions, urging the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to establish satellite offices (SOs) in the National Capital Region (NCR) and regional consular offices (RCOs) in certain parts of the country. Thereafter, the Committee adopted the House Resolutions and the corresponding Committee Reports, subject to style and amendment. Rep. Hofer informed the body that the establishment of SOs and RCOs is already part of the DFA's mandate under Executive Order (EO) 45, which provides for the reorganization of the field offices of the Office of the Consular Affairs of the DFA.
	HB 340	Rep. Romualdo	Providing for the issuance of passports and travel documents, as well as for the revocation thereof, defining, and penalizing offenses relating to passports and travel documents, repealing RA 8239, otherwise known as the Philippine Passport Act of 1996	The Committee referred the three bills to the Subcommittee on Consular Affairs and Assistance to Nationals to deliberate further on the bills. Rep. Samantha Louise Vargas Alfonso (2 nd District, Cagayan) was designated as Subcommittee Chair.
	HB 1371	Rep. Go (E.)	Creating a passport processing and issuance center for every province, amending for this purpose RA 8239	
	HB 4288	Rep. Hofer	Providing for a new passport law, repealing for the purpose RA 8239	
	HR 200	Rep. Castelo	Condemning in the strongest possible terms the shooting at Texas Walmart Store and near a bar in Dayton, Ohio, USA, on August 3 and 4, respectively, which killed 29 people and wounded 16 others, and condoling with the families of the victims	The Committee agreed to lay on the table HR 200 upon the request of the author, as the issue has already been "overtaken by events."

Social Services	HB 3424	Rep. Vargas	Strengthening the regulation of social welfare and development agencies (SWDAs)	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sandra Eriguel (2 nd District, La Union), approved HB 4796 in consolidation with HB 3424.
	HB 4796	Rep. Eriguel	Establishing a comprehensive system for registration and licensing of SWDAs and accreditation of social welfare and development programs and services, and appropriating funds therefor	According to Committee Vice-Chair Rep. Sabiniano Canama (Party-List, COOP-NATCOO), co-author of HB 4796, the bill seeks to ensure accountability, effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of quality social welfare and development programs and services.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Overseas Workers Affairs	HBs 2, 335, 526, 1439, 1449, 2067, 2207, 2216, 2317, 2319, 2368, 2409, 2412, 2425, 2547, 2850, 2982, 3168, 3246, 3274, 3313, 3440, 3514, 3637, 3663, 3888, 3940, 4065, 4165, 4173, 4189, 4576, 4663, 4687 & 4814	Speaker Cayetano, Deputy Speaker Arenas, Reps. Aglipay, Campos, Singson-Meehan, Salceda, Deputy Speakers Pichay and Romero, Reps. Gonzalez, Yap (E.), Deloso-Montalla, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Castelo, Vargas, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Villaraza-Suarez, Tan (A.S.), Deputy Speaker Gonzales (A.), Reps. Romualdez (Y.), Villar, Deputy Speaker Santos-Recto, Reps. Torres-Gomez, Sy Alvarado, Bolilia, Tambunting, Pacquiao (A.), Salo, Lim, Haresco, Olivarez, Aragones, Espino, Chipeco, and Tutor	Creating the Department of Overseas Filipino Workers and Foreign Employment, defining its powers and functions, appropriating funds therefor, rationalizing the organization and functions of government agencies related to migration	<p>The technical working group (TWG), co-chaired by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), representing the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN), Vice Chair of the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs, will deliberate further on the 35 bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Budget and Management, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), expressed their support for the bills.</p> <p>DOLE Undersecretary for Labor Relations Claro Arellano informed the body that the Department has submitted to the Committee its own version of the bill creating a Department of OFW, which has the following salient features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The POEA, OWWA, and the National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO) shall be attached agencies of the Department of Overseas Filipino Worker (DOFW); and • The following offices shall be transferred to the DOFW: Office of Migrant Workers Affairs (OMWA) and Office of Legal Assistant for Migrant Workers Affairs (OLAMWA) under the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), International Labor Affairs Bureau (ILAB) under the DOLE, Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), social welfare agencies under the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and offices under the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) involved in the training, certification and setting and monitoring of standards concerning international seafarers. <p>OWWA Administrator Hans Leo Cacdac expressed support for the bills and to the proposed designation of OWWA as an attached agency to the DOFW.</p>

Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ Overseas Workers Affairs				<p>Cacdac said that the retention of OWWA is vital to the continuation of services and assistance to the OFWs through the P19.6 billion trust fund sourced from OFW-members' contributions. He also proposed that OWWA's mandate be strengthened further under the administration of the DOFW.</p> <p>Resource persons from the following organizations expressed their support for the bills: International Organization for Migration (IOM), Philippine Association of Service Exporters, Inc. (PASEI), Advocates and Keepers Organizations of OFWs, Inc. (AKO-OFW Inc.), OFW Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, OFW Canada, and the Blas F. Ople Policy Center and Training Institute.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Bicol Recovery and Economic Development (Special Committee)	<p>Briefing by the following agencies on their respective plans and programs and accomplishments in Region V:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jocelyn Fortuno (5th District, Camarines Sur), listened to the briefing of the DSWD and TESDA on their plans and programs and accomplishments in Region V.</p> <p>DSWD Assistant Regional Director for Operations Arwin Razo reported the accomplishments of the DSWD in Region V in terms of the number of beneficiaries and budget spent for the following programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program - benefitted 237,100 households (P1.76 billion); Sustainable Livelihood Program - benefitted 6,938 households (P84.23 million); Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS) - 55 projects were completed benefitting 12,663 households (P87.14 million); Protective Services Program - 21,886 clients were served (P92.48 million); Comprehensive Program for Street Children and Families - 124 street children and 84 families were served (P375,850); Supplemental Feeding Program - served 150,137 children (P270 million); Reintegration and Recovery Program for Trafficked Persons - rescued 56 trafficking in person victims (P424,207); and Social Pension Program - benefitted 168,563 senior citizens (P505.69 million). <p>Razo also informed the Committee that the DSWD is coordinating with Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) for the processing and release of subsidy to qualified beneficiaries under the government's Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) Program.</p> <p>The UCT is the biggest tax reform mitigation program under RA 10963 or the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law. It seeks to provide cash grants to poor households and individuals who may not benefit from the lower income tax rates but may be adversely affected by rising prices. The LBP handles the UCT funds.</p>

<p>Continuation... Bicol Recovery and Economic Development (Special Committee)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) 	<p>Rep. Niña Taduran (Party-List, ACT-CIS) asked if it is possible that the amount equivalent to the senior citizen's pension for six months be released in lump sum instead of on a monthly basis. Razo answered in the negative.</p> <p>Rep. Fortuno requested the DSWD to submit a list of its partner hospitals in Region V which forged a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the DSWD to undertake the Lingap at Gabay Para sa May Sakit (LINGAP sa MASA) Program.</p> <p>The LINGAP sa MASA Program establishes desks in identified hospitals to assist patients needing prescription medicines through the issuance of guarantee letters that may be presented to hospital pharmacies or partner drug stores to get free medicines.</p> <p>TESDA Region V Regional Director Toni June Tamayo reported that TESDA was able to provide scholarship grants to more than 87,000 students in 2018 and 117,000 students in 2019. Out of the TESDA graduates in 2018, about 77% already landed a job. For 2019, an amount of P512.45 million was allocated to Region V for the implementation of TESDA's scholarship programs.</p> <p>Tamayo also said that the Bicol Region has six TESDA provincial offices, one regional training center, four provincial training centers and seven TESDA administered schools with 361 permanent employees and 178 job orders. The agency has various programs that provide grants and scholarships in the region. TESDA is also eyeing the establishment of one training center in every local government unit that will focus on agri-farming.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Fortuno, Tamayo said that TESDA undertakes community-based training so that the people in the area do not have to travel to TESDA training centers, which may be located far from the community, to avail themselves of the livelihood training programs.</p> <p>TESDA was requested to submit various data pertinent to its various programs and projects in the Bicol region.</p>
<p>Climate Change (Special Committee)</p>	<p>Briefing by the Climate Change Commission (CCC) on its plans and programs and updates on international climate change negotiations</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Edgar Chatto (1st District, Bohol), listened to the briefing by the CCC on its plans and programs and on international climate change negotiations.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Chatto stated that since the creation of the CCC, several programs on climate change adaptation and mitigation have been launched by national government agencies (NGAs) and local government units (LGUs) together with civil society organizations. Rep. Chatto said that it is imperative that the Committee exercises its oversight function to determine whether current policies and programs are effective and responsive to present day situations and to come up with a common perspective moving forward.