



# Committee Daily Bulletin

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

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. III No. 66  
September 13, 2021

BUDGET BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Appropriations	<p>Briefing on the proposed FY 2022 budget, plans and programs, and major accomplishments of the following agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Commission on Higher Education (CHED)</li></ul>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Eric Go Yap (Party-List, ACT-CIS), listened to the presentation on the proposed 2022 budget, plans and programs, and major accomplishments of the CHED and DepEd.</p> <p>The Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Francisco Jose “Bingo” Matugas II (1<sup>st</sup> District, Surigao del Norte), sat as the presiding officer during the continuation of the deliberations on the proposed FY 2022 budget of the CHED.</p> <p>Under the FY 2022 National Expenditure Program (NEP), the CHED is set to receive an amount of P52.60 billion which is 16.38 lower than its current budget of P62.90 billion. The CHED’s 2022 proposed budget will be distributed as follows: maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE), P50.90 billion; Higher Education Development Fund (HEDF), P1.03 billion; personnel services (PS), P483.95 million; and capital outlay (CO), P195.88 million.</p> <p>In the Committee’s previous meeting on CHED’s proposed budget, CHED Chairperson J. Prospero de Vera III disclosed that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM)-approved budget is lower than the Commission’s original budget proposal of P62.4 billion for FY 2022. He said that the P9.61 billion variance is intended for the improvement and upgrading of CHED regional offices as well as to fund the implementation of various laws related to higher education.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go and Rep. Matugas expressed their support for the retention of the originally proposed budget of CHED.</p> <p>Rep. Janette Garin (1<sup>st</sup> District, Iloilo) stated that much of CHED’s budget for FY 2021, particularly the funds intended for scholarship, has not been released yet. Considering the important role of CHED in fostering education as one of the vital sectors in stimulating economic recovery especially in this time of pandemic, Rep. Garin asserted that stalling the funds for this program is a manifestation of injustice towards the students and to CHED as well.</p> <p>Rep. Garin previously moved for the suspension of the deliberations on the proposed budget of CHED. She noted that several budget items of the Commission under the FY 2021 General Appropriations Act are tagged as “For Later Release.” Hence, she wants the DBM to explain the rationale for releasing CHED’s 2021 budget in such a manner. However, there was no explanation provided by the DBM during the meeting.</p> <p>After a brief discussion on the FY 2022 proposed budget of the CHED, the Committee decided to terminate the hearing on the matter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Department of Education (DepEd)</li></ul>

Continuation...  
Appropriations

deliberations on the FY 2022 proposed budget of the DepEd.

Education Secretary Leonor Briones discussed the DepEd's five-year gains under the *Sulong Edukalidad* Program which aims to address the challenges in basic education. Under this program the following initiatives were undertaken: review of the K to 12 curriculum; improvement of learning environment through the construction of new classrooms and technical-vocational laboratories, repair of old classrooms, and restoration of Gabaldon or heritage school buildings; overhauling of the in-service professional development system through the transformation of the National Educators Academy of the Philippines (NEAP); and convening of the Educ Forum for open consultation and collaboration with stakeholders.

According to Briones, DepEd's budget performance has improved from a budget obligation rate of 88% in 2015, with a budget of P308.14 billion, to 96% in 2020 with a budget of P532.95 billion. Despite the pandemic, Briones said 26.23 million students enrolled in formal education for School Year (SY) 2020-2021 from 27.03 million students in 2019. For the current school year, SY2021-2022, she said 25.58 million students are enrolled which might still increase by the end of September due to late enrollments.

DepEd Undersecretary for Finance Annalyn Sevilla said that under the FY 2022 NEP, the DepEd is set to receive a budget of P629.80 billion, which is 6.01% higher than its current budget of P594.11 billion. By expense class, the DepEd's 2022 proposed budget will be distributed as follows: PS including retirement and life insurance premium (RLIP), P513.48 billion; MOOE, P96.62 billion; and CO, P19.70 billion.

