



Committee Daily Bulletin

18th Congress
Third Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. III No. 27
July 14, 2021

COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Higher and Technical Education	Substitute Bill to HBs 2737 & 3237	Deputy Speaker Rodriguez and Rep. Dimaporo (A.)	Strengthening the Mindanao State University (MSU) System and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, approved the Substitute Bill to House Bills 2737 and 3237, subject to style and amendment. The corresponding Committee Report was likewise approved.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Rufus Rodriguez (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), author of HB 2737, pushed for the approval of the proposed law, which according to him has been long overdue.</p> <p>The Substitute Bill provides that apart from MSU's original mandate as a comprehensive university system, it will now be designated as a national peace university. As a national peace university, the MSU shall serve as a higher education institution (HEI) for peace and development whose objectives are to promote the principles of understanding, mutual respect, peaceful co-existence, democracy, and justice. As such, the MSU shall initiate, maintain, and promote programs and policies on peace education, conflict resolution, multiculturalism, pluralism, and diversity.</p>
	HR 1836	Rep. Lara	Congratulating and commending the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery on the occasion of its sesquicentennial anniversary and its contribution to medical education and its development in the country	The Committee adopted House Resolution 1836, subject to style and amendment. The corresponding Committee Report was likewise approved.
	HB 9128	Rep. Villafuerte	Supporting business incubation in academic settings	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to come up with a substitute bill.</p> <p>HB 9128 seeks to authorize the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to support the establishment and development of business incubators in academic or degree-granting institutions, which will provide the space and coordinated specialized services for entrepreneurial businesses. Establishing business incubators in academic setting aims to increase the role of academic institutions in supporting new and emerging small businesses, and help achieve and sustain economic development in their surrounding communities.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bill were resource persons from the CHED, Association of Local Colleges and Universities</p>

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education				<p>Commission on Accreditation (ALCUCOA), and Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC).</p> <p>Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations of the Philippines Managing Director Joseph Noel Estrada recommended that the Department of Information and Communications Technology, Department of Science and Technology, and technical-vocational institutions under the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) should also be involved in the development of business incubators. Estrada explained that the technical know-how of the said agencies will help in the establishment of business incubators, which requires specialized skills and involves the use of various technologies.</p>
	HB 8881	Deputy Speaker Leachon	Establishing a campus of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) in the City of Calapan, Province of Oriental Mindoro, to be known as the PUP-Calapan Campus and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 8881 in its next meeting.</p> <p>CHED Chairperson J. Prospero de Vera III said that CHED still needs to study the proposed law taking into consideration the educational landscape in the area. He explained that establishing a new public campus would affect the enrollment rate of nearby private schools or campuses.</p> <p>PUP Vice President for Branches and Satellite Campuses Pascualito Gatan agreed with the comment of De Vera. He maintained that there is no need to establish a PUP campus in Calapan City because there is an existing PUP campus in the Municipality of Bansud, which is less than two hours away from Calapan City. He explained that the creation of too many PUP campuses has affected the quality of education being offered by the PUP and has resulted in the downgrading of PUP's accreditation level by the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines.</p> <p>ALCUCOA Auditor Rene Colocar said that the establishment of a PUP campus in Calapan City will only be a waste of government's money since the latter's programs or courses are already being offered by other public higher education institutions (HEIs) in Calapan City, such as the Mindoro State University satellite campus and the City College of Calapan.</p> <p>Likewise, PASUC President Tirso Ronquillo objected to the bill and recommended to just improve the courses being offered by the existing campuses in the area.</p> <p>On the other hand, CHED MIMAROPA Director Joselito Alisuag opined that the establishment of the PUP Calapan campus can still be considered if the proposed campus will offer programs or courses that are not</p>

