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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"> Department of Transportation (DOTr) 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Eric Go Yap (Party-List, ACT-CIS), listened to the presentation on the proposed FY 2022 budget, plans and programs, and major accomplishments of the DOTr and TESDA.</p> <p>The Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2nd District, Bataan), sat as the presiding officer during the deliberations on the proposed budget of the DOTr.</p> <p>DOTr Undersecretary for Finance Giovanni Lopez said that under the FY 2022 National Expenditure Program (NEP), the DOTr will have a budget of P150.76 billion which is 72% higher than its current year's budget of P87.45 billion. The DOTr's proposed budget will be distributed as follows: capital outlay (CO), P117.14 billion; maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE), P16.86 billion; personnel services (PS), P16.76 billion; and financial expenses P7.89 million.</p> <p>Lopez said that the P117.14 billion allocation for CO includes regular capital outlay requirements such as office equipment; conduct of feasibility studies; payment for right-of-way; infrastructure preparation and innovation facility; and infrastructure projects. On the MOOE, Lopez said that 61% of the amount allocated for MOOE will go to subsidy for mass transport (P7.11 billion) and Metro Rail Transit (MRT) 3 rehabilitation project (P3.12 billion). The budget for PS will cover the salary increase next year under the Salary Standardization Law, as well as the additional personnel of the Philippine Coast Guard.</p> <p>Despite the increase in the DOTr's 2022 proposed budget, Lopez said that the budget of the Department for MOOE next year dropped by P4.48 billion compared to this year's allocation. Because of the decrease, funding for the following has been scrapped: Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program (PUVMP); Service Contracting Program (SCP); operation expenses of MRT3; and other PS-related expenses. Lopez then sought the support of the House Members in pushing for an increase in DOTr's proposed budget.</p> <p>Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1st District, Western Samar), who is also the Chair of the House Committee on Transportation, averred that the fund for SCP should be restored to continue helping the public drivers and operators who have lost their source of income during the pandemic as well as to provide the commuting public safe and reliable transport system. He also supports the restoration of the funding for DOTr's Active Transport in New Normal program in the amount of P1.2 billion for the establishment of 300 kilometer bike lanes. The Active Transport promotes the use of active transportation, such as biking and walking.</p> <p>The SCP, an initiative approved under Republic Act 11494 or the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act (Bayanihan 2), aims to financially support transport workers, to ensure efficient and safe operations of public transportation, and to provide free rides to healthcare workers and authorized persons outside residence (APORs) amid the pandemic. Under the Program, public utility vehicle (PUV) drivers and operators will receive performance-</p>

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based incentives weekly based on the number of trips made per week, whether they have passengers or not.

Rep. Arlene Brosas (Party-List, GABRIELA) asked the DOTr to shed light on reports she received that 600,000 drivers and 150,000 operators of traditional public utility jeepneys (PUJs) are not operational.

DOTr Assistant Secretary Mark Steven Pastor said that a lot of PUJs are now operating in new routes under the SCP. Likewise, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Chair Martin Delgra said that the LTFRB has opened 10 initial routes in Metro Manila for modern PUJs. The LTFRB is now preparing for the participation of traditional PUJs in the SCP using the funds under the current budget appropriations.

Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade manifested that the number of new routes and franchises will increase because of the DOTr's policy of delegating the determination of routes to the regional offices of LTRFB, in coordination with the local government units. The issuance of franchises was also delegated to the regional offices of LTRFB.

Rep. Brosas opined that under the PUVMP, many operators and drivers have lost their source of income because they are having difficulty complying with the stringent requirements of the program. Rep. Brosas manifested that the PUVMP should be suspended.

PUVMP is a flagship program of the Duterte administration which envisions a restructured, modern, well-managed and environmentally sustainable transport sector where drivers and operators have stable, sufficient and dignified livelihoods while commuters get to their destinations quickly, safely and comfortably. Under the program, transport operators shall form cooperatives or corporations that will be eligible to avail of financial assistance, on top of government subsidy, to upgrade their fleet with low-carbon emission, safe, and efficient units. (Source: DOTr website).

Rep. Ferdinand Gaité (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA) also pointed out that there are drivers in the streets asking for financial help from passersby instead of being back to work and plying their routes. He then asked the DOTr what it has done so far to address this concern.