Sevilla noted that the MOOE of DepEd for next year was reduced by 2.59% compared to this year's MOOE budget. She also informed the body that the budget for the feeding program as well as the repair or restoration of school buildings and other heritage buildings were also reduced.

Briones added that despite the health crisis, the DepEd has adopted innovative ways to still deliver its feeding program through community assistance, thus the budget for the feeding program for 2022 should not have been reduced.

Rep. Stella Luz Quimbo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Marikina City) said that based on her calculation, which takes into account the population growth rate, the expected enrollment for the current year should be about 28.4 million students. She then asked if the more than two million students unaccounted for would be considered the number of "students left behind."

Briones replied that students who were unable to enroll came mostly from private schools whose parents became unemployed due to the pandemic. She said employment always has a direct impact on enrollment, thus the DepEd is strengthening its Alternative Learning System (ALS) program so that students that were left behind can catch up by enrolling in the ALS.

Rep. France Castro (Party-List, ACT-TEACHERS) asked if the DepEd is following the guideline or roadmap on the safe reopening of schools issued by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Bank (WB), and World Food Programme (WFP). She said other countries are already gradually reverting to face-to-face classes this year.

<p>Continuation... Appropriations</p>		<p>Briones answered yes, but she explained that the holding of face-to-face classes still depends on the current health situation in the country. She emphasized that each country has its own experience in dealing with the crisis and the Philippines cannot just reopen the schools just because other countries are doing it. However, she assured the body that the DepEd is constantly coordinating with the UNICEF and UNESCO regarding the gradual reopening of schools.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Evelina Escudero (1<sup>st</sup> District, Sorsogon) asked DepEd if it already conducted an assessment of the effectiveness of blended learning. DepEd Undersecretary for Curriculum and Instruction Diosdado San Antonio said the United Nations Development Programme and the National Economic and Development Authority have an ongoing study on this. In the meantime, he said the grades of the students are being used as proxy indicator of the effectiveness of the blended learning. So far, he continued, 95% of students are passing and majority of the students are getting grades within the range of 81 to 85%.</p> <p>Underscoring the importance of internet connectivity in the current learning modes, Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1<sup>st</sup> District, Nueva Ecija) inquired if the DepEd is regularly coordinating with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) in ensuring that areas with no internet services will be provided with one. DepEd Undersecretary for Administration Alain Del Pascua said the DepEd is constantly coordinating and following-up with the DICT for the provision of internet services in various areas.</p> <p>Other Members raised issues and concerns on the implementation of DepEd programs in their respective districts which were responded to by the concerned officials of the DepEd.</p> <p>After due deliberations, the Committee terminated the hearing on the 2022 proposed budget of the DepEd. The DepEd was requested to submit the pertinent documents that were requested of them by the Members during the budget hearing.</p>
---------------------------------------	--	---

COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
<p><b>Civil Service and Professional Regulation</b></p>	<p>Substitute Bill to HBs 5886, 6248, 8452 &amp; 9484</p>	<p>Reps. Nograles (J.F.F.), Silverio, Romualdo, and Tambunting</p>	<p>Professionalizing the paralegal practice in the Philippines, creating for this purpose a Professional Regulatory Board of Paralegals, appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Committee, presided by Rep. Manuel Cabochan III (Party-List, MAGDALO), approved the substitute bill subject to style. The corresponding Committee report was likewise approved.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to transmit the substitute bill to the Committee on Appropriations for its comments on the proposed law's funding provisions.</p>
	<p>HBs 9621 &amp; 9842</p>	<p>Deputy Speaker Arenas and Rep. Deloso-Montalla</p>	<p>Instituting the Magna Carta for All Non-Uniformed Workers in the Military and All Other Uniformed Agencies</p>	<p>The Committee approved House Bills 9621 and 9842 in principle. The Secretariat will consolidate the two bills incorporating in it the suggestions and inputs of the resource persons.</p> <p>Rep. Cabochan said that the two bills both seek to recognize the importance of non-uniformed personnel (NUP) in rendering</p>