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education				currently available in the existing HEIs in Calapan City.
	HB 9492	Rep. Siao	Establishing a college of medicine in the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) in the City of Iligan, Province of Lanao del Norte and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 9492 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Iligan City Rep. Frederick Siao, author of HB 9492, said that a College of Medicine should be established in MSU-IIT to accommodate more medical students in Iligan City. He explained that the existing MSU College of Medicine in Iligan City, which is an extension campus of MSU-Marawi City, can only accommodate 100 students.</p> <p>MSU President Habib Macaayong objected to the bill and said that the existing MSU College of Medicine in Iligan City can now accommodate 150 to 300 medical students as additional buildings have been constructed. Thus, he said, the establishment of another MSU College of Medicine, also in Iligan City, is no longer necessary.</p> <p>Hearing the comments of Macaayong, Rep. Go suggested to just strengthen the existing MSU College of Medicine in Iligan City instead of creating a new college of medicine in the same area.</p>
	HB 9365	Rep. Fuentebella	Establishing a Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Training and Assessment Center in the Municipality of Tigaon, Province of Camarines Sur, to be known as the Speaker Arnulfo "Noli" P. Fuentebella Training and Assessment Center (TESDA-CASIFMAS Partido Campus) and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to thresh out the issues and concerns on HB 9365 and come up with a substitute bill.</p> <p>TESDA National Institute for Technical Education and Skills Development Executive Director David Bungallon expressed his support for the bill. He, however, suggested that the bill focus on establishing a TESDA training center in Tigaon because the function of assessment is covered by another process, which involves the submission of accreditation requirements to the TESDA Central Office.</p> <p>Bungallon further recommended that the proposed TESDA training center serve as a provincial training center, instead of a municipal training center, to cover the 10 municipalities in the 4th District of Camarines Sur, including the Municipality of Tigaon. He disclosed that there are no TESDA offices in the 10 municipalities that can readily provide the training needs of the constituents residing in the said areas.</p>
Justice	HR 1666	Rep. Biazon	Inquiry into the closure of Insular Prison Road in the New Bilibid Prison Reservation by the Bureau of Corrections	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso III (3rd District, Leyte), terminated its deliberation on House Resolution 1666.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report for approval of the Committee in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Veloso recalled that during the Committee's previous meeting, the Committee</p>

<p>Continuation... Justice</p>				<p>heard the testimonies from various Muntinlupa City officials and representatives of the communities affected by closure of the Insular Prison Road (IPR) in the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) Reservation. He said the testimonies reflected the utter lack of coordination and public consultation by the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) prior to implementing a drastic action, which affected not only the movement and livelihood of residents, but more importantly their access to public transportation and city health services especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Rep. Veloso noted that BuCor claims that the closure of IPR is based on the need to secure the NBP compounds from terrorists, criminals, and accomplices of inmates. Likewise, the BuCor justified its action relative to the closure of the IPR by invoking its “absolute authority to design, formulate, and implement land use development plans and policies” pursuant to RA 10575, or the BuCor Act of 2013. However, to this date, Rep. Veloso said that BuCor has not presented yet its development plan or any related policies that would necessitate the closure of the IPR, which is a national road traversing the NBP Reservation.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Ruffy Biazon, author of HR 1666, inquired from the BuCor if it is in the process of crafting a development plan on the NBP compound.</p> <p>BuCor Director General Gerald Bantag stated that there are plans for the development of the area but there is no official written plan yet.</p> <p>BuCor Business Center Director Randy Serrano disclosed that the crafting of a land use plan for the NBP Reservation was initiated during the Arroyo administration but was put on hold upon the change of administration. It involves the relocation of more than 1,000 informal settler families (ISFs) in the NBP Reservation, which the BuCor is now implementing. Serrano disclosed that at present there were those who voluntarily transferred to the temporary relocation site near Biazon Road, which is also within the NBP compound.</p> <p>Rep. Biazon underscored that the closure of the IPR is clearly not covered by the provision on absolute authority that BuCor is invoking. He noted that before the BuCor can invoke its absolute authority over the NPB premises, it should first cause the transfer of the land titles of the NBP to its name. Rep. Biazon also stressed that the BuCor exceeded its authority under the law when it relocated people and demolished properties without following legal processes.</p> <p>Party-List Reps. Arlene Brosas (GABRIELA) and Ferdinand Gaité (BAYAN MUNA) also</p>
------------------------------------	--	--	--	--

