



# Committee Daily Bulletin

18<sup>th</sup> Congress  
First Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. I No. 106  
June 5, 2020

## COMMITTEE MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Transportation	HR 873	Rep. Gasataya	Urging Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Arthur P. Tugade to establish rules strictly requiring all common carriers involved in inter-island transport of passengers by land, water, or air, to prepare and record detailed seat plans of their passengers during the entire course of transit	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1<sup>st</sup> District, Western Samar), adopted HR 873.</p> <p>Bacolod City Rep. Greg Gasataya, author of HR 873, explained that requiring common carriers involved in inter-island transport of passengers by land, water or air to prepare and record a detailed seat plan of their passengers will facilitate contact tracing in case of COVID-19 transmission.</p> <p>The DOTr, Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), and Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) supported the resolution and elucidated how they each intended to integrate the measure into their existing rules on transport.</p>
	<i>Motu Proprio Inquiry</i>		Inquiry into the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) policy regarding cross-border local travel during the general community quarantine (GCQ) and modified GCQ (MGCQ)	<p>The Committee will continue its inquiry into the policies of the IATF on cross-border local travel during the quarantine period in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento said that although the national government, through the IATF, had laid down the guidelines on how to respond to the challenges of COVID-19, confusion and misunderstanding abound as these guidelines are being interpreted differently by various local government units (LGUs).</p> <p>Citing a specific case, Rep. Sarmiento said that under the IATF guidelines, returning overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and locally-stranded individuals (LSIs) in areas under GCQ are now allowed to travel domestically or to other provinces. However, in the memorandum issued by the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) dated June 2, 2020 on the resumption of operations of different airline companies, the LGUs were supposedly given an option of whether or not to allow the opening of airports in their respective jurisdictions.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento asked the Department of the Interior and Local Government to ensure that LGUs follow the guidelines issued by the IATF to avoid confusion and so that the OFWs and LSIs are able to go back to their home provinces without further delay.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Evelina Escudero (1<sup>st</sup> District, Sorsogon) suggested that the DILG should monitor the actions of LGUs that have airports in their jurisdiction to ensure the opening of airports in their area.</p> <p>Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) Director General Jim Sydiongco said that to date, there are 13 airports which have now resumed their domestic commercial operations, namely: the airports in Manila, Clark, General Santos, Romblon, Naga, Cauayan, Palanan, Marinduque, Laguindingan, Camiguin, Dipolog, Pagadian, and Jolo. Another 12 airports will open between June 8 and September 1.</p> <p>League of Provinces of the Philippines representative Angelica Sanchez said that league members have expressed support for the opening of airports in their localities except for the</p>

Continuation... Transportation				<p>Province of Surigao del Norte where the Siargao airport is located.</p> <p>Rep. Francisco Jose "Bingo" Matugas II (1<sup>st</sup> District, Surigao del Norte) explained that the LGUs' decision to delay the opening of the Siargao airport was because of Surigao del Norte's limited healthcare and medical facilities that can respond to a possible spread of the virus in the province.</p> <p>Rep. Manuel Zubiri (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Bukidnon) suggested that there should be one agency in-charge of sending returning OFWs and LSIs back to the provinces to avoid confusion. He added that a hotline which the OFWs and LSIs can call to know the process that they have to undergo to go back to the province should also be made available.</p> <p>DOTr Assistant Secretary Giovanni Lopez said that queries on the matter may be directed to the Presidential Management Staff, Office of the President, which in turn will forward the concern to the government agency responsible.</p> <p>Air Carriers Association of the Philippines Vice Chair Roberto Lim maintained that the Philippines should seriously consider opening up more airports at this time to accommodate the throng of returning OFWs. He also encouraged the government to allow international travels to continue, where travelers will be required to present a medical certificate as evidence of good health before entering the country.</p> <p>Meanwhile, DOTr Assistant Secretary Steve Pastor gave a brief background on the recent actions undertaken by the Department for the land transportation sector in the National Capital Region. He said that the DOTr, together with the LTFRB, is in the process of rationalizing bus routes. He mentioned that 31 out of 96 bus routes (prior to COVID-19) have been rationalized.</p> <p>DOTr Assistant Secretary Mark Richmond de Leon reported that the DOTr and LTFRB have already issued special permits for the opening of eight of the 31 bus routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angat, Bulacan to Quezon Avenue;</li> <li>• Dasmariñas, Cavite to Pasay;</li> <li>• Cubao to Antipolo;</li> <li>• Taft to Monumento;</li> <li>• EDSA Route E (portion of EDSA loop service): North Avenue to Taft Avenue;</li> <li>• Monumento to Balagtas, Bulacan;</li> <li>• EDSA to Montalban, Rizal; and</li> <li>• Ninoy Aquino International Airport loop.</li> </ul> <p>Three more bus routes will open on June 8 and these are: Monumento to Valenzuela; Gilmore, San Juan to Taytay; and Monumento to San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan. LTFRB Chair Martin Delgra III targets to complete the opening of the rationalized bus routes by June 19.</p>
-----------------------------------	--	--	--	--

