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COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Poverty Alleviation	HR 214	Rep. Barba	Inquiry into the national poverty situation to include a comprehensive review and assessment of existing poverty data and poverty reduction programs in the country	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Dahlia Loyola (5th District, Cavite), terminated its inquiry relative to House Resolution 214. The Committee Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>In her opening remarks, Rep. Loyola recalled that during the Committee's August 27 meeting, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Undersecretary Rosemarie Edillon informed the Committee that the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 has accompanying documents which include the result matrices specifying the indicators and targets to be achieved for the duration of the Plan; as well as the areas where the country is lagging. The Chair reminded the Committee Members that they agreed to use these result matrices in assessing the government's anti-poverty programs.</p> <p>Rep. Angelo Marcos Barba (2nd District, Ilocos Norte), author of HR 214, sent a letter addressed to the Committee explaining that he could not attend this meeting because of pressing tasks he had to attend to in his district. He, however, raised three issues which he hopes will be addressed in today's meeting. The issues were whether or not the official poverty statistics capture the real poverty situation in the country; whether or not the official poverty statistics satisfy the standards of accuracy, timeliness, and completeness; and if the government has the capacity to consolidate data such that it could closely monitor the poverty incidence and severity in the country.</p> <p>In response to the concerns of Rep. Barba, the resource persons from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) discussed how poverty statistics are generated and gathered and how they are used in the implementation of poverty reduction programs of the government.</p> <p>PSA Assistant National Statistician Wilma Guillen said that there are four legal mandates that serve as PSA's guide in capturing and measuring poverty incidence, and these are: Republic Act 8425 or the Social Reform and Poverty Act; Executive Order 352, series of 1996, which designates statistical activities that</p>

<p>Continuation... Poverty Alleviation</p>				<p>will generate critical data for decision-making of the government and the private sector; National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) Resolution No. 9, series of 2011, which approved the refinements in the official poverty estimation methodology; and NSCB Board Resolution No. 11, series of 2007, which approved the methodology for the generation of poverty statistics for the basic sectors.</p> <p>According to Guillen, RA 8425 defines “poor” as those “individuals and families whose income fall below the poverty threshold as defined by the NEDA and/or cannot afford in a sustained manner to provide their minimum basic needs of food, health, education, housing, and other essential amenities of life.”</p> <p>In monitoring poverty incidence and severity, the PSA gathers the following types of statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official poverty statistics - measures poverty incidence and magnitude of poverty among families and population at the national, regional, and provincial levels, as well as in highly urbanized cities; • Poverty among basic sectors - measures poverty incidence and magnitude among the nine basic sectors under RA 8425 at the national and regional levels; • Small-area estimates - measures poverty incidence among population at the municipal level; and • Multidimensional poverty index – measures deprivations or disadvantage in various dimensions, such as education, health and nutrition, housing, water and sanitation, and employment at the national level. <p>PSA Interim Assistant National Statistician Plenee Grace Castillo briefed the Committee on the status of implementation of RA 11315 or the Community-Based Monitoring System Act, which was signed into law in 2019. The PSA is the lead implementing agency of the law.</p> <p>As defined under RA 11315, Community-Based Management System (CBMS) refers to “an organized technology-based system of collecting, processing and validating necessary disaggregated data that may be used for planning, program implementation and impact monitoring at the local level while empowering communities to participate in the process.”</p> <p>Castillo said that the PSA already conducted orientations on accomplishing and disseminating the CBMS barangay profile questionnaire as well as on the Data Privacy Act of 2012 which were participated in by local government units (LGUs). She said that the PSA initially planned to conduct the CBMS pilot</p>
