

# Committee Daily Bulletin

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COMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Justice	HR 105	Speaker Alvarez	Investigation into the proliferation of drug syndicates at the National Bilibid Prison (NBP)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Oriental Mindoro), reopened its inquiry relative to the proliferation of drug syndicates at the New Bilibid Prison.</p> <p>In today's meeting, the Committee heard the testimony of Senator Leila de Lima's former bodyguard and driver, Ronnie Dayan, who allegedly collected payoffs from drug lords at the NBP on the Senator's behalf, when she was still the Justice Secretary.</p> <p>Rep. Umali said that Dayan's testimony would seem "anti-climactic" considering that the Committee has already approved the Committee Report on HR 105 last month.</p> <p>Nonetheless, it was agreed prior to the approval of the Committee Report that in the event Dayan is arrested, the Committee shall reopen the investigation and put him on the witness stand.</p> <p>Rep. Umali, however, stressed that the determination of probable cause to support the filing of charges against the Senator is a function of the Department of Justice (DOJ) or the Office of the Ombudsman.</p> <p>On Dayan's request for immunity from suit in connection with his testimony in the House inquiry, Rep. Umali said that pursuant to RA 6981 or the Witness Protection, Security and Benefit Act, a witness in legislative investigation may be admitted into the witness protection program upon the recommendation of a congressional committee where his testimony is needed, provided that the same is approved by the House Speaker.</p> <p>Dayan disclosed that he wanted to heed the Committee's invitation to attend the House inquiry. But, he was advised by Sen. De Lima, through a text message sent to his daughter's mobile phone, against doing so.</p> <p>Also during the meeting, he confirmed that he and Sen. De Lima had an illicit relationship which lasted for seven years. He further testified that he received money from drug lord Kerwin Espinosa for Sen. De Lima several times in 2014.</p> <p>AKO BICOL Party-List Rep. Alfredo Garbin Jr. inquired whether Dayan was then aware of the nature of his and Espinosa's transactions and the source of the</p>

Continuation... Justice				<p>money. Rep. Garbin pointed out that based on Espinosa's sworn affidavit in the Senate investigation, Espinosa met Dayan and gave him money in tranches amounting to P8 million from 2015 to February 2016 for Sen. De Lima's campaign funds.</p> <p>Dayan replied in the negative and denied having prior knowledge that the person he was dealing with was a drug lord. He added that he was merely obeying the Senator's orders to meet with Espinosa.</p> <p>He likewise refuted the allegation of Espinosa that he received money from the latter a few months before the 2016 elections, saying that he was no longer working for Sen. De Lima during that time. He added that before the end of 2014, his relationship with the Senator already went sour and he was forced to resign in February 2015.</p> <p>Several House Members asked Dayan if he knew former Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) Chief Rafael Ragos, National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Agent Jovencio Ablen, former police officer Engelberto Durano, and convicted robbery gang leader Herbert Colanggo, who all testified at the Committee's previous hearings that he collected drug money for Sen. De Lima.</p> <p>Dayan denied knowing all of them except for Ragos whom he acknowledged to have recommended to then Justice Secretary De Lima for promotion. He added that he only heard the name of Colanggo, but had never met him personally.</p> <p>He likewise denied knowing Albuera, Leyte Police Chief Inspector Jovie Espenido, who purportedly introduced Espinosa to him when they were allegedly raising funds for Sen. De Lima's senatorial campaign.</p> <p>Rep. Vincent "Bingbong" Crisolago (1<sup>st</sup> District, Quezon City) inquired whether the DOJ would file criminal cases against Sen. De Lima.</p> <p>DOJ Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said the Senator can be prosecuted for obstruction of justice for advising Dayan to go into hiding and not to appear in the congressional inquiry, as well as concubinage and immorality for having an illicit affair with Dayan.</p> <p>Dayan, with his written approval, was entrusted by the Committee to the custody of the Philippine National Police (PNP) through PNP Chief Ronald dela Rosa.</p>
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