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COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Banks and Financial Intermediaries	HB 10440	Rep. Cua	Reorganizing the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP)	<p>The Committee chaired by Quirino Rep. Junie Cua, approved House Bill 10440 subject to style, incorporating in it the recommendations agreed upon during the meeting. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>HB 10440 seeks to amend the LBP Charter in order to place the bank in a stronger position to pursue further the policy thrusts of the national government, especially on countryside development, while sustaining its institutional viability amid a highly competitive banking industry.</p> <p>In today's meeting, the Committee discussed the position papers and proposals of the following government agencies relative to the bill: Department of Finance, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Governance Commission for GOCCs (Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations), National Economic and Development Authority, and Civil Service Commission.</p> <p>The Bankers Association of the Philippines and the Microfinance Council of the Philippines, Inc. expressed their full support for the passage of the bill.</p> <p>The LBP accepted most of the proposals particularly those from the BSP and agreed that some recommendations will just have to be reflected in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the proposed law.</p> <p>Among the provisions that the LBP agreed to be included in the bill were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LBP shall operate under the provisions of Republic Act 3844 (Agricultural Land Reform Code), as amended, as a government financial institution responsible for broad-based agricultural and rural development and accelerated financial inclusion. It shall provide accessible and innovative solutions to deliver timely and responsive financial and support services to rural financial institutions as well as small farmers, fisherfolk, and agrarian reform beneficiaries. The LBP shall remain to be a body corporate and shall have perpetual

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Banks and Financial Intermediaries</p>				<p>existence. It shall be supervised by the BSP taking into account its mandated roles of spurring countryside development and supporting the country's financial inclusion objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LBP shall have the power to offer and issue common and preferred shares of stocks in such manner and in such quantities as approved by the Secretary of Finance upon the recommendation of the LBP Board of Directors and in accordance with applicable laws, rules and regulations: Provided, however, that the national government shall maintain at all times, at least 2/3 ownership of the total outstanding common voting shares of the LBP. Except for the national government, no individual or group, related interest, or conglomerate, whether via voting trust agreement, proxy, or otherwise, shall vote more than 5% of the total outstanding common voting shares of the LBP. • The LBP Board, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Finance and with the approval of the President of the Philippines, may increase the capitalization of the LBP up to such an amount as may be necessary to attain the objectives of its Charter. <p>Committee Vice Chair, Rep. John Reynald Tiangco (Navotas), asked if the proposed law, which revises the Charter of the LBP, will have an effect on the upcoming merger of LBP and the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB). LBP President and Chief Executive Officer Cecilia Borromeo answered in the negative. She explained that after the merger, the LBP will remain as the surviving entity, with all the assets and liabilities of UCPB to be transferred to LBP.</p>
<p>Civil Service and Professional Regulation</p>	<p>Substitute Bill to HBs 9621, 9842 & 10368</p>	<p>Deputy Speaker Arenas, Reps. Deloso-Montalla, and Villafuerte</p>	<p>Instituting the Magna Carta for all non-uniformed workers in the military and all other uniformed agencies</p>	<p>The Committee, presided by Rep. Manuel Cabochan III (Party-List, MAGDALO), approved the substitute bill subject to style and amendment. The corresponding Committee Report was likewise approved.</p> <p>Rep. Cabochan said that in the Committee's previous meeting, the Committee discussed and approved in principle House Bills 9621 and 9842 and agreed to come up with a substitute bill. Hence, in today's meeting the Committee will deliberate on the substitute bill and incorporate in it HB 10368, which has a similar subject matter and was recently referred to the Committee.</p> <p>The proposed law seeks to promote and improve the social and economic well-being of</p>

