

<p>Continuation... Appropriations</p>		<p>budgetary support to government corporations, while the remaining 2% will go to corporate fund.</p> <p>Sulaik apprised the Committee of the status of NIA's communal irrigation systems. As of December 2020, he said that of the 3.13 million hectares (ha) estimated potential irrigable area, 2.01 million ha or 64% have been developed and 1.12 million ha or 36% have not yet been developed. He noted, however, that under the new NIA Master Plan, additional areas will be developed for irrigation.</p> <p>In reply to the query of Rep. Argel Joseph Cabatbat (Party-List, MAGSASAKA) on the status of DA's budget spending under the Bayanihan 2 (Republic Act 11494) which was extended from December 31, 2020 to June 30, 2021, Dar said that 98.8% of the budget was utilized, while the unspent funds were reverted back to the Bureau of Treasury.</p> <p>Rep. Tyrone Agabas (6th District, Pangasinan) inquired if the huge decrease in the FY 2022 budget of the DA for farm-to-market road (FMRs) projects amounting to P6.7 billion is an indication that these projects will be devolved to the local government units (LGUs) by next year as a consequence of the Supreme Court's ruling on the Mandanas-Garcia case. The DA's budget for FMRs for 2022 amounts to only P5 billion as compared to FMRs' current budget of P11.7billion.</p> <p>Dar manifested that he is inclined to believe so. However, he assured the Committee that the DA will still provide supervision in the implementation of FMR projects.</p> <p>Rep. Cabatbat expressed the view that the DA deserves to have a higher budget allocation considering the 11.5% increase in the national budget for next year and for having remained steadfast in providing support programs to the farmers despite the ongoing pandemic.</p> <p>Several Members raised issues and concerns affecting their respective districts which were responded to by the officials of the DA and the NIA.</p> <p>The DA and the NIA have committed to submit data and other pertinent documents requested by the Members of the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee decided to hold another meeting to continue its deliberation on the DA and NIA's FY 2022 proposed budget.</p>
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COMMITTEE MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Ecology	HB 2516	Rep. Tupas	Regulating noise pollution by creating the Noise Pollution Control Board, providing funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Glona Labadlabad (2 nd District, Zamboanga del Norte), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to harmonize the bills and come up with a substitute bill.
	HB 3052	Rep. Tan (A.)	Regulating public disturbance noise and the use of videoke or sound amplifying devices that unreasonably endangers the health, peace, or safety of persons, and prescribing penalties for violation thereof	The TWG will be co-chaired by Batanes Rep. Ciriaco Gato Jr. and Rep. John Marvin "Yul Servo" Nieto (3rd District, Manila).

<p>Continuation... Ecology</p>				<p>Rep. Raul "Bobby" Tupas (5th District, Iloilo), author of HB 2516, said his bill seeks to regulate noise pollution by creating the Noise Pollution Control Board (NPCB). The NPCB shall be mandated to formulate and implement the policies and programs on noise pollution control and prescribe standards and criteria in determining violations on noise pollution and the corresponding penalties. The Board will be under the supervision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environment Management Bureau (DENR-EMB).</p> <p>HB 2516 defines "noise pollution" as the unwanted human-created sound that disrupts the environment and is emitted sporadically over a period of time; the dominant forms of which are derived from transportation systems, motor vehicles, sound system, equipment, apparatus, machineries, and the like.</p> <p>Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon), author of HB 3052, underscored the importance of regulating noise which can affect health, safety and security of people. She said her bill seeks to address the problem of noise pollution in residential areas by prohibiting excessive, unnecessary loud sound from videoke/karaoke systems or other amplified audio devices beyond limits and at unacceptable levels during ungodly hours; as well as noise that causes serious discomfort and has created numerous complaints, and are detrimental to public health, convenience, and safety.</p> <p>Expressing support for the bills were resource persons from the DENR-EMB; Departments of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Health (DOH), Budget and Management (DBM), Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and Science and Technology (DOST); Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA); Land Transportation Office (LTO); and League of Cities. Likewise, resource persons from the academe and private sector expressed their support and gave their respective inputs and comments on the proposed law.</p> <p>DENR-EMB Air Quality Management Section Chief Jundy del Socorro said that there are already existing policies on noise pollution control and monitoring which are being implemented by local government units (LGUs). Thus, he suggested that the proposed NPCB should be under the supervision of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and not under the DENR as proposed in HB 2516.</p> <p>League of Cities' Environment Unit head Alvin Asis confirmed that some LGUs have issued ordinances regulating noise pollution.</p>
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Continuation... Ecology				<p>However, there is no national guidelines on the matter. Thus, Asis suggested to include in the proposed law the creation of a unified system that will provide the standards for the guidance of the LGUs and concerned agencies.</p> <p>LTO Assistant Secretary Edgar Galvante informed the Committee that the LTO also has a policy addressing noise pollution. He went on to say that all vehicles are subject to road worthiness testing, which includes testing of the level of noise emitted by vehicles. He added that vehicles emitting more than the standard allowable decibels will not be cleared for registration. (A decibel is the unit used to measure the intensity of a sound.)</p> <p>Likewise, DOLE Assistant Secretary Ma. Teresita Cucuenco said that the Department issues and implements regulations on occupational safety and health standards (OSHS) in the workplace.</p> <p>DOH Supervising Program Health Officer Rene Timbang suggested that the DOLE's regulations may be used as reference in crating the proposed law. He further informed the Committee about the adverse effects of noise pollution on human health such as sleep deprivation, impairment of cognitive functions, and cardiovascular diseases.</p> <p>Meanwhile, DBM representative Ma. Elisa Rivera recommended the creation of a National Pollution Control Council (NPCC) instead of the NPCB. She said the NPCC, which will be under the supervision of the DENR, will serve as a policy advisory council on matters pertaining to noise pollution control.</p> <p>DPWH Environmental and Social Safeguard Division OIC-Chief Rosemarie del Rosario suggested that the ambient noise standard under the National Pollution Control Commission's Memorandum Circular No. 02, series of 1980, be updated and subsequently incorporated in the bill.</p> <p>All the resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the proposed law.</p>
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