



<p>Continuation... Constitutional Amendments</p>		<p>Domogan stressed that the rationale for granting autonomy to CAR, and to ARMM as well, is the recognition that local autonomy is the only way to speed up the development of these two regions which, he said, have long been neglected.</p> <p>However, Domogan lamented that after three decades since it was established, the CAR has not yet attained full autonomy and the region continues to receive the lowest internal revenue allotment (IRA) and the lowest share in the national budget compared to other regions in the country.</p> <p>Domogan hoped for the passage of HB 5343, principally authored by Ifugao Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr., as an Organic Act for the CAR that will finally be acceptable to the people of the Cordilleras.</p> <p>He recalled that two organic acts for the CAR, RA 6766 and RA 8438, were rejected by the people in two plebiscites held in 1990 and 1998, respectively.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Negros Occidental) about the amount of tax revenues generated by CAR, CRDC Vice Chairperson Milagros Rimando answered that CAR was able to collect P5.7 billion in 2016 and P4.8 billion in 2015. She said, however, that these figures are still smaller compared to the funding that CAR receives from the national government.</p> <p>Domogan explained that CAR's low collection of taxes can be attributed to the practice of major companies operating in CAR of paying taxes through their head offices located in Metro Manila.</p> <p>The officials of both the CAR and ARMM support the idea that large taxpayers should be required to pay taxes in the region where they are operating to make the host region self-sufficient.</p>
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