Pastor explained that some of the drivers that are in the streets chose not to ply their routes because of the limited number of passengers. He then asked the support of the Committee to restore the budget for the PUVMP and SCP to continue providing the much-needed assistance to the drivers and operators.

Rep. Sabiniano Canama (Party-List, COOP-NATCCO) suggested that the PUVMP provide the drivers and operators with loans at lower interest rates and longer terms.

The Transportation Secretary said that there is an ongoing discussion on lowering the interest rate for those who will avail of the financing program under the PUVMP.

Meanwhile, Deputy Speaker Bernadette "BH" Herrera-Dy (Party-List, BH) brought up the audit observation of the Commission on Audit (COA) on the Land Transportation Management System (LTMS) that will automate the internal and external functions of the Land Transportation Office (LTO). The Deputy Speaker said that the LTMS was supposed to be implemented over a six-month period but three years have passed since its launching in 2018 and yet it has not been fully realized.

<p>Continuation... Appropriations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) 	<p>LTO Assistant Secretary Edgar Galvante clarified that the LTMS is implemented in phases starting in 2017 to 2021. He explained that the COA audit observation might be referring to a phase or portion of the whole LTMS. Nevertheless, he assured the Committee that the LTMS will be completed this year.</p> <p>Likewise, Rep. France Castro (Party-List, ACT-TEACHERS) cited a COA report saying that the DOTr has a low budget disbursement rate. She also called the attention of DOTr of its alleged “parked” funds or funds that are lying idle.</p> <p>DOTr Undersecretary for Railways Timothy John Batan clarified that the COA report for 2020 did not reflect the DOTr’s disbursements of loan proceeds for projects funded by the Official Development Assistance during the months of November and December 2020. Hence the DOTr’s supposed low budget utilization rate for 2020 as reported by COA.</p> <p>On the alleged parked funds, Lopez denied its existence saying that the DOTr does not download funds to other procuring agencies like the Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management. He stressed that DOTr only downloads funds to its implementing agencies which are attached and connected to the DOTr. To safeguard the funds which may expire when not obligated, the DOTr forges a memorandum of agreement with its attached agencies/corporations regarding the implementation of projects within their expertise, Lopez added.</p> <p>Rep Castro requested the DOTr to submit a list of its programs, projects, and activities whose funds are “for later release,” as well as the corresponding appropriation. This was in reaction to what Lopez said earlier that most of the funds of the DOTr are categorized as “For Later Release.”</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Macnell Lusotan (Party List, MARINO) about the details of the budget of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), Lopez said the MARINA was not given an allocation for capital outlay. Rep. Lusotan pushed for the allocation of funds for MARINA’s CO to allow it to effectively provide support to the seafarers.</p> <p>After due deliberations, the Committee terminated its hearing on the 2022 proposed budget of the DOTr.</p> <p>The Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Manuel Jose "Mannix" Dalipe (2nd District, Zamboanga City), sat as the presiding officer during the TESDA’s 2022 budget hearing.</p> <p>The Committee, in its meeting held on September 10, terminated its deliberations on the FY 2022 proposed budget of the Department of Trade and Industry and its attached agencies/corporations with the exclusion of TESDA. The Committee opted to defer approval of the TESDA’s proposed budget and hold a separate meeting to discuss the agency’s poor budget utilization and alleged questionable practices.</p> <p>Under the FY 2022 NEP, the TESDA will have a budget of P14.54 billion which increased by less than 1% from its current year’s budget of P14.46 billion. The TESDA’s proposed budget will be distributed as follows: PS, P2.44 billion; MOOE, P11.31 billion; and CO, P784.85 million.</p> <p>Rep. Sabiniano Canama (Party-List, COOP-NATCCO) inquired on the specific programs that TESDA has been providing to the cooperatives and cooperative federations.</p>
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In reply, TESDA's Regional Operations Management Office OIC-Director Ma. Angelina Carreon stated that TESDA has partnered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) in the provision of skills development training to the cooperative members, officers, and staff. Moreover, Carreon said that the TESDA is allocating funds for the skills training programs of the CDA's trainers and assessors. She noted that since last year, TESDA has been conducting training programs and providing continuous scholarship to members of cooperatives.