<p>Continuation... Civil Service and Professional Regulation</p>				<p>administrative and other support services to the uniformed agencies to allow the latter to effectively maintain national security as well as peace and order in the country. Through the proposed law, Rep. Cabochan hopes that the long-standing issues faced by the NUP like low pay, long-work hours, unsafe working conditions, and lack of benefits will be addressed.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Rose Marie "Baby" Arenas (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Pangasinan), author of HB 9621, said that her bill seeks to improve the social and economic well-being of all NUP as well as ensure that their rights are protected. She added that promoting the rights of the NUP is integral in realizing the quality and effectiveness of their service to the public. According to the Deputy Speaker, NUP refers to all civilian employees working in the military and other uniformed agencies of the government.</p> <p>Likewise, Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Zambales), author of HB 9842, underscored the vital role of the NUP in the effective and efficient operations of uniformed agencies. She pushed for the passage of the proposed law to recompense the hard work and dedication of all NUP serving in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), Department of National Defense (DND), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Bureau of Corrections (BuCor), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), and the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA).</p> <p>HBs 9621 and 9842 define "uniformed agencies" as those "government agencies and institutions responsible in ensuring peace, order, and security; and protecting the people from crimes, disasters, and other potential dangers and threats, including law enforcement, firefighting, civil defense, correctional services, medical and emergency services, as well as other government agencies with uniformed personnel."</p> <p>Expressing support for the proposed law were Deputy Speaker Evelina Escudero (1<sup>st</sup> District, Sorsogon), as well as Reps. Raymond Democrito Mendoza (Party-List, TUCP), Rep. Ferdinand Gaité (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA), and Gabriel Bordado Jr. (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Camarines Sur).</p> <p>Also expressing support for the bills were representatives from the PNP, BJMP, PNP Non-uniformed Personnel Association, Inc., Public Services Labor Independent Confederation (PSLink), and COURAGE, an umbrella organization of labor unions in different government agencies.</p>
--	--	--	--	--

<p>Continuation... Civil Service and Professional Regulation</p>				<p>The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC) gave their comments and recommendations for consideration of the Committee.</p> <p>DBM's Organization, Position, Classification and Compensation Bureau Director Jocelyn dela Cruz suggested that the payment for overtime, subsistence allowance, and night shift differential to the NUPs should be consistent with CSC and DBM issuances.</p> <p>On the provision mandating that the salary scales of the NUP shall be the same as that of the uniformed personnel, Dela Cruz said that the DBM is constrained from recommending the same because it is inconsistent with existing laws. She explained that Congress Joint Resolution 4, series of 2009, provides for the separation of the total compensation framework between civilian personnel and the military and uniformed personnel (MUP). Likewise, Congress Joint Resolution 1, series of 2018, authorizes the increase in base pay of MUP in the government; while, Republic Act 11466 or the Salary Standardization Law of 2019 provides that the salary of all civilian government personnel shall be rationalized and standardized across all government agencies.</p> <p>CSC lawyer Vlademir Villacorta suggested the deletion of the provision in both bills which states that qualified next of kin of retired or deceased NUP shall be given priority in recruitment and hiring. He explained that such provision is not in conformity with the Constitution and Executive Order 292 or the Administrative Code of 1987, which provides that all appointments in the civil service shall be made according to merit and fitness.</p> <p>Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) lawyer Joel Mago requested that the NUP of PDEA be included under the coverage of the proposed law.</p> <p>The resource persons were asked to submit their position paper on the bills to be considered in the crafting of the substitute bill.</p>
<p><b>Economic Affairs</b></p>	<p>HBs 3293 &amp; 8025</p>	<p>Reps. Vargas and Villafuerte</p>	<p>Establishing a National Evaluation Policy</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to study the bills further.</p> <p>The bills seek to establish a National Evaluation Policy (NEP) that will strengthen the legal and institutional framework for the regular conduct of monitoring and evaluation (M&amp;E) of the results of public policies, programs, projects, and other forms of interventions of all instrumentalities of the national government. A National Evaluation</p>