<p>Continuation... Civil Service and Professional Regulation</p>				<p>all non-uniformed personnel (NUP) in the military and other uniformed agencies in the government by affording them additional benefits to compensate their hard work and the risk that they are exposed to in performing their duties.</p> <p>Under the proposed law, NUP shall refer to all civilian employees in the Armed Forces of the Philippines and all other uniformed agencies of the government, including the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Department of National Defense, Bureau of Fire Prevention, Bureau of Corrections, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, and the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority.</p> <p>Expressing support for the proposed law were representatives from the PNP, PNP NUP Association Inc., and Public Service Labor Independent Confederation.</p> <p>On the other hand, DBM's Organization, Position, Classification and Compensation Bureau Director Jocelyn dela Cruz conveyed the DBM's comments and recommendations on the proposed law, which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recruitment of NUP should be open to all qualified individuals and based on merit and fitness and not on affinity. (The proposed law provides that qualified next of kin of retired or deceased NUP shall be given priority in recruitment and hiring subject to existing hiring and selection procedures.) • The grant of subsistence, clothing, medical, and cost of living allowances should be consistent with existing government policies, while the grant of laundry allowance and hazard pay should be limited to those personnel/health worker performing duties that pose health risks. <p>Likewise, Civil Service Commission's (CSC) Office for Legal Affairs Director III Christian Dawn Molina said that the provision giving priority to the next of kin of retired or deceased NUP in the hiring process limits the appointing authority's discretion to choose whom to appoint from a pool of qualified applicants.</p> <p>Reps. Cabochan and Ferdinand Gaité (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA) pointed out that the next of kin of retired or deceased NUP will not be given automatic employment as it is stated in the proposed law that they should first qualify to the position being applied for and that their application shall be subjected to existing hiring and selection procedures.</p>
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Continuation... Civil Service and Professional Regulation				<p>Meanwhile, PNP Legal Service Acting Director George Almaden recommended that the grant of hazard pay be limited to NUPs whose employment assignment is exposed to health risks such as those in the uniformed agencies' health department or explosive division.</p> <p>Rep. Cabochan reacted that the provision on hazard pay be retained in the bill subject to existing rules on the same. On the other hand, Rep. Raymond Democrito Mendoza (Party-List, TUCP) suggested that the conditions for granting the hazard pay be placed instead in the proposed law's implementing rules and regulations.</p> <p>On the proposed retirement program for NUP, Almaden suggested that such retirement package should be consistent with Republic Act 8291 or the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Act of 1997. The PNP also expressed its support to the earlier proposal of PNP NUP Association Inc. that any NUP who has reached the age of 55 may avail of the early retirement program and shall be paid benefits in accordance with applicable laws, provided that the person has rendered at least 15 years of continuous service in the agency. Under the proposed law, the age required to avail of the early retirement program is 60 years old.</p> <p>The Committee adopted the suggestions of Almaden and the PNP NUP Association Inc.</p>
Health	HB 9821	Rep. Tan (A.)	Institutionalizing a National Psoriasis Care Program and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon), approved House Bill 9821 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Tan, who is also the author of HB 9821, temporarily relinquished her presiding duties to Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Ciriaco Gato Jr. (Batanes), in order to deliver her sponsorship speech.</p> <p>According to Rep. Tan, her bill seeks to address the unmet needs of Filipinos suffering from psoriatic disease which is affecting 2% of the country's population. She explained that psoriatic disease is a chronic, painful, disfiguring, and disabling non-communicable disease with no known cure. Thus, she said institutionalizing a psoriatic disease care program will improve the quality of lives of patients with psoriasis especially the poor, underprivileged, and marginalized Filipinos by providing timely, optimal, equitable, and affordable treatment.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bill were the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation,</p>