<p>Continuation... Justice</p>				<p>expressed concern over the relocation of the ISFs inside the NBP Reservation.</p> <p>Bantag and Serrano said that the BuCor did not initiate nor cause the demolition of ISFs' houses. They manifested that the ISFs, when apprised of their precarious situation, voluntarily vacated and demolished their houses, and transferred to the temporary relocation site provided by the BuCor.</p> <p>Reps. Biazon, Brosas and Gaité cast doubt on the claim that some of the ISFs voluntarily demolished their own dwellings. Rep. Biazon maintained that it is unlikely that residents will simply leave and demolish their houses by mere request of the BuCor. He speculated that there must have been a compelling reason for the ISFs to demolish their houses and transfer to a relocation site where the living condition is far from ideal considering the insufficient provision of electricity and water.</p> <p>Rep. Brosas requested the BuCor to submit to the Committee copies of Notices to Vacate that were given to the affected ISFs and the list of those who voluntarily demolished their houses and agreed to be relocated.</p> <p>When asked if the IPR is a national road or city road, Muntinlupa City Register of Deeds Silverio Garing said that he has no authority to determine such classification. He explained that the Registry of Deeds of Muntinlupa City is simply a repository of records of the lands within the said city. Nonetheless, he disclosed that the eight titles pertaining to the lands where the BuCor in Muntinlupa City is situated are all registered under the name of the Republic of the Philippines.</p> <p>Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Muntinlupa District Engineer Elpidio Trinidad said that based on the inventory record of the DPWH, the IPR is a national road owned by the national government and maintained by the DPWH.</p> <p>BuCor Director Serrano said that the provision in RA 10575 stating that "all BuCor lands shall have a Certificate of Title under its name" means that the law granted to BuCor ownership and absolute authority over all existing lands in the possession of the BuCor, including the lands comprising the NBP Reservation.</p> <p>Rep. Veloso and Vice Chair Rep. Jonathan Keith Flores (2nd District, Bukidnon) stated that this interpretation is incorrect, since it is not one of the modes of acquiring ownership over land. The provision cited by Serrano simply means that the BuCor must have these lands registered under its name before it can exercise absolute authority over such lands, they added.</p>
------------------------------------	--	--	--	--

Continuation... Justice				<p>Rep. Veloso noted that until such time that the lands are registered in the name of BuCor, the national government through the DPWH can remove the fence on the strength of the Civil Code of the Philippines, which provides the remedies against a public nuisance.</p> <p>Under the Civil Code, a public nuisance is any act, omission, establishment, business, condition of property, or anything else which injures or endangers the health or safety of others; annoys or offends the senses; shocks, defies or disregards decency or morality; obstructs or interferes with the free passage of any public highway or street, or any body of water; or hinders or impairs the use of property.</p> <p>However, Trinidad manifested that the DPWH District Engineer's Office cannot yet unilaterally demolish the said wall. He added that he is currently coordinating with his superiors and other concerned government agencies to resolve the issue either through demolishing the obstruction along the IPR or creating an alternative route.</p> <p>Rep. Flores asked if BuCor has coordinated with the city government of Muntinlupa with regard to the IPR closure.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Mayor Jaime Fresnedi answered in the negative. He said that had the BuCor coordinated with the city government, proper interventions could have been effected and discussed with the affected residents. Nonetheless, he expressed willingness to still discuss the matter with BuCor.</p>
----------------------------	--	--	--	---

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Housing and Urban Development (Technical Working Group)	HBs 3891 & 6131	Reps. Benitez and Yap (V.)	Providing for the development of sustainable cities and communities in the country	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Faustino "Inno" Dy V (6th District, Isabela), discussed House Bills 3891 and 6131.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Dy said that during the initial deliberation of the bills in the mother Committee, a number of issues have been brought up, which the TWG is tasked to iron out today. He then enjoined the resource persons to participate in the discussion in order to craft a responsive piece of legislation.</p> <p>Expressing support for the proposed law were resource persons from the Departments of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Finance (DOF), Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), Transportation (DOTr), Information and Communications</p>

<p>Continuation... Housing and Urban Development (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>Technology (DICT), Science and Technology (DOST), and Public Works and Highways (DPWH); National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA); Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA); National Housing Authority (NHA), Philippine Institute for Development Studies; and Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners. They also gave their respective inputs and recommendations to further improve the proposed law.</p> <p>Robert Dominic Echiverri, executive assistant in the Office of DILG Undersecretary Ricojudge Janvier Echiverri, suggested that the role of the DILG in the implementation of the proposed law should be limited to providing technical assistance to local government units (LGUs). He posited that the provision in HB 6131 which mandates DILG to also augment the resources of LGUs may no longer be necessary because the internal revenue allotment (IRA) of LGUs will significantly increase in 2022 as a result of the Supreme Court ruling on the Mandanas vs. Ochoa case.</p> <p>Based on the SC ruling on the Mandanas case, the just share of LGUs in the IRA must be computed based on all national taxes, and not just the National Internal Revenue Taxes (NIRT) being collected by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR). This will include other taxes being collected by the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and other agencies.</p> <p>Rep. Francisco "Kiko" Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental), Committee Chair and author of HB 3891, suggested to retain the proposed resource augmentation role of the DILG and include a colatilla, such as "upon the decision of the DILG." In this way, the Department will not be required to provide financial assistance, but will not be precluded also to provide such aid if feasible. Echiverri agreed to Rep. Benitez' suggestion.</p> <p>DOF Assistant Secretary Maria Teresa Habitan noted that RA 11292, or The Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) Act of 2019, already covers the intention of the bills to provide grants or incentives to help local governments transition into sustainable cities and municipalities. Therefore, she suggested that instead of coming up with a new program for the said purpose, the SGLG program under the DILG should be strengthened. This can be done by including the development of all the requisites of a sustainable community as proposed in the bills as one of the criteria for awarding the SGLG to qualified LGUs.</p> <p>The SGLG is a progressive assessment system that gives distinction to remarkable local government performance across several areas. It is an institutionalized award, incentive, honor and recognition-based</p>
--	--	--	--	--

