



Committee Daily Bulletin

18th Congress
Third Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. III No. 84
October 14, 2021

COMMITTEE MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Basic Education and Culture	Inquiry		Inquiry into the mother tongue languages with approved orthography under the K to 12 Mother Tongue-based Multilingual Education	<p>The Committee, chaired by Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo, conducted its oversight inquiry into which mother tongue languages have an approved orthography in line with the implementation of the Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE), which was institutionalized under Republic Act 10533 or the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013.</p> <p>Rep. Roman said that the Committee, through its oversight function, would like to be apprised of the status of implementation of the MTB-MLE considering that the Department of Education (DepEd) is already planning to conduct face-to-face classes for Kindergarten and Grades 1 to 3 in selected regions next school year.</p> <p>The MTB-MLE is a key feature of the Enhanced Basic Education Program or the K to 12 Program which mandates the use of the language that students are familiar with (their first language) as medium of instruction to allow them to grasp basic concepts easily. As a subject, mother tongue education focuses on the development of speaking, reading, and writing from Grades 1 to 3 in the mother tongue. As a medium of instruction, the mother tongue is used in all learning areas from Kindergarten to Grade 3, except in the teaching of Filipino and English subjects. <i>(Source: DepEd website)</i></p> <p>The Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) and the DepEd gave a briefing on the status of the MTB-MLE.</p> <p>KWF Linguist Specialist Jomar Canega informed the Committee about the efforts of the KWF in support of the MTB-MLE. He said that the KWF has documented a total of 132 languages in the country, 11 of which are considered major languages. Out of these 11 major languages, seven already have published orthographies, and these are <i>Tagalog, Ilokano, Waray, Kapampangan, Pangasinan, Magindanawon, and Bahasa Sug</i>. On the other hand, the KWF is yet to finalize the orthographies for <i>Sebwano, Hiligaynon, Bikol, and Meranaw</i>.</p> <p>Aside from the development of orthography for the 11 major languages, the KWF is also in the process of developing orthographies for</p>

Continuation... Basic Education and Culture				<p>other native languages in the country. He stressed that it is important that native languages should have a documented orthography considering that the KWF has already classified 40 languages as “endangered” or in the brink of extinction because they are no longer being used.</p> <p>Canega defined “orthography” in Filipino as: <i>sining ng tamang pagbaybay at pagsulat ng mga salita ayon sa tamang pamantayan o gamit.</i> (According to Merriam-Webster dictionary, “orthography” refers to the art of writing words with the proper letters according to standard usage.)</p> <p>Meanwhile, Chief Education Program Specialist Rosalina Villaneza of the Deped’s Bureau of Learning Delivery-Teaching and Learning Division (BLD-TLD) reported that the Department is finalizing the MTB-MLE Operations Manual based on Deped’s regional consultations around the country. She said that the manual’s objective is to improve the implementation of MTB-MLE making it more effective especially in linguistically-diverse communities.</p> <p>Likewise, Villaneza mentioned that DepEd has been working closely with KWF in the development of the orthography for the 19 languages that will be used for the MTB-MLE considering that these are the languages widely used by the students nationwide. The 11 major languages mentioned earlier by Canega form part of the 19 languages.</p> <p>Rep. Romulo wondered how the DepEd came up with the teaching and resource materials for the 19 languages under the MTB-MLE when KWF reported that it is yet to finalize the orthography for <i>Sebwano, Hiligaynon, Bikol, and Meranaw</i>. The Chair opined that the orthography of all the 19 languages should have been finalized first before coming up with the corresponding teaching and resource materials.</p> <p>Canega said that the learning materials for the remaining major languages without orthographies were based on “working orthographies” which can still be polished as DepEd and KWF get feedback and inputs from the teachers.</p> <p>Rep. Christopher de Venecia (4th District, Pangasinan) requested the submission of the list of publishers of these learning materials.</p>
	HB 7621	Rep. De Venecia	Establishing a framework for funding the development and operations of the National Museum of the Philippines through the annual General Appropriations Act to complement and support the development of K-12 education in the country	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on House Bill 7621 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. De Venecia, author of HB 7621, cited the importance of funding the development and operations of the National Museum of the Philippines (NMP). He mentioned that the</p>

Continuation... Basic Education and Culture				<p>museum industry will not just complement and support the development of K-12 education, but will also create employment. He proposed that an amount of P1 billion or 0.025% of the approved budget of DepEd must be allocated to NMP to support its operations and to create more museums across the country. (NMP is an attached agency of DepEd.)</p> <p>NMP Director Jeremy Barns and DepEd Assistant Secretary Ramon Fiel Abcede expressed support for the bill.</p> <p>However, Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Supervising Budget and Management Specialist Edelita Ocampo said that DBM will still study the proposed funding provision of the bill. As stated in the bill, the annual budget of the National Museum under the General Appropriations Act (GAA) shall not be less than 5% of the total budget of DepEd for each fiscal year.</p> <p>According to Ocampo, this funding scheme is called benchmarking, which is contrary to the usual budget process of the DBM. She suggested that the source of funds should be clearly stated in the bill.</p> <p>To address the concern of DBM, Rep. De Venecia suggested that the funding provision of the bill be revised to reflect instead that DepEd shall allocate a certain portion of its budget as support to the NMP.</p> <p>Abcede agreed with the suggestion of Rep. De Venecia. However, Barns said that he is inclined to support the proposal of Rep. De Venecia, which is to earmark 0.025% of DepEd's budget to NMP.</p> <p>The Committee will continue its discussion on the bill's funding provision in its next meeting on HB 7621.</p>
---	--	--	--	---

AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)	Report by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) on the status of the payment of pending claims to health care institutions (HCIs) in Regions I & II and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and the conduct of Oplan Reconciliation with the different HCIs in these areas	<p>The Committee, presided by Rep. Sandra Eriguel, M.D. (2nd District, La Union), listened to the report of PhilHealth on the status of the payment of pending claims filed by the HCIs in Regions I, II and CAR and its reconciliation of records with the different HCIs in these areas through "Oplan Reconciliation."</p> <p>Rep. Ramon "Mon-Mon" Guico III (5th District, Pangasinan), Chairperson of the Special Committee on North Luzon Growth Quadrangle, expressed his appreciation for the efforts exerted by PhilHealth in fast-tracking the payment of unpaid claims to HCIs in North Luzon. He said the PhilHealth has already undertaken measures and adjustments to expedite the processing of unpaid claims. After his brief remarks, the Chair excused himself from the meeting because he needed to attend</p>

Continuation...
North Luzon Growth
Quadrangle
(Special Committee)

to more pressing concerns in his district as many areas remain flooded due to the onslaught of Typhoon Maring. He turned over his presiding duties to Rep. Eriguel.

PhilHealth President and Chief Executive Officer Dante Gierran confirmed the Chair's statement that PhilHealth had already implemented several measures to fast-track the payment of unpaid claims which include the augmentation of its manpower and improvement of its information technology infrastructure for faster validation and processing of claims.

PhilHealth Area I Vice President Walter Bacareza reported that out of the 1,062,633 claims involving an amount of P7.75 billion in Area I (Region I, II, and CAR) for the period January to August 2021, 67% were already paid, 8% were "returned" to hospitals, 2% were denied, and 23% are still in process. He explained that the reasons for claims being returned to hospitals could be that the required documents were either unavailable, incomplete, inconsistent, or unreadable or there were discrepancies in the information provided. On the other hand, the reasons for denied claims were either due to late filing of claims which should be within the 60-day statutory period or some cases were not compensable under PhilHealth's policies.

On the conduct of Oplan Reconciliation in Area I for the period January to August 2021, Bacareza said that out of the total claims, 385,240 claims involving an amount of P3.32 billion had to be reconciled and 98% of which have been successfully matched or reconciled by PhilHealth to date. Of the reconciled claims, 59% have been paid, 2% were denied, 8% were returned to hospitals, and 31% are still in process.

In the previous meeting of the Committee, one of the key recommendations of PhilHealth for faster processing of claims was for HCl's to submit their claims using the Reconciliation Summary Module (RSM) in the PhilHealth portal. The RSM also provides an easier and faster reconciliation of all claims.

On the part of the Philippine Hospital Association (PHA), its president, Jaime Almora, maintained that there are still a number of hospitals that have not been paid by PhilHealth for their COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 claims particularly in Regions I, II, and CAR. He also alleged that the reason why hospitals are still not being paid is because PhilHealth no longer has sufficient funds for this. He also mentioned that PhilHealth personnel are supposedly now hesitant to make transactions with hospitals for fear of being involved in graft and corruption cases being pursued by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI). He recalled that in January of this year, the NBI filed a complaint with the Ombudsman against some officials and personnel of PhilHealth for violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act in connection with anomalous releases of funds under the PhilHealth's Interim Reimbursement Mechanism (IRM). (The IRM is intended to be used for fortuitous events like outbreaks or pandemics.)

Gierran refuted Almora's statement that PhilHealth is now financially incapable of paying the pending claims. He added though that should this happen, Congress may be requested to provide additional funds for PhilHealth if necessary. As for the PhilHealth officials and personnel with cases at the Ombudsman on the initiative of the NBI, he said this is out of PhilHealth's hands.

<p>Continuation... North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>		<p>Commenting on the PHA president's report that there are still many hospitals in North Luzon with unpaid claims, Bacareza assured that this will be addressed soon with PhilHealth's creation of a task force that will specifically review and process unpaid, denied or returned claims.</p> <p>Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma also questioned the accuracy of the report of PhilHealth as there are still hospitals in her district that have not yet been paid by PhilHealth. She requested PhilHealth to submit to her office a monthly report on the status of unpaid claims of HCIs in her district. Bacareza said that PhilHealth will comply with the request of Rep. Cuaresma.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Eriguel requested an update on the implementation of PhilHealth Circular 2021-008 issued on June 19 which provides that only claims for confirmed COVID-19 cases, based on a positive COVID-19 result of RT-PCR (Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction) test, shall be covered by the existing COVID-19 Inpatient Benefit Package.</p> <p>PhilHealth Acting Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Eli Dino Santos replied that the PhilHealth Board decided to maintain a prospective application of the Circular but a grace period will be implemented covering the period November 2020 to June 19, 2021.</p> <p>Rep. Eriguel appealed to PhilHealth to further move back the grace period to May 2020 instead of November 2020 so that more PhilHealth members who contracted the virus in the early months of 2020 will be covered by the benefit package.</p> <p>The resource persons representing various hospitals in Regions I, II, and CAR also posed queries and sought clarifications which were duly answered by the PhilHealth officials present during the meeting.</p> <p>On another matter, the Committee approved the motion of Rep. Cuaresma for the filing of a House Resolution urging the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF), the Department of Health, and the Office of the President to increase the vaccine supply in North Luzon.</p>
--	--	--