Continuation... Health				<p>Government Service Insurance System, Social Security System, Philippine Medical Association, Philippine Dermatological Society, and Psoriasis Philippines.</p> <p>DSWD Project Development Officer Artemio Bautista conveyed to the body that the DSWD classifies psoriatic patients as persons with disabilities (PWDs), who are eligible beneficiaries of the Social Amelioration Program of the DSWD.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill.</p>
	HB 10045	Rep. Sy-Alvarado	Increasing the bed capacity of the Bulacan Medical Center in the City of Malolos, Bulacan from 300 to 600 beds, upgrading its professional health care services and facilities, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved House Bill 10045, subject to style and amendment, and the submission of DOH requirements on increasing or upgrading hospital capacity.</p> <p>DOH's Health Facility Development Bureau-Research and Performance Management Division Chief Roderick Napulan expressed support for the bill. He said the proposed law will not only benefit the residents of Bulacan but the entire Region III as well.</p>
	HBs 463, 2580, 5319, 5389, 5473, 5823, 5931, 6357 & 7083	Reps. Kho (E.), Nieto, Suansing (E.), Noel, Deputy Speaker Villanueva, Reps. Vargas, Bagatsing, Fariñas (Ria Christina), and Delos Santos	Mandating food establishments to display the nutritional facts and information on food and beverages in their menus	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to discuss further the nine bills and come up with a substitute bill.</p> <p>The bills seek to require restaurants and other food establishments to display the nutritional contents of their standard menu items to help customers make informed and healthier decision on their food choices, ultimately decreasing their susceptibility to life-threatening diseases and promoting healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bills were the DOLE, FDA, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Trade and Industry, National Nutrition Council (NNC), and Nutritionist-Dietitians' Association of the Philippines (NDAP).</p> <p>NDAP National President Zenaida Velasco said the proposed law will promote healthy habits as consumers become aware of the nutritional contents of their food and choose the proper food to eat.</p> <p>Likewise, NNC Nutrition Policy and Planning Division Officer-in-Charge Marivic Samson said nutrition labeling of the menu items of restaurants and similar food establishments will be beneficial especially for those with health condition who need to follow a stricter diet. She also highlighted that this would compel food chains to serve healthier and nutritious food. She recommended that even <i>carinderias</i> and cafeterias should also be covered by the proposed law.</p>

Continuation... Health				<p>For his part, DOLE Bureau of Working Conditions Medical Officer Marco Antonio Valeros suggested that the proposed law specify which government agency will be mandated to enforce the penalty provisions. He recommended that the local government unit, through its food inspectors, be authorized to enforce the penalty provision.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers for the TWG's consideration in deliberating on the bills.</p>
	HB 3285	Rep. Adiong	Converting the Wao District Hospital in the Municipality of Wao, Province of Lanao del Sur into a Level II hospital functioning as an annex of Amai Pakpak Medical Center, to be known as the Amai Pakpak Medical Center Annex, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee deferred the approval of House Bill 3285 to confer with the author the recommendations of the DOH.</p> <p>Napulan recommended that the Wao District Hospital be retained as a separate hospital instead of an annex of Amai Pakpak Medical Center. He said the establishment of extension or annex hospitals tend to deplete the budget of the mother hospital, which in this case is the Amai Pakpak Medical Center, currently being funded by the DOH. He recommended that the Amai Pakpak Medical Center be upgraded instead to meet the health care demands of Lanao del Sur. Further, he explained that since the Wao District Hospital is being funded by the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) government, its conversion into a Level II hospital and the corresponding funding requirement should be legislated by the BARMM Parliament.</p>
	HB 6121	Rep. Salimbangon	Establishing a general hospital in Barangay Luy-a, Municipality of Medellin, Province of Cebu to be known as Bogo-Medellin Hospital, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee deferred the approval of House Bill 6121 to confer with the author the recommendations of the DOH.</p> <p>The DOH suggested that instead of establishing a new general hospital in Barangay Luy-a in Medellin, Cebu, the service capability of the Severo Verallo Memorial District Hospital in Bogo City (about 21 minutes away from Medellin) should just be strengthened. He said the latter could meet the health care requirements of the residents of both the Municipality of Medellin and Bogo City once it is upgraded.</p>
Public Order and Safety	Substitute Bill to HBs 3895, 5127, 5674, 6109, 6912, 8055 & 8271 and SBN 1155	Reps. Cuaresma, Cabochan, Deputy Speaker Savellano, Rep. Villafuerte, Deputy Speaker Teves (A.), Rep. Suansing (E.), and Sen. Recto	Fixing the validity period of the license to own and possess firearms, permit to carry outside of residence or place of business, and registration of firearms, amending for the purpose Sections 7, 8 and 19 of RA 10591, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Narciso Bravo Jr. (1st District, Masbate), approved the substitute bill subject to style and amendment. The corresponding Committee Report was likewise approved.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Bravo explained that the substitute bill was revised to incorporate the agreements made with Deputy Speaker Arnolfo "Arnie" Teves Jr. (3rd District, Negros Oriental), author of HB 8055, and the recommendations of other stakeholders.</p> <p>Rep. Bravo said that the revised substitute bill allows gun owners to secure License to Own</p>