<p>Continuation... Housing and Urban Development (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>program that encourages LGUs' commitment to continuously progress and improve their performance along various governance areas. (Source: DILG website)</p> <p>Reps. Benitez and Dy were amenable to Habitan's suggestion and agreed that the DILG can use the SGLG to incentivize LGUs in their transition into sustainable cities and municipalities.</p> <p>Likewise, NEDA Social Development Staff Ramon Paul Falcon recommended the adoption of non-monetary incentives to LGUs such as the SGLG. He further suggested that the staff of NEDA and other concerned agencies should be given specialized training on spatial and urban planning. In this way, NEDA as well as the PSA and DHSUD can provide appropriate technical assistance in developing the targets and indicators that will serve as basis for assessing cities and municipalities that have qualified as smart and sustainable communities.</p> <p>Meanwhile, DHSUD Planning Service Chief Mark Diamante presented the National Housing and Urban Development Sector Plan (NHUDSP). The NHUDSP is a 20-year housing and urban development roadmap consolidating existing and proposed strategies, plans and programs of the DHSUD, key shelter agencies, and stakeholders to harmonize and sustain housing and urban development initiatives towards the attainment of a common goal. According to Diamante, the NHUDSP aims to adopt a better, greener, smarter human settlements and urban systems in a more inclusive Philippines.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills to be incorporated in the substitute bill that will be drafted by the Secretariat.</p>
<p>Natural Resources (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>HB 112</p>	<p>Rep. Fortun</p>	<p>Regulating the rational exploration, development, and utilization of mineral resources and ensuring the equitable sharing of benefits for the state, indigenous peoples (IPs), and local communities</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA), directed the Secretariat to prepare the Substitute Bill to House Bills 112 and 254.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Zarate, who is also a co-author of HB 254, informed the body that similar bills have been extensively discussed at the TWG level in previous Congresses, notably in the 17th Congress.</p> <p>The bills seek to provide a new framework or regime for the mining industry which will be anchored on the principles of social justice, respect for people's rights and welfare especially the IPs, environmental conservation, defense of national sovereignty and patrimony, and national industrialization.</p> <p>In today's meeting, the TWG continued its deliberations on the two bills starting from the</p>
	<p>HB 254</p>	<p>Rep. Cullamat</p>	<p>Re-orienting the Philippine mining industry towards national industrialization and ensuring the highest industry development standards</p>	

<p>Continuation... Natural Resources (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>provision on “Establishing Multi-Sectoral Mineral Councils (MSMC)” which is Section 40 and 37 of HBs 112 and 254, respectively. The TWG took note of the comments and suggestions of the resource persons from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Environmental Management Bureau, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, League of Provinces of the Philippines, and Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment, among others.</p> <p>Among the agreements reached during the TWG meeting which will be incorporated in the substitute bill were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt Section 40 of HB 112 which states that there shall be as many MSMCs as there are watershed continuums with demarcated mineral areas; • Provide the MSMC with an additional power to conduct studies and research regarding the governance of mineralized areas; • Set the frequency of meetings of the MSMCs, which shall be at least twice a year; • Adopt Section 50 (Identification of Mining Projects) of HB 112 which requires a vote of two thirds of all the members of the MSMC in order to open areas for mining operations; and • Add a new chapter that will include provisions specifically on Mineral Processing. <p>The TWG agreed that the issue on the composition of the MSMC will just be tackled in the mother Committee in order to get the insights of other Committee Members.</p> <p>With regard to the provision in the bills pertaining to the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Mitigation Plan, the resource persons said that they will submit their position papers on the matter at a later time.</p>
--	--	--	--	--

Comments, suggestions and requests for copies may be sent to the Committee Publication Staff, Committee Management Support Service I, 3rd Floor, Ramon V. Mitra, Jr. Bldg., House of Representatives, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, through cmss1.cad@house.gov.ph or at tel. nos. 8932-6118/8931-5001 local 7122.

Also available at <http://www.congress.gov.ph>