

# Committee Daily Bulletin



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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 (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Antipolo City), Gus Tambunting (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Parañaque City), and Lucy Gomez (4<sup>th</sup> District, Leyte), terminated their joint inquiry relative to the Resorts World Manila (RWM) incident that occurred on June 2, 2017. They agreed that the three hearings on the incident already provide sufficient information that will guide them in coming up with an appropriate legislative measure that will strengthen the country's security laws and improve law enforcement.</p> <p>Rep. Tambunting said that the hearings exposed RWM's inability to handle such a crisis situation and its ineffective security and emergency protocols, the lack of coordination between RWM, the police and fire fighting agencies, and the conflicting interpretation of existing laws by concerned agencies.</p> <p>Rep. Gomez underscored the importance of a crisis response plan that will be applicable to all kinds of crisis or emergency situations. She also suggested that the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) be designated as the lead regulatory body over casinos, hotels and other tourism enterprises.</p> <p>On the part of Rep. Acop, he said he expects that concerned government agencies will act with dispatch to address the issues raised during the three congressional hearings.</p> <p>Called by the Joint Committee to present his side, David Chua Ming Huat, chairman of the Travellers International Hotel Group, Inc. (TIHGI), the owner and operator of RWM, recounted that his company invested in the Philippines because it believes in the Philippines' huge potential as a tourism destination and because of the country's wealth of natural and human resources.</p> <p>While expressing much regret over the tragic incident at RWM, Chua hoped that his company would be viewed more for its contributions to the Philippine economy having invested US\$1.3 billion in RWM and earmarked another US\$1.1 billion for Resorts World Westside City in Parañaque. He said RWM remitted to the government around P40 billion in license fees and other taxes, created approximately 25,000 direct and indirect jobs since 2008, and has supported the government's tourism promotion programs. With the support of Congress and other government agencies, he said he hopes that his company can start rebuilding itself for the benefit of its 6,000 staff and personnel.</p> <p>Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1<sup>st</sup> District, Ilocos Norte) asked Chua if he can give full assurance that Resorts World will never again compromise the security and safety of its</p>

<p>Continuation... Public Order and Safety jt. w/ Games and Amusements and Tourism</p>		<p>employees and guests if ever it will be allowed to operate again, to which Chua Ming Huat vowed to do.</p> <p>Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Surigao del Sur) and other House Members expressed dismay over the alleged looting of the valuables of the fatalities at the RWM. Rep. Pimentel further disclosed that based on his conversation with Rep. Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales Jr. (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Pampanga), whose wife and sister-in-law perished during the incident, aside from the missing rolex watch and credit and ATM cards of Rep. Gonzales' wife, money was withdrawn from her ATM account on June 5, three days after her death on June 2. Questions were raised on who were those who first arrived at the area where the fatalities were and who retrieved the bodies.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon and several other House Members maintained that the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) should have the authority to issue fire safety clearance to all establishments including those registered with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA).</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Vincent "Bingbong" Crisologo (1<sup>st</sup> District, Quezon City) on how the Resorts World can operate again after the issuance of the suspension order, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) Chair Andrea Domingo replied that it has to comply with a number of requirements aimed at ensuring a safer gaming environment. She added that PAGCOR is now preparing a checklist of all the requirements for RWM's full compliance, after which, the PAGCOR Board will decide whether or not to lift the suspension order.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Natural Resources (Technical Working Group)	HBs 54, 113, 1665, 2633 & 2715	Reps. Bag-ao, Baguilat, Cosalan, Villarin, and Zarate	Reorienting the Philippine mining industry towards national industrialization and ensuring the highest industry development standards	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate, will deliberate further on the five bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>The TWG focused its discussion on the provisions of the bill which provide for the fiscal regime (royalties, taxes and fees) in the exploration, development and utilization of the country's mineral resources, including how the revenues from mining projects will be shared between the State and the mining companies.</p> <p>National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Senior Economic Development Specialist Julius Casabal informed the TWG that the Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC), pursuant to EO 79 issued by then President Benigno Aquino III, came up with a draft bill that seeks to rationalize revenue sharing in mining projects. Unfortunately, Casabal said, the draft bill was not submitted for consideration by the previous Congress. [NEDA sits as the secretariat of the MICC with the Departments of Finance (DOF) and Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as co-chairs.]</p>

<p>Continuation... Natural Resources (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p><i>Bantay Kita</i>, a coalition of civil society organizations (CSOs) advocating transparency and accountability in the extractive industries, presented facts and figures on the country's mining industry based on the Philippines-Extractive Industries Transparency Initiatives (PH-EITI) Report. [EITI is a global standard promoting open and accountable management of extractive resources (oil, gas and minerals). The Philippines implements this standard.] (Source: <i>EITI.org</i>)</p> <p><i>Bantay Kita</i> Program Manager Tina Pimentel said that while revenues from mining increased significantly from 2012 to 2014, this went down in 2015. She said prices of minerals are very volatile as what happened in 2015 wherein the price of nickel dropped to half its prevailing price. She also said that in 2014, government revenue losses due to income tax holidays are estimated at P4.9 billion and due to non-collection of royalties from all mining companies, P2.5 billion.</p> <p>Pimentel recommended the following fiscal reforms in the mining industries: imposition of a 5% mineral tax on all mining companies, progressive tax on gross value of raw ore export, and 10% cash flow surcharge on windfall gains; increase in local government share from the national wealth from 40% to 50%; and scrapping of all incentives, except those on pollution mitigating measures.</p> <p><i>Alyansa Tigil Mina</i> National Coordinator Jaybee Garganera recommended the following fiscal regime for mining: imposition of a windfall profit tax; establishment of a sovereign wealth fund to be utilized for sustainable development initiatives; and mandatory compliance with EITI to ensure fiscal transparency and accountability.</p> <p>Chamber of Mines of the Philippines Vice President for Legal and Policy Ronald Recidoro recommended a progressive tax scheme wherein tax rates are increased as metal prices go up, but shall also be decreased as prices go down.</p> <p>The DOF and the DTI will be invited in the next TWG meeting. <i>Bantay Kita</i> was requested to submit data on the income and employment generated in each region where there are mining operations.</p>
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