



Committee Daily Bulletin

18th Congress
First Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. I No. 93
May 19, 2020

COMMITTEE MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Poverty Alleviation	HBs 4407, 4470, 4764 & 5250	Reps. Dalog, Bolilia, Mangaoang, and Limkaichong	Institutionalizing the community-driven development (CDD) approach as a national strategy for inclusive growth and social protection, mandating all national government agencies and departments, including their attached agencies, offices and bureaus, local government units (LGUs), and other government instrumentalities to adopt the CDD approach in implementing their community-based programs, activities, and projects, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Dale "Along" Malapitan (1st District, Caloocan City), will deliberate further on the four bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Malapitan apprised the body of the actions taken by the Committee in response to the COVID-19 pandemic which include urging the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to release in advance the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) cash grant for the months of February, March and April, and providing essential inputs to the Social Amelioration Cluster of the Defeat COVID-19 Ad Hoc Committee in the latter's deliberation of measures to address the effects of the pandemic.</p> <p>Mt. Province Rep. Maximo Dalog Jr. and Rep. Jocelyn Sy-Limkaichong (1st District, Negros Oriental), respective principal authors of HBs 4407 and 5250, delivered their sponsorship speeches, explaining the intent of their bills.</p> <p>Sponsoring HBs 4470 and 4764 in behalf of the authors were Rep. Juliet Marie Ferrer (4th District, Negros Occidental) and Rep. Dalog, who also manifested that the explanatory notes attached to the bills be considered as the authors' sponsorship speeches.</p> <p>The bills seek to address the lack of an enabling policy and a national strategy for community empowerment by adopting the CDD approach. Through this approach, the people, especially the poor and the disadvantaged, are encouraged to take active roles in the local development planning and budgeting processes, thus stimulating a constructive partnership between the community government (barangay LGUs) and community members.</p> <p>The bills also seek to institutionalize the DSWD's Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services, National Community-Driven Development Program (KALAH-I-CIDSS-NCDDP), which adopts the CDD approach.</p> <p>DSWD Director Janet Armas expressed her support for the bills, saying that the CDD, which is best exemplified by the KALAH-I-CIDSS-NCDDP, is a good mechanism to deliver social protection in the Philippines.</p>

Continuation... Poverty Alleviation				<p>According to Armas, based on independent evaluation studies, the KALAH-I-CIDSS-NCDDP has achieved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved welfare conditions of household beneficiaries; • Improved access to basic social services and responsiveness of sub-projects to the expressed needs of the poor; • Increased participation in local planning and budgeting leading to better identification of needs and solutions; • Increased capacity building for community-managed implementation; and • Improved community cohesion. <p>Rep. Limkaichong asked how much of the budget that will be allocated for the implementation of the proposed law will be utilized for trainings and social preparation. Armas replied that 30% will be spent on capacity building of barangay volunteers and 5% will be spent on social preparation.</p> <p>Reps. Edgar Chatto (1st District, Bohol) and Teodorico Haresco Jr. (2nd District, Aklan) suggested that the problems encountered by the DSWD in the implementation of its programs be thoroughly discussed by the Committee in order to come up with solutions and avoid similar problems in the future. Armas said that the DSWD will submit this information to the Committee as soon as possible.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. France Castro (Party-List, ACT-TEACHERS) on how the CDD differs from the 4Ps, Armas explained that under the 4Ps, the financial assistance is given directly to the beneficiaries. In contrast, Armas added, under the CDD, the identified community prepares its budget, plans, and programs based on the needs of the community members; receives and disburses the budget for its programs; and reports to the barangay assembly a detailed report on the utilization of its budget.</p> <p>Rep. Ferrer suggested to invite resource persons from the LGUs, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and other stakeholders in the Committee's next meeting.</p>
	HB 5249	Rep. Zarate	Granting 50% discounts on funeral services to indigent families and granting free funeral services to extremely poor families nationwide, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 5249 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA), author of HB 5249, underscored the urgency of his bill during this time of the pandemic, where government assistance is badly needed by poor and extremely poor families for the funeral of their loved ones who died due to COVID-19. He also said that he is amenable to the suggestion of the Members to include in his bill the grant of similar discounts</p>