Rep. Canama, on behalf of all the cooperatives in the country, manifested strong support for the approval of the 2022 proposed budget of TESDA. He also expressed his appreciation for all the initiatives of TESDA that benefit the cooperatives and their members, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Catanduanes Rep. Hector Sanchez inquired whether it is possible for TESDA to cascade additional funds for the implementation of its key programs in Catanduanes. He mentioned some of the agency's big ticket items such as the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET), as part of the implementation of Republic Act 10931 or the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act (UAQTEA); Training for Work Scholarship Program (TWSP); Special Training for Employment Program (STEP); and the Tulong Trabaho Scholarship Program.

TESDA Director General Isidro Lapeña replied that Catanduanes, just like all other provinces, will always be included in TESDA's allocations for scholarships. However, he said that the TVET is supposed to be a three-year scholarship program, but its final stage has not been included in the TESDA's 2022 proposed budget. Thus, Lapeña requested additional funds in the amount of P5.2 billion to complete the 3-year continuing scholarship program under TVET.

On the other hand, Committee Vice Chair Rep. Luis Campos Jr. (2nd District, Makati City) manifested that the 2022 budget proposal of TESDA, given its shortcomings in the past, should be meticulously scrutinized by the Committee to ensure that whatever budget is allocated to it will not go to waste. Otherwise, Rep. Campos said, TESDA's funds should better be just channeled to other agencies in need of more funds.

Likewise, Rep. Stella Luz Quimbo (2nd District, Marikina City) observed that TESDA has a low budget utilization rate in the previous years. She went on to say that the proposed 2022 budget of P14.54 billion is clearly way too high and cannot be absorbed by TESDA within 12 months given its track record.

Rep. Quimbo also cited a Commission on Audit (COA) finding that pertains to the practice of TESDA of downloading funds to its operating units, such as training centers and technical vocational institutions, just to expedite the funds' obligation even without proper documentation. In particular, the said COA finding stated that "the transfer of P5.71 billion by the regional offices to the operating units for implementation of scholarship and training programs was undertaken on the basis of qualification maps only, instead of complete and actual requirements. The Commission deemed this action as a means to avoid lapsing of the notices of cash allocation."

Consequently, Rep. Quimbo moved to cut the budget of TESDA from P14.54-billion to P8 billion, or a reduction of P6.54-billion, in view of the low utilization rate of the agency. She proposed that the budget cut be transferred to other pressing COVID-19 related concerns to be handled by agencies that can absorb the funds.

Continuation... Appropriations		<p>Nonetheless, Rep. Quimbo said that if the utilization rate of TESDA improves, Congress may pass a special appropriation if the situation requires it.</p> <p>However, Deputy Speaker Rufus Rodriguez (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City) objected to the proposed reduction of TESDA's 2022 budget. Instead he moved to augment TESDA's budget with an additional P5.2 billion, as requested by Lapeña. Deputy Speaker Rodriguez explained that TESDA is the other arm of tertiary education in a two-track educational system, with TESDA providing education to high school graduates who take technical and vocational courses.</p> <p>Rep. Dalipe said that the motions of Rep. Quimbo and Deputy Speaker Rodriguez will be taken up at the proper time.</p> <p>Rep. Tyrone Agabas (6th District, Pangasinan) manifested his support for the proposed budget of TESDA. He expressed the belief that TESDA plays a vital role in counter-balancing the effects of COVID-19 in this era.</p> <p>While noting that the programs of TESDA are helpful in the education of the country's youth, Rep. Jesus "Bong" Suntay (4th District, Quezon City) said that it is equally important that the money allocated to it is properly spent and utilized. He underscored the fact that since 2017, there has been increment increases in the budget of TESDA. However, he said it is also very clear that every year the unobligated and unutilized portion of the TESDA's budget also considerably increased.</p> <p>The Committee terminated the briefing on the FY 2022 proposed budget of TESDA.</p>
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COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Good Government and Public Accountability	<i>Motu proprio</i> Inquiry		Inquiry into the audit report of the Commission on Audit (COA) on the alleged questionable procurement of medical and health equipment by the Department of Health (DOH) for its COVID-19 response	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Michael Edgar Aglipay (Party-List, DIWA), will continue its <i>motu proprio</i> inquiry into the issues regarding the procurement of medical and health equipment by the DOH in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Aglipay said he recognizes the important role of the DOH and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) as the forefront government agencies in the country's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, he stated that it is the duty of the Committee to look into reports of irregularities and anomalies being committed by government agencies. Thus, he said accusations of overpricing and other anomalies being hurled at the DOH and the DBM relative to the procurement of medical supplies and equipment must be probed by this Committee so that appropriate legislative actions can be recommended.</p> <p>Health Secretary Francisco Duque III and National Task Force (NTF) Against COVID-19 Deputy Chief Implementer Vivencio Dizon said</p>