</p> <p>CCC Secretary Emmanuel de Guzman said that the Philippines has been at the receiving end of the effects of climate change for the past several years now. He stressed the need to institute a national policy on climate mitigation and adaptation because extreme weather conditions and temperatures are projected to increase by the end of the century.</p> <p>Among the accomplishments of the CCC are: provided advisory support to the Office of the President (OP), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), and NGAs on matters pertaining to international commitments and partnerships concerning climate change; engaged in climate change-related negotiations and dialogues; reviewed the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board decisions and policies; and built the negotiations knowledge and skills of climate negotiators.</p>

<p>Continuation... Globalization and WTO (Special Committee)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) 	<p>agriculture. AoA provides special and deferential treatment to developing countries and does not cover fish, fish products, and forestry products.</p> <p>AoA constitutes three pillars, namely: market access (by converting quantitative restrictions into tariffs); domestic support (by adopting the Green Box Criteria or programs with no or minimal trade distorting effects); and export competition (by reducing the quantity of subsidized exports and the budgetary outlays for subsidized exports.)</p> <p>Rep. Yap asked the DA if the strategy of setting a “price floor” for agricultural products is allowed under the WTO. Dela Rosa replied that there is no specific provision in the WTO governing price floor. He surmised that as long as it does not affect international trade, the country’s commitments under the WTO will not be affected.</p> <p>BFAR Assistant Director for Technical Services Drusila Esther Bayate apprised the body on the Philippine position with regard to the WTO rules on fisheries subsidies, to wit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any multilateral agreement should not be allowed to obscure the Philippines’ gains in the Arbitral Ruling in 2016, regarding the West Philippine Sea; Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing determination should be done by the coastal state and not the flag state; and Subsidies that contribute to overcapacity, overfishing and IUU fishing should be disciplined and regulated by imposing mandatory cap or reduction.
<p>Social Services</p>	<p>Presentation by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on its legislative agenda for the 18th Congress</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sandra Eriguel (2nd District, La Union), listened to the presentation of the DSWD on its priority legislations for the 18th congress.</p> <p>DSWD MIMAROPA Regional Director Wilma Naviamos said that the DSWD’s legislative agenda for the 18th Congress include bills which were approved by Congress on third reading during the 17th Congress, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a comprehensive system for registration and licensing of social welfare and development agencies and accreditation of social welfare and development program and services; Regulating public solicitation; and Institutionalizing the community-driven development approach as a national strategy for inclusive growth and social protection. <p>Committee Vice-Chair Rep. Sabiniano Canama (Party-List, COOP-NATCOO) volunteered to sponsor DSWD’s other legislative proposals such as the Community-Driven Development (CDD) Institutionalization bill and the Domestic Administrative Adoption bill.</p>
<p>Ways and Means</p>	<p>Briefing by the following government agencies on the earmarked funds from excise taxes and the Motor Vehicle User’s Charge (MVUC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Budget and Management (DBM) 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), listened to the briefing of the DBM, Department of Health (DOH) and PhilHealth on the earmarked funds from excise taxes pursuant to RA 10351 or the Sin Tax Law and RA 10963 or the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Act, and the MVUC.</p> <p>DBM Assistant Secretary Rolando Toledo presented the utilization of the allocations to DOH and PhilHealth and the MVUC Fund under the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Transportation from 2016 to 2019.</p> <p>Rep. Salceda asked about the revenues collected from the excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverages (SSB). He said that the SSB tax proceeds are essentially for the sugar-producing regions to cushion the impact of RA 10963 on this sector.</p>

<p>Continuation... Ways and Means</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Health (DOH) Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) 	<p>Department of Finance (DOF) Undersecretary Ma. Teresa Habitan said that the revenues collected from the excise tax on SSB have reached P26.6 billion in 2018 and P14.9 billion from January to June 2019. However, these were not yet fully distributed to the intended beneficiaries.</p> <p>Rep. Joseph Stephen Paduano (Party-List, ABANG LINGKOD) explained that 15% of the incremental revenues collected from SSB should be allocated to the sugar industry as provided for under the joint memorandum circular between the DOF, DBM and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) which was signed last August 31, 2018.</p> <p>Several Members expressed dismay at the seemingly slow distribution of the proceeds from the excise tax on SSB to the intended beneficiaries.