<p>Continuation... Public Order and Safety</p>				<p>and Possess Firearms (LTOPF) and to register their firearms with a five-year or 10-year validity. The proposed law also extends the validity of permit to carry firearms outside of residence or place of business to two years from the date of application. Moreover, it mandates the Philippine National Police (PNP) Firearms and Explosives Office (FEO) to issue only one card for both the LTOPF and the firearm registration.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Teves said that he agrees with the five-year or 10-year validity of the firearms registration and the extension of the validity of permit to carry outside of residence or place of business to two years. However, he maintained that the LTOPF should have a lifetime validity.</p> <p>Rep. Bravo was amenable to the suggestion of Deputy Speaker Teves. He added that instead of renewing the LTOPF, a periodic monitoring should be undertaken to determine whether or not the licensee is still fit to own a firearm.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Teves, however, said that instead of a periodic monitoring, which would be burdensome to the PNP and will entail additional cost for the licensee, a provision may be included in the bill which states that the LTOPF is valid until otherwise revoked.</p> <p>PNP Civil Security Group Deputy Director Dominic Bedia said that the revised substitute bill is a welcome development for the PNP, as the office mandated to regulate the use of firearms by civilians. He likewise recognizes that the synchronization and extension of the validity period of the LTOPF and firearm registration has always been the clamor of the stakeholders and gun enthusiasts.</p> <p>However, while the PNP supports the proposed law, Bedia suggested that a control mechanism should be in place in between the validity period of five or 10 years to regulate the possession of firearms considering that these can be instruments of violence. This control mechanism can be in the form of periodic drug testing, neuro-psychiatric examinations, and submission of police clearance.</p> <p>Objecting to the proposed lifetime validity of LTOP, PNP-FEO Chief Rommil Mitra said that the periodic renewal of the license is in keeping with balancing the statutory privilege of firearm owners and protecting the national interest.</p> <p>As a compromise, Deputy Speaker Teves said that he is amenable to limiting the validity of LTOPF to five years or 10 years at the option of the applicant. However, he stressed that the PNP should do away with the periodic drug testing and neuro-psychiatric examinations</p>
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<p>Continuation... Public Order and Safety</p>				<p>during the validity period of the license. Such drug testing and neuro-psychiatric examinations should only be done during the application and renewal of the license, he further said.</p> <p>Reps. Adriano Ebcas (Party-List, AKO PADAYON) and Manuel Cabochan III (Party-List, MAGDALO) supported Deputy Speaker Teves' proposal.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Deputy Speaker Isidro Ungab (3rd District, Davao City) proposed that the certification that an LTOPF applicant is a retiree or reservist of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) should be decentralized to the AFP's regional command so that the approval and issuance of such document will no longer have to be done at the AFP's general headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo.</p> <p>Mitra replied that this may be considered in the implementing rules and regulations of the proposed law. He also informed the Committee that the PNP's processing of the renewal of the LTOPF and registration of firearms have already been decentralized to its regional offices.</p> <p>On the issuance of a single card for both the LTOP and firearms registration, Mitra opined that it is better not to merge the two considering that each has a different set of requirements to be complied with. He added that the LTOP pertains to regulating the gun owner, while the firearms registration is a regulatory measure on just the firearms.