<p>Continuation... Economic Affairs</p>				<p>Council will be established to act as the lead agency in implementing the NEP.</p> <p>According to Rep. Garin, there is still no single institution evaluating policies, programs, and projects in general and the National Evaluation Council aims to do this. She believes that this proposed law will improve the performance of all the government agencies in the country.</p> <p>Rep. Garin also informed the body that there is another bill with similar subject matter that will be included in the substitute bill once it is referred to the Committee. She was referring to House Bill 10181, which she filed, seeking to establish a National Evaluation for Results Policy (NERP).</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bills were the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA); Departments of Budget and Management (DBM), Agriculture (DA), Labor and Employment (DOLE), Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Science and Technology (DOST), Foreign Affairs (DFA), Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and the Interior and Local Government (DILG); as well as the Governance Commission for Government-Owned or Controlled Corporations (GCG), Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), and Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department (CPBRD) of the House of Representatives.</p> <p>DA Assistant Secretary Agnes Catherine Miranda said the proposed law would strengthen government's efforts to institutionalize good governance, transparency, accountability, and evidence-based decision making.</p> <p>CPBRD Director General Romulo Emmanuel Miral Jr. underscored the importance of the proposed law as it would institutionalize an integrated or systematic way of monitoring and evaluating the policies and programs of the national government. PIDS Research Fellow Michael Abrigo agreed that the proposed law provides a holistic approach to the conduct of M&amp;E on government programs and policies.</p> <p>DOLE Planning Service Director Adeline De Castro opined that the proposed law would create an enabling environment to improve the generation of evidence-based information that will be helpful for policy making particularly in the executive department. She added that through the proposed law, regular impact evaluation of policies and programs will be conducted.</p> <p>For her part, DSWD's Policy Development and Planning Bureau Assistant Director Hannah</p>
---	--	--	--	--

Continuation... Economic Affairs				<p>Giray-Carcido said that the regular conduct of impact evaluation would lead to the formulation of policies that will truly be felt on the ground particularly by the poor and marginalized.</p> <p>On the other hand, Department of Agrarian Reform OIC-Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and Research Office Virginia Orogo recommended the inclusion in the bill of a provision mandating the participation of the local government units (LGUs) in the evaluation of national government programs being implemented in their respective areas of jurisdiction.</p> <p>Rep. Edgar Chatto (1<sup>st</sup> District, Bohol) agreed with Orogo to include the participation of the LGUs in the implementation the NEP. He also recommended that the NEDA's Regional Development Councils be strengthened as they serve as an important link between the national and local government in terms of formulating economic and social development policies and programs.</p> <p>DOST Undersecretary for Research and Development Rowena Cristina Guevarra said that the proposed NEP will address the disconnect between the NEDA and the DBM so that the programs identified will be given appropriate funding allocations, allowing the agencies to fully achieve their goals.</p> <p>The DBM was requested to submit its assessment of the implementation of Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 2015-01 that it issued together with NEDA on July 15, 2015. The Joint Circular provides for the establishment of an evaluation policy framework to govern the evaluation of programs and projects receiving budgetary support from the government.</p> <p>Other resource persons were also requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills for the TWG's consideration.</p>
<b>Local Government</b>	HB 9335	Rep. Barba	Amending Sections 2 A, C, and Sections 3 A, B, and C of RA 10955 or the law dividing Barangay Dumalneg in the Province of Ilocos Norte into three distinct and independent barangays to be known as Barangays Kalaw, Cabaritan, and Quibel	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Noel Villanueva (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Tarlac), approved House Bill 9335.</p> <p>Rep. Angelo Marcos Barba (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Ilocos Norte), author of HB 9335, said that his bill seeks to correct the erroneous technical descriptions of the three newly-created barangays in Ilocos Norte under Republic Act 10955, namely, Barangays Kalaw, Cabaritan, and Quibel in the Municipality of Dumalneg, Ilocos Norte. He pointed out that the technical descriptions in the law will result in the encroachment of the area of the adjoining Municipality of Bangui, Ilocos Norte.</p> <p>In addition, under RA 10955, Sitio Pacac was included in Barangay Kalaw, Municipality of</p>