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<p><i>Continuation...</i> Poverty Alleviation</p>				<p>implementation in nine areas in the country from October to December of this year. However, this may be moved to a later date due to the rising COVID-19 cases.</p> <p>At present, Castillo continued, the PSA and the DILG are already preparing a joint memorandum circular providing the guidelines on the CBMS nationwide rollout in February 2022.</p> <p>DILG's Bureau of Local Government Development Director Anna Liza Bonagua said that under RA 11315, the DILG is mandated to disseminate information relating to the CBMS and to help the PSA and the Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute in providing technical assistance and holding capacity-building activities for LGUs.</p> <p>Bonagua also underscored the important role of CBMS in the country's pandemic response. She reported that some LGUs which already have a CBMS in place was able to use the system in identifying eligible beneficiaries of the Social Amelioration Program and relief operations during the COVID-19 crisis.</p> <p>DSWD National Household Targeting Office Director Justin Batocabe presented the status of the Listahanan 3 or the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction. He said the Listahanan 3 is an information management system that identifies "who and where the poor are," creating a database of poor families which serves as reference in identifying potential beneficiaries of the social protection programs of the government.</p> <p>According to Batocabe, the DSWD has already assessed 14.49 million households, out of which six million households are initially identified as poor. He added that the validation of the Listahanan 3 will be completed before the end of December 2021.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to adopt the following recommendations of Reps. Maria Fe Abunda (Eastern Samar), Juliet Marie de Leon Ferrer (4th District, Negros Occidental), and Domingo Rivera (Party-List, CIBAC) for the successful implementation of RA 11315: Increase the FY 2022 budget of the agencies tasked to implement the law; expedite the full implementation of the law; ensure timely, comprehensive, and accurate data that truly reflect the real poverty situation in the country; and mandate the DILG to promote the use of CBMS-generated data in the development planning and program design of the LGUs.</p>
<p>Suffrage and Electoral Reforms</p>	<p>HB 10261</p>	<p>Speaker Velasco</p>	<p>Extending the registration of voters for the 2022 national and local elections</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Juliet Marie de Leon Ferrer (4th District, Negros Occidental), approved House Bill 10261 and the corresponding Committee Report.</p>

Continuation... Suffrage and Electoral Reforms				<p>At the outset, Rep. Ferrer cited the importance of the bill to the leadership, saying that it is House Speaker Lord Allan Jay Velasco (Marinduque) himself who principally filed the bill, with Majority Leader Ferdinand Martin Romualdez (1st District, Leyte) and Minority Leader Joseph Stephen “Caraps” Paduano (Party-List, ABANG LINGKOD) as co-authors. She said the bill seeks to extend the registration of voters until October 31, to provide more time for Filipino citizens here and abroad to register for the 2022 national and local elections that will be held on May 9, 2022.</p> <p>According to Rep. Ferrer, the expected registrants for the 2022 elections will reach 74 million, but the logged registrants to date are just 62 million based on the records of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC). Thus, she said the proposed extension is necessary, considering that there are only six days left before the last day of voter registration which is on September 30. She explained that the COMELEC continues to decline the request of the House and the Senate to extend the registration period, even with the adoption of House Resolution 210 and Senate Resolution No. 851 urging the extension.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bill were Reps. Lawrence "Law" Fortun (1st District, Agusan del Norte), Elpidio Barzaga Jr. (4th District, Cavite) and Sarah Jane Elago (Party-List, KABATAAN). They sought the urgent passage of the bill to avoid massive voter disenfranchisement. Rep. Barzaga also informed the body that HB 10261 has a counterpart in the Senate, Senate Bill 2408, which was already approved on Second Reading by the Senate on September 22.</p> <p>COMELEC Commissioner Aimee Ferolino-Ampoloquio explained that one of the reasons why the COMELEC is objecting to the extension of the registration period is because many of its personnel who have long been stationed in registration areas are dying or getting sick because of exposure to COVID-19. She also said that not all people lining up at the registration areas are there to register but are just requesting voters' certification. (The voter's certification may be used in lieu of the voter's ID, for passport application and other transactions where a valid ID is required.) Nevertheless, she said the counter proposal of COMELEC is to extend the registration of voters to just one week, after the period of filing of certificates of candidacy which is scheduled on October 1 to 8.</p>
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