</p> <p>Likewise, Minority Leader Joseph Stephen Paduano (Party-List, ABANG LINGKOD) said it is better and practical to have separate cards for LTOP and firearms registration. Once the two documents are merged, he said problems may arise because the LTOP cannot be transferred to another person should the original gun owner decide to sell or donate his/her firearm.</p> <p>Hearing the comments of the PNP and the Minority Leader, Deputy Speaker Teves did not anymore pursue his proposal to have a single document for LTOP and firearms registration.</p> <p>The Committee also agreed to exempt elected officials and sports shooters from the submission of threat assessment certificate as long as they comply with the requirements of the PNP.</p> <p>Under Republic Act 10591, the person applying for a permit to carry firearms outside of residence shall prove that his/her life is under actual threat by submitting a threat assessment certificate from the PNP. The certificate is issued to any qualified person</p>
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Continuation... Public Order and Safety				<p>whose life is under actual threat or in imminent danger due to the nature of his/her profession, occupation or business.</p> <p>The PNP was requested to submit its official position paper on the substitute bill in a week's time.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Trade and Industry	Briefing by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) on the implementing guidelines on the de-escalation to Alert Level 2 quarantine classification of the National Capital Region (NCR) starting November 5, 2021 until November 21, 2021	<p>The Committee, chaired by Navotas City Rep. John Reynald Tiangco, listened to the briefing of the IATF on the implementing guidelines on the de-escalation to Alert Level 2 quarantine classification of the NCR starting November 5, 2021 until November 21, 2021.</p> <p>At the start of the meeting, Rep. Tiangco presented the timeline on the de-escalation of the alert level in the NCR, as approved by the IATF, from Alert Level 4 (September 16 to October 15) to Alert Level 3 (October 16 to November 4), and now to Alert Level 2 for the period November 5 until November 21. He said it is important to be updated on the activities that will be allowed during the Alert Level 2 period and to be assured that it is already safe for the people especially children to go to public places. He mentioned the case of a two-year-old boy who tested positive of COVID-19 three days after visiting a mall. Although, he said, he agrees that the transition to Alert Level 2 will be favorable for businesses and will definitely prop up reemployment. He said based on the study of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the gross domestic product (GDP) of the country can increase by P3.6 billion and unemployment can be reduced by 16,000 per week with the lowering of the alert level.</p> <p>Pursuant to Executive Order 151, series of 2021, the Alert Level System was rolled out nationwide to allow the reinvigoration of the economy through the opening of more sectors, while protecting the people's health through the continued observance of public health protocols and interventions and the implementation of granular lockdowns.</p> <p>The representatives of government agencies that comprise the IATF gave their respective positions on the downgrading of the alert level status of NCR to Alert Level 2.</p> <p>Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Ramon Lopez expressed confidence that the country is already recovering from the ill-effects of the pandemic as COVID-19 cases continue to decrease and more Filipinos are getting vaccinated against the virus. He explained that business operations were more unstable before because the country only relied on lockdowns to control the spread of COVID-19. With more people acquiring higher immunity through vaccination, he said COVID-19 is expected to be seen as just a regular flu that is non-fatal not long from now.</p> <p>According to Lopez, the country has recorded a GDP growth rate of 12% and 7.1% for the second and third quarter of this year, respectively. He said the employment rate also started to improve since October and to date, exports also grew by 18% compared to its 2019 growth rate of just 5%. For foreign direct</p>