<p>Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability</p>				<p>that they welcome the conduct of the inquiry in order to explain the side of the DOH, particularly on various “deficiencies” in the disbursement or utilization of funds amounting to P67.3 billion that the COA flagged in its 2020 Annual Audit Report on the DOH. Included in the COA audit findings was the questionable transfer of P42.41 billion to the DBM - Procurement Service (DBM-PS) for the procurement of COVID-19 supplies and equipment.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Deputy Speaker Prospero Pichay Jr. (1st District, Surigao del Sur), COA Chair Michael Aguinaldo clarified that the COA audit report made no mention of overpricing, but more on the inventory management of medical supplies and equipment by the DBM-PS. He explained that the role of COA in this case is simply fact finding in order to determine whether the funds were disbursed properly and whether the procured items were used or delivered to the intended recipients. Thus, he said the COA cannot categorically state that there were irregularities or anomalies in the procurement transactions of DBM-PS.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP) asked if the transfer of the subject COVID-19 funds to the DBM-PS was flagged by the COA due to corruption, overpricing, and ghost deliveries. COA Supervising Auditor for the DOH Rhodora Ugay answered in the negative. Aguinaldo also reiterated that the COA Report does not mention any findings by the auditors of funds lost to corruption.</p> <p>Former DBM-PS Director and now Overall Deputy Ombudsman Warren Rex Liong explained to the body that during the onset of the pandemic last year, there was a scarcity of medical supplies which led to the increase in the prices. Thus, the DBM-PS chose the suppliers based on their capability to deliver low cost medical supplies at the earliest time possible and comply with the technical specifications set by the DOH.</p> <p>Denying that the surgical face masks and personal protective equipment (PPE) procured by the DBM-PS last April 2020 were overpriced, Liong said that the surgical masks were bought at P27.72 per piece which was below the P28 price ceiling that was jointly determined by the DOH and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).</p> <p>Further, Liong insisted that the procurement of medical supplies and equipment for COVID-19 response was in accordance with Republic Act 11469 or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act (Bayanihan 1). The law provides that the President shall have the power to undertake the procurement of goods which include PPE,</p>
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<p>Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability</p>				<p>surgical equipment and supplies, and medical equipment and devices, among others, in the most expeditious manner, which is an exemption from the provisions of RA 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act and other relevant laws. The Bayanihan 1 also provides that “in case the exercise of the powers herein granted conflicts with other statutes, orders, rules or regulations, the provisions of this Act shall prevail”, according to Liong.</p> <p>Asked by Reps. Aglipay and Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur) if the decision to grant the contracts for the procurement of PPE and testing kits worth P8.68 billion to Pharmally Pharmaceutical Corporation (Pharmally) was influenced by Senator Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go, Liong answered no.</p> <p>Liong mentioned that the DBM-PS still complied with the provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations relative to Negotiated Procurement (Emergency Cases), despite certain flexibilities in procurement granted under the Bayanihan 1 Law.</p> <p>Liong also explained that in March 2020, the DBM-PS purchased 500,000 face masks from Pharmally as there were no other local manufacturers at the time that can supply the needed volume.</p> <p>Lloyd Christopher Lao, the then OIC-Executive Director of DBM-PS when the fund transfer was made, added that Pharmally only supplied 20% of the total PPE sets procured by the DBM-PS.