</p> <p>Health Undersecretary Lilibeth David said that with the passage of the Sin Tax Law of 2012, the budget for health services increased three-folds and the proportion of alcohol drinkers and tobacco users decreased, thus achieving the objectives of the law.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Ma. Lourdes Arroyo (5th District, Negros Occidental) as to the ranking of the country's hospital facilities among Asian countries, David said that the country ranked last in Asia with only a 0.9 bed capacity for every 1,000 patients.</p> <p>Senior Vice Chair Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija) sat as the presiding chair during the briefing of PhilHealth.</p> <p>PhilHealth President and Chief Executive Officer Ricardo Morales reported that for FY 2020, the PhilHealth requested a P153 billion budget to fully implement the Universal Health Care (UHC) Law. However, the DBM-approved amount was only P67 billion.</p> <p>Several Members opined that the P153 billion estimated amount for the UHC is unreasonable. The Committee requested Morales to submit data that will support the cost estimates relative to the implementation of the UHC.</p> <p>On the MVUC Fund, Toledo said that under Section 7 of RA 11239 the DPWH shall assume all the obligations and liabilities of the abolished Road Board.</p> <p>RA 11239 abolished the Road Board and provided for the disposition of the MVUC collections.</p> <p>DPWH Planning Service Director Constante Llanes reported that the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA 11239 was already published.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur) said that the abolition of the Road Board will also result in the abolition of the Special Local Road Fund (SLRF). He requested the Committee to come up with a legislative measure that would restore the SLRF.</p> <p>Rep. Lianda Bolilia (4th District, Batangas) noted that despite the abolition of the Road Board, the House still funded the SLRF in the 2019 General Appropriations Act but the President vetoed the said budget allocation because of the passage of RA 11239.</p> <p>The SLRF is the 5% share of local government units (LGUs) in the MVUC proceeds apportioned to provincial and city governments on the basis of vehicle population and size of the road network under their jurisdictions. The fund is used exclusively for road maintenance, improvement of drainage, traffic management and installation of road safety devices.</p>
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Continuation... Ways and Means		Due to lack of material time, the Committee requested the DPWH and the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to just submit a copy of their respective presentations.
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DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Food Security (Special Committee)	Discussion on urban agriculture or urban farming and food donation activities in relation to the Food Donation Act of 2009	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Wilfredo “Willy” Caminero (2nd District, Cebu), discussed with the Department of Agriculture (DA) and non-government organizations (NGOs) their respective programs and activities with regard to urban agriculture and food donation.</p> <p>Gerard Neri Arañas, agriculturist from the Department of Agriculture (DA), said that urban agriculture enables people residing in cities to produce their own food, complementing the government’s efforts to attain food security in the country. Arañas said that urban agriculture, which is also referred to as urban farming or urban gardening, is the practice of cultivating, processing and distributing food in or around urban areas.</p> <p>Philippine Red Cross (PRC) coordinator Ma. Carmen Juico briefed the Committee on its role in the implementation of RA 9803 or the Food Donation Act of 2009. Juico explained that under the law’s implementing rules and regulations (IRR), PRC volunteers and other NGOs are tasked to collect all food donations from fast-food chains, restaurants, hotels, grocery stores and even during parties like weddings, birthdays and fiestas and distribute these to the poor.</p> <p>RA 9803 seeks to alleviate national poverty and reduce food wastage by implementing measures to encourage the donation of wholesome food for charitable purposes. To ensure effective and sustained inter-agency and multi-sectoral coordination, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall serve as the main coordinating agency together with the PRC as auxiliary for the implementation of RA 9803.</p> <p>World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Philippines Project Manager for Sustainable Consumption and Production Melody Melo-Rijk said that the Philippines must create sustainable food systems for the survival of Filipinos in the present and future generations.</p> <p>Liezl Stuart del Rosario, WWF Policy Specialist for “The Sustainable Diner Project,” added that the WWF has commissioned an independent research group to conduct a study on food donation practices in the country. Del Rosario said that the WWF will submit a copy of the study to the Committee once it is completed.</p> <p>WWF’s The Sustainable Diner project aims to engage the government, food service businesses, and consumers in promoting sustainable dining practices and in making the Philippines’ food service industry more environmentally friendly.</p>