Continuation...
Trade and Industry

investments, he reported that the growth rate has increased from 30% in 2019 to 43% in 2020.

NEDA Undersecretary Rosemarie Edillon presented the National Action Plan Phase 4 (NAP4) and the NAP4 scorecard. She explained that the NAP4 covers the country's vaccination plan as well as the recovery plans for health and the economy which are aligned with the National COVID-19 Vaccine Roadmap and the updated Philippine Development Plan. Under the health recovery plan, she said the main focus is the enhanced implementation of the Prevent, Detect, Isolate, Treat, Reintegrate, plus Vaccinate (PDITR+V) strategy.

Edillon also explained that the NAP4 scorecard measures the progress of implementation of the NAP4 through indicators on infection management, vaccine rollout, and socioeconomic recovery, among others. While there are international indices that show how well countries manage and recover from COVID-19, the NAP4 scorecard best describes the current status of the country against the pandemic and its strategic economic recovery.

Department of Health's (DOH) Epidemiology Bureau medical specialist Alethea de Guzman gave an overview of the COVID-19 situation in the country and discussed the concept of the Alert Level System. She said that the NCR and the Calabarzon Region, which used to have high cases of COVID-19, are now excluded from the top areas with the greatest number of new cases, hence the downgrading of the quarantine classification of NCR to Alert Level 2.

As of November 14, De Guzman reported that the overall COVID-19 recorded cases in the country is 2,816,980 of which 97.38% or 2,743,297 have recovered, 1.62% or 45,581 succumbed to the virus, and 1% or 28,102 are active cases. Out of the active cases, 23,906 are asymptomatic, mild, and moderate while 4,196 are severe and critical.

De Guzman highlighted that the goal right now is to shift from disease elimination to disease control with the advent of more transmissible COVID-19 variants, such as the Delta variant. She said the target is to fast-track the vaccination of at least 70% of the population to reduce severe and critical COVID-19 cases and prevent overcapacity of health care facilities.

With regard to the Alert Level System, De Guzman explained that Alert Levels 1 to 5 aim to control or manage high risk activities in close contact settings, closed places, and crowded places (three "Cs") and the implementation of granular lockdowns. In contrast, the community quarantine classifications such as the Enhanced Community Quarantine, Modified Enhance Community Quarantine, and General Community Quarantine, involve widespread/sectoral restrictions.

De Guzman mentioned some of the overall directions in implementing the Alert Level System which include stricter measures in the three Cs settings for vulnerable groups by the local government units; long-term investments in ventilation, outdoor spaces, vaccination, and safety seal certification; and the issuance of advisories during holidays to limit the exposure of vulnerable groups.

Safety Seal Certification is a voluntary certification scheme that affirms that an establishment is compliant with the minimum public health standards set by the government and uses or

<p>Continuation... Trade and Industry</p>		<p>integrates its contact tracing with StaySafe.ph. The DTI issues the Safety Seal for supermarkets, groceries, convenience stores, membership shopping clubs, construction supply/hardware stores, logistics service providers, barbershops and salons, and service and repair shops. (Source: DTI website)</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Weslie Gatchalian (1st District, Valenzuela City), advised the DTI and the IATF to ensure that the Safety Seal certification for all business establishments is being strictly implemented.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the downgrading of the alert level status of NCR to Alert Level 2 were the Department of Tourism, Employers Confederation of the Philippines, Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship – Go Negosyo, Philippine Association of Private Schools, Colleges, and Universities, Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc., Octa Research Group, Robinsons Land Corporation, and SM Investments Corporation.</p> <p>Although supportive of the downgrading, Octa Research Group Fellow Guido David warned that children between 10-15 years of age may have a higher risk of infection compared to adults, as observed in the United Kingdom, which is caused by the Delta variant. Thus, he recommended that travel restrictions for this age group be in place for now.</p> <p>Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara (3rd District, Nueva Ecija) queried on reports of certain pharmaceutical companies planning to establish COVID-19 vaccine facilities in the country. She likewise asked the DOH to apprise the body of the effectiveness of Ivermectin as a prophylactic drug against COVID-19.</p> <p>DTI Undersecretary Ireneo Vizmonte said that if pharmaceutical companies are planning to establish such vaccine facilities, there are no concrete actions to this effect as of the moment. On the effectiveness of Ivermectin, he said the Philippine Society for Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Inc. Living Clinical Practice Guideline for COVID-19 still maintains that there is no evidence to support the use of Ivermectin in treating COVID-19 and that there are no approved prophylactic medicines yet for COVID-19. However, he informed the body that there is an ongoing study on Ivermectin in relation to the treatment and prevention of COVID-19 which is being funded by the DOH in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit the documents and materials they presented during the meeting.</p>
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