</p> <p>Meanwhile, NTF Against COVID-19 Chief Implementer and vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. denied that C-130 planes were used to pick up the supplies procured from Pharmally.</p> <p>In reply to the query of Rep. Pimentel on the legality of the procurements made by DBM-PS from Pharmally, Aguinaldo said that there is nothing illegal as long as the procuring agency complied with the guidelines of the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) relative to Emergency Procurement under Bayanihan 1 (GPPB Circular No. 01-2020, dated April 6, 2020).</p> <p>Rep. Alfredo Garbin Jr. (Party-List, AKO BICOL) asked Secretary Duque on the consequences had the government did not purchase the surgical masks from Pharmally.</p> <p>Duque replied that the healthcare system would have collapsed due to the overwhelming transmission of COVID-19 in the healthcare facilities. He also said that the number of deaths would have been greater.</p>
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<p>Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability</p>				<p>On the other hand, Rep. Ferdinand Gaité (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA) expressed concern that some people might be taking advantage of the pandemic and circumventing the rules on government procurement in order to gain profit.</p> <p>On another matter, Rep. Aglipay said he invited Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Director General Wilkins Villanueva to shed light on the alleged involvement of Michael Yang, the President's former economic adviser, in the illegal drugs trade. Villanueva stated that Yang is not involved in the illegal drugs trade and that the allegations of dismissed police officer Eduardo Acierto that Yang is linked to drug trade in Davao City is false.</p>
<p>Trade and Industry</p>	<p>HB 3255 in consolidation with HBs 4199, 4552, 5060 & 7340</p>	<p>Reps. Silverio, Romualdo, Deputy Speaker Santos-Recto, Reps. Agabas and Vargas</p>	<p>Providing for the establishment of a Timbangan ng Bayan Center in all markets nationwide, amending for the purpose Chapter 11 of RA 7394, otherwise known as the Consumer Act of the Philippines</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Navotas City Rep. John Reynald Tiangco, approved with amendment HB 3255, in consolidation with House Bills 4199, 4552, 5060 and 7340. The corresponding Committee Report was likewise approved.</p> <p>In his opening remarks, Rep. Tiangco said that the proposed law mandates local government units to install instruments for determining weights and measurements in all market places that are accessible to the buying public in order to verify the accuracy of the quantity and measurement of goods purchased. This will help prevent the proliferation of market goods lacking in quantity or substandard products to be traded in the markets. Likewise, Rep. Tiangco said that appropriate penalties and sanctions will be imposed on the violators of the proposed law.</p> <p>Rep. Lorna Silverio (3rd District, Bulacan), author of HB 3255, underscored the importance of the proposed law as it aims to promote transparency in public market trading as well as to hold unscrupulous traders accountable for their unlawful actions.</p>
	<p>Substitute Bill to HBs 1597, 8062 & 8620</p>	<p>Deputy Speaker Romero, Rep. Garin (S.), and Deputy Speaker Gatchalian</p>	<p>Providing for the Revised Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines</p>	<p>The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 1597, 8062 and 8620 with amendments.</p> <p>Rep. Tiangco said that the proposed revision of the Intellectual Property Code will create an enabling environment that will promote and steer creativity, innovation and development for both the small and medium enterprises, including start-up companies, as well as big companies. He added that the proposed law is especially needed during this era where notable developments in international legal framework, norms, standards and best practices as well as rapid advancements in technology that influence consumer behavior have already taken place.</p> <p>Rep. Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), author of HB 8062, and head of the technical working group (TWG) that crafted the</p>

