

Committee Daily Bulletin



17th Congress
First Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. I No. 122
June 14, 2017

COMMITTEE MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Public Order and Safety jt. w/ Games and Amusements and Tourism	<i>Motu proprio</i> inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the Resorts World Manila incident	<p>The three Committees, respectively chaired by Reps. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), Gus Tambunting (2nd District, Parañaque City), and Lucy Gomez (4th District, Leyte), continued their joint inquiry into the incident at the Resorts World Manila (RWM) last June 2, 2017 that left 38 people dead, including the lone perpetrator, and 63 others wounded.</p> <p>House Members continued to question officials and personnel of the Resorts World Manila (RWM), the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), and other agencies for the apparent security lapses, lack of coordination between RWM and the police, delayed rescue and evacuation of trapped employees and guests, and ineffective fire-fighting system, among other issues.</p> <p>RWM President Kingson Sian said that, in compliance with the <i>subpoena duces tecum</i> issued by the Committee, RWM has already submitted four hard discs containing CCTV footage captured by 409 surveillance cameras from 8:00 pm of June 1 up to 12:00 noon of June 2. The extraction of CCTV footage captured by 3,106 surveillance cameras on May 31, the remaining hours of June 1 and 2, and June 3 is currently ongoing under the supervision of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), Sian continued.</p> <p>RWM Chief Operating Officer (COO) Stephen James Reilly mentioned that RWM has engaged a third-party consultant from Singapore to ensure the safe transfer of the video files. He said that the extraction of all the CCTV footage will take 33 days to complete.</p> <p>Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1st District, Ilocos Norte), acknowledging the difficulty presented by Reilly, said that RWM may hold in abeyance the submission of the rest of the CCTV footage from May 31 to June 3 until required further by the Committee.</p> <p>Mary Grace Rayala, the lady guard on duty at the time of the incident, recalled how she attempted to prevent the suspect from getting inside the Resorts World after evading the walk-through metal detector at the entrance but ran for safety when the suspect brandished his firearm. She added that she immediately alerted, through radio, all the RWM security personnel of what had happened.</p> <p>Asked to explain his absence during the Committee's previous meeting, BFP Chief Bobby Baruelo said that the invitation came late and he was already in Davao City at that time to check on the proposed training center in Compostela Valley for the 4,000 fire personnel.</p> <p>Majority Leader Fariñas and other House Members chided the BFP chief for not giving priority to the congressional inquiry which is more important than the inspection of a training center.</p> <p>PNP officials led by National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Regional Director Oscar Albayalde and RWM management and security officials replied to questions posed by the House Members, at times blaming each other, for their failure to immediately pinpoint the exact location of the suspect and neutralize him, and to determine if there were several assailants.</p>

<p>Continuation... Public Order and Safety jt. w/ Games and Amusements and Tourism</p>		<p>Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu) said that the location of the PNP command post should have been near the hotel's surveillance center which should have facilitated the tracking of the suspect.</p> <p>On the report by the PNP that RWM's assistant director for security Petronilo Kinol Jr. can confirm that the CCTV room was abandoned at the time that the police and RWM security personnel were pursuing the suspect, the Committee decided to invite Kinol to attend the next hearing to shed light on the matter.</p> <p>Rep. Gomez inquired on the capability of the security personnel of NC Lanting Security Specialist Agency (RWM's security provider) to go after an assailant. Lanting consultant Warren David said that Lanting security guards are well trained in hand to hand combat which cannot be applied during incidents like that in RWM wherein the assailant was armed with a high-powered firearm. David also mentioned that assigning an unarmed guard at the hotel entrance was the decision of the internal security of RWM.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Mylene Garcia-Albano (2nd District, Davao City) underscored the need for the PNP and the BFP to review the effectiveness of the emergency preparedness and crisis management plan of establishments such as the RWM. Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon commented that the RWM incident would not have resulted in such number of fatalities had the plan been properly executed.</p> <p>BFP Regional Director Senior Superintendent Wilberto Rico Neil Kwan Tiu admitted that the lack of search and rescue tools and equipment, including breathing apparatus, and lack of first-hand information on the prevailing situation in RWM at that time prevented the fire-fighting team from conducting a full-scale operation.</p> <p>Like in the previous hearing, House Members again called for a review of Republic Act 7916 which authorizes the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), instead of the BFP, to issue fire safety permit and building permit to locators in economic zones. RWM is within an economic zone under the jurisdiction of PEZA.</p> <p>Replying to Rep. Cristina "Chiqui" Roa-Puno's (1st District, Antipolo City) question on what RWM has learned from this incident, Reilly said that RWM has engaged a third party external security professional to review its security and emergency plans and has replaced its security provider.</p> <p>Asked by San Jose del Monte City Rep. Florida "Rida" Robes if the victims and their families received due compensation from RWM, Sian said that the management of RWM committed to put up a foundation that will provide free educational assistance to the children of the deceased and provide them with jobs after graduation, as well as extend medical assistance to parents of the deceased who were single.</p> <p>The Committee will issue a subpoena to David Chua Ming Huat, chairman of Travellers International Hotel Group, Inc., to compel his attendance in the next meeting. (According to a report it submitted to the Committee, Travellers International Hotel Group is a company "doing business under the name and style of 'Resorts World Manila.'")</p>
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