Continuation... Local Government				<p>Dumalneg, while Purok Namnama, Purok Regta, and Sitio Arapang were included in Barangay Quibel of the same Municipality. Rep. Barba said that with his bill, the four sitios/puroks will be excluded from RA 10955 as they are already part of another barangay – Barangay Lanao in Bangui, Ilocos Norte. Hence, Rep. Barba said that correcting the erroneous technical descriptions will prevent confusions with regard to territorial jurisdictions.</p> <p>Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Land Management Bureau (DENR-LMB) Acting Director Emelyne Talabis expressed support for the proposed law. Talabis suggested that the technical description in the bill should specifically mention the “Municipal Boundary Monument (MBM) No. 9, Cadastral 736-D, Dumalneg Cadastre” as the tie-point (the point of closure of a survey, either on itself or on another survey).</p> <p>Rep. Villanueva directed the Committee Secretary to take note of Talabis’ suggestion.</p> <p>Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary Ricojudge Janvier Echiverri said that the DILG interposes no objection to the bill as long as it is compliant with the provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991. He added that the DILG will submit to the wisdom of the other government agencies concerned.</p>
	HBs 2702 & 5572	Reps. Panotes and Hofer	Exempting from the income requirement the capital town of a province without a city, amending for the purpose Section 450 of RA 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the seven bills.</p> <p>Rep. Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II (1<sup>st</sup> District, Zamboanga Sibugay), author of HB 3021, was designated as the TWG Chair.</p>
	HBs 3021, 4085, 5535 & 6366	Reps. Palma, Marquez, Daza, and Yap (E.)	Automatically converting the capital town of provinces with no component cities, independent component cities or highly urbanized cities within its territorial jurisdiction, into a component city	<p>Rep. Marisol Panotes (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Camarines Norte), author of HB 2702, said that her bill seeks to exempt a capital town of a province without a city from the requisite income, as provided under Republic Act 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, for conversion into a component city. She pointed out that at present, the income requirement for the creation of provinces and highly urbanized cities is very much lower than that of creating component cities.</p>
	HB 9264	Rep. Deloso-Montalla	Allowing the conversion of a municipality into a component city in a province that does not have an existing component city, amending for the purpose Section 450 of RA 7160, as amended	<p>Similarly, Rep. Ann Hofer (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Zamboanga Sibugay), author of HB 5572, pointed out that converting municipalities into a component city increases their share in the allocation of the National Tax Allotment (NTA), which is formerly known as the internal revenue allotment.</p> <p>Rep. Palma noted that 26 provinces in the country do not have component cities,</p>

Continuation... Local Government				<p>independent component cities or highly urbanized cities. He posited that the proposal to automatically convert the capital town of these provinces into a component city would provide them better chance for growth and development since the NTA allocated to cities is higher compared to the allotment to municipalities. He further said that the proposed law will be beneficial to the 26 provinces especially upon the implementation of the Supreme Court's Mandanas ruling which will result in local government units having a huge increase in their share of all national taxes effective 2022.</p> <p>Rep. Paul Ruiz Daza (1<sup>st</sup> District, Northern Samar), author of HB 5535, said that his bill is similar to the other measures except that it is limited to seven provinces considered to be among the poorest provinces that do not have cities. Nevertheless, he expressed support for the other bills which are more comprehensive in scope.</p> <p>Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Zambales), author of HB 9264, highlighted the importance of having at least one component city in a province as it will be instrumental in boosting socio-economic development in the area.</p> <p>Rep. Carlito Marquez (1<sup>st</sup> District, Aklan), author of HB 4085, said that the Municipality of Kalibo in the Province of Aklan can already be converted into a component city as it is where the provincial government and national government offices are located, and that it is the center of economic activity in the Province of Aklan.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 653, 2058 & 9263	Reps. Abaya, Villa, and Deloso-Montalla	Institutionalizing the income classification of local government units	<p>The Committee deferred the deliberations on the substitute bill upon the request of Rep. Deloso-Montalla who said she needs to discuss some details about the bill first with the Committee Secretary.</p> <p>Rep. Deloso-Montalla is the Chairperson of the TWG which was tasked to study the bill and craft a substitute bill.</p>