<p>Continuation... Climate Change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (DOST-PAGASA) • University of the Philippines Resilience Institute (UPRI) 	<p>global warming to well below 2°C, preferably 1.5°C, that is comparable to pre-industrial levels.</p> <p>For his part, CCC's Policy Research and Development Division Chief Jerome Ilagan discussed the policy implications of climate change to the country. He conveyed that the AR6 provided certain measures for climate change adaptation and mitigation. For adaptation, he said there must be a rollout of risk assessments; capacitation of LGUs together with the academe, civil society organizations, and stakeholders; and budgetary support for fit-for-purpose engineering solutions, human resources, and capability building. For mitigation measures, he stressed the need to decrease the concentration of global gases through the transition to renewable energies or modernization or use of new technologies in the transport and agriculture sector, and in waste management. He also shared that the CCC is in the process of integrating commitments towards a net zero carbon emission.</p> <p>On the current extreme weather patterns in the Philippines, PAGASA Senior Weather Specialist Marcelino Villafuerte II reported that the average annual rainfall varies geographically across the country with some areas having a higher average as compared to other areas. He also said that the nighttime temperatures are increasing more than the daytime temperatures. He also pointed out that there is an observed atmospheric warming, which is projected to continue in the future. He explained that such increase in air temperature might be accompanied by droughts and more intense tropical cyclones, thus PAGASA is formulating action plans to prepare for such events and these are being communicated through educational campaign and online workshops with the LGUs.</p> <p>UPRI Executive Director Alfredo Mahar Lagmay explained the concept of "probabilistic hazard map," as cited in several issuances of the CCC including CCC Resolutions No. 2019-001 and 2021-003. He said it is a map showing scientifically based statistical estimates of the probability of future hazards (typhoons and earthquakes). He advocated the mainstreaming of this probabilistic hazard map in the local plans of the LGUs, such as the Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAPs) and Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs), which will cut across all sectors including agriculture, education, tourism, infrastructure, and forestry.</p> <p>The LCCAP focuses on both climate change adaptation and mitigation and describes how LGUs plan to respond to climate change and mainstream such into local development plans. On the other hand, the CLUP is a planning document prepared by LGUs to rationalize the allocation and proper use of land resources. It projects public and private land uses in accordance with the future spatial organization of economic and social activities. (Source: DILG website)</p> <p>Responding to Rep. Chatto's request, Lagmay said that UPRI is willing to assist the LGUs in coming up with the probabilistic hazard map which shall be integrated in their local plans.</p> <p>Rep. Elisa "Olga" Kho (2nd District, Masbate) manifested that policies on addressing climate change are already in place, but the challenge is in involving as many stakeholders as possible in order to make the implementation successful.</p> <p>The Chair concurred that addressing climate change is not an easy undertaking thus it calls for a whole-of-nation approach. He acknowledged the need to strengthen the capabilities of LGUs in integrating scientific tools and data in their respective local plans.</p>
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<p>Continuation... Climate Change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments/reactions 	<p>At this point, he asked the other resource persons present in the meeting to provide their comments on the AR6.</p> <p>Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Climate Change Division Chief Albert Magalang disclosed that prior to the publication of the AR6, the IPCC came up with a special report on attaining 1.5°C global temperature, in order to be on the safe side and avoid unmanageable impacts of climate change. He said the IPCC warned that if certain mitigating measures are not implemented between now and 2050, the impacts of climate change will certainly reach the tipping point at which the damage is immense and irreversible. He explained that the goal is to avoid the tipping point by undertaking transformative actions that will further reduce GHG emissions into the atmosphere.</p> <p>Greenpeace Philippines Senior Campaigner for Climate Justice Virginia Benosa-Llorin concurred with Magalang, adding that climate justice should be at the core of government plans and programs or else the country will continue to experience extreme weather conditions such as droughts, heavy flooding, and catastrophic typhoons, among others. She also urged the public and private entities to align their practices and business models with the goals of the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Undersecretary for Regional Development Group Mercedita Sombilla apprised the body that the NEDA is developing the Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production which aims to promote changes in the behaviors of consumers and producers in order to minimize the impact of economic progress on the environment. She said behavioral change is a vital strategy in responding to climate change. In addition, NEDA Director Nieva Natural suggested that the country should heighten climate change adaptation measures in the coastal areas, considering that rising sea level is already evident in some provinces. She said more than 50% of municipalities and cities in the country are located near the sea.</p> <p>For her part, Department of Education's Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service Director Ronilda Co shared that the topic of climate change is integrated in various subjects in basic education such as Science, <i>Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao</i>, and Health. She also reported that information drive on the impacts of climate is also being conducted for the students.</p> <p>Rep. Sergio Dagooc (Party-List, APEC) reiterated that every sector in the society must do its part to mitigate the impacts of climate change especially the government agencies that are mandated to implement environmental laws. He said the enforcement of these laws should be strengthened and prioritized by the government.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the resource persons for their comprehensive and insightful presentations on the AR6 and others for their active participation in the discussion.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective reports which they presented during the meeting.</p>
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