Continuation... Poverty Alleviation				<p>on or free cremation services which are now required for deaths due to COVID-19.</p> <p>Reps. Edward Vera Perez Maceda (4th District, Manila) and Geraldine Roman (1st District, Bataan) expressed their support for the bills.</p> <p>DSWD's Head of Crisis Intervention Unit Art Bautista also expressed his support for the bill and committed to submit to the Committee the Department's official position paper on the bill.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to invite other stakeholders in the Committee's next meeting including representatives from the Department of Finance, Bureau of Internal Revenue, and associations of owners of funeral homes.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Metro Manila Development	Discussion on the status of COVID-19 related services of the Department of Health (DOH) in Metro Manila	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Manuel Luis Lopez (1st District, Manila), discussed with DOH the situation in Metro Manila amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the Department's programs and services in Metro Manila related to the fight against COVID-19.</p> <p>Rep. Lopez said that as Metro Manila enters the Modified Enhance Community Quarantine (MECQ) phase, it is important to hear what the DOH has accomplished so far, as well as the challenges it has faced and continues to face in its efforts to stem the transmission of COVID-19. He said that the Committee also wants to look into the Department's expenditures; its strategies in flattening the curve including the conduct of testing; the manpower capacity in the health sector; and the parameters to determine the readiness of Metro Manila towards the new normal once the lockdown is lifted.</p> <p>DOH Undersecretary Gerardo Bayugo said that the DOH has a P2.28 billion budget to cover COVID-19 response requirements such as procurement of test kits and personal protective equipment (PPEs), hiring of additional health workers, and augmentation of the budget for Quick Response Fund (QRF) for COVID-19.</p> <p>Bayugo also reported that as of May 12, there are 8,245 confirmed COVID-19 cases admitted in different hospitals in Metro Manila. This number represents 65% of the total cases in the country which is already at 12,718.</p> <p>According to Bayugo, the "critical care utilization rate" is still manageable considering that the utilization of mechanical ventilators, intensive care units (ICUs), and isolation beds is below 70 percent. However, Bayugo pointed out that COVID-19 cases in the National Capital Region (NCR) are still increasing which put the region still under high-risk level. Thus, the most effective strategy to prevent further transmission of the virus is through an enhanced community quarantine (ECQ), he stressed.</p> <p>DOH Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit NCR head Manuel Mapue II reported the number of COVID-19</p>

<p>Continuation...</p> <p>Metro Manila Development</p>		<p>cases per city in the NCR during and after the ECQ. Mapue also informed the Committee of the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 among persons deprived of liberty (PDL) in jails in Metro Manila: 158 in jails under the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) and 58 in detention facilities under the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP).</p> <p>DOH NCR Director Corazon Flores underscored the need for the people of Metro Manila to continually observe the health standards and guidelines issued by the government, and for the government to intensify the testing of probable and suspect cases and contact tracing in order to contain the spread of the virus in NCR.</p> <p>Rep. Francisco Datol Jr. (Party-List, SENIOR CITIZENS) asked the DOH to conduct COVID-19 testing on all senior citizens and to extend assistance in procuring their maintenance medicines.</p> <p>Bayugo said that the DOH is currently conducting expanded targeted testing of individuals, including senior citizens, with symptoms of COVID-19.</p> <p>Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo asked why rapid test kits are not fully utilized in identifying COVID-19 cases. Bayugo said that based on RA 11223 or the Universal Health Care Law, all technologies, medicines and procedures should be recommended by the Health Technology Assessment Council before they can be procured and paid using government funds. Bayugo disclosed that the Council has not recommended the use of rapid test kits because the results from these tests are not as reliable as the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon asked whether the recorded number of COVID-19 cases in the country reflects those who died due to illnesses with symptoms similar to COVID-19.</p> <p>Bayugo said that the DOH issued a Circular dated May 5, 2020 which prescribes the guidelines for certifying COVID-19 deaths which include probable cases of COVID-19.</p> <p>Rep. France Castro (Party-List, ACT-TEACHERS) and Rep. Virgilio Lacson (Party-List, MANILA TEACHERS) suggested that mass testing for teachers be conducted before school resumes in August. Rep. Lacson added that the government should shoulder the expenses for the testing of public school teachers. Bayugo said that he will raise the matter to the DOH technical advisory group.</p>
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