

# Committee Daily Bulletin

17<sup>th</sup> Congress  
First Regular Session

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ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Energy	Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress.</p> <p>Rep. Velasco presented the legislative agenda of the Committee for the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress, which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Craft laws that will address the concerns and challenges of the energy sector and its stakeholders, such as facilitating infrastructure projects and exploring power generation technologies;</li> <li>• Revitalize the Joint Congressional Power Commission (JCPC) and perform oversight functions for relevant energy laws; and</li> <li>• Promote an energy environment that will benefit the entire nation, such as institutionalizing energy efficiency and conservation and giving every Filipino affordable access to power.</li> </ul> <p>Committee Secretary Efen Cortez discussed the major accomplishments of the Committee during the 16<sup>th</sup> "Congress.</p>
	Briefing by the Department of Energy (DOE) on its mandate, accomplishments, and plans and programs, as well as the Philippine energy situation	<p>DOE Undersecretary Jesus Posadas presented the Department's recommendations aimed at addressing issues and challenges faced by the energy sector, which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address the peace and order situation in conflict areas to attain 100% electrification of targeted "unelectrified" households around the country;</li> <li>• Access study groups to assist the DOE in developing the appropriate portfolio of exploitable energy resources and dependable electric power capacities in order to attain the appropriate energy mix consistent with the projected economic growth up to 2030;</li> <li>• Execute an inter-agency Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to ensure transparency and predictability in the power generation, transmission and distribution permitting process;</li> <li>• Explore other sources of funds and review capital recovery period to connect the Mindanao Grid with the interconnected Visayas and Luzon Grids;</li> <li>• Advocate the passage of the Natural Gas Bill in order to build a "common carrier" liquefied natural gas (LNG) receiving and distribution infrastructure;</li> <li>• Advocate the enactment of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Bill, along with the conduct of a nationwide information, education, communication (IEC) campaign to increase public awareness on energy plans and programs;</li> <li>• Study the privatization scheme, particularly for Agus and Pulangi hydropower plants, to accelerate the total privatization of the assets of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM);</li> <li>• Incorporate and institutionalize capacity building activities/training in the budget; and</li> <li>• Review the blending requirements to ensure compliance with laws requiring the use of biofuels.</li> </ul>

<p>Continuation... Energy</p>	<p>DOE Undersecretary Felix William Fuentebella highlighted the major accomplishments of the DOE from 2015 up to the first semester of 2016. He also presented the DOE's strategic directions for 2016 up to 2030 and the thrusts and priorities for 2017 which revolve around the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring energy security;</li> <li>• Expanding energy access;</li> <li>• Promoting a low carbon future;</li> <li>• Encouraging more investments in energy infrastructure and facilities;</li> <li>• Pursuing the development and implementation of local energy plans;</li> <li>• Implementing and monitoring sectoral roadmaps and action plans;</li> <li>• Advocating the passage of the DOE's legislative agenda;</li> <li>• Strengthening consumer welfare and protection; and</li> <li>• Fostering stronger international relations and partnerships.</li> </ul> <p>Fuentebella likewise briefly discussed the country's power demand-supply outlook up to year 2030. He also informed the Committee that the Philippine Energy Plan for 2016-2030 is expected to be finalized by September 2016.</p> <p>Rep. Lianda Bolilia (4<sup>th</sup> District, Batangas) sought the assurance of the DOE that it will truly pursue its programs that will guarantee a reliable and efficient supply and affordable price of electricity for the Filipinos.</p> <p>Fuentebella assured the Members of the Committee that the DOE is committed to fulfill its mandate of ensuring quality, reliable and affordable supply of energy.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Romero "Miro" Quimbo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Marikina City) requested the DOE to submit to the Committee data on the country's consumption of diesel fuel which can be used as gauge in reviewing proposals to increase/impose excise tax on fuels, including diesel. At present, he said, no tax is imposed on diesel fuel, adding that doing so will be disadvantageous to the poor sector of the society, particularly the drivers of public utility vehicles.</p> <p>The DOE promised to submit the data requested by Rep. Quimbo on October 17, 2016.</p>
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