

Committee Daily Bulletin

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COMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Energy	HR 135	Rep. Velasco	Inquiry into the erratic operations of major power plants and the status of power supply in the country	<p>The Committee, chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, will continue its inquiry relative to HR 135 upon the submission of the required reports from the Department of Energy (DOE) and the the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC).</p> <p>The Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Carlos Roman Uybarreta (Party-List, 1-CARE), presided over the meeting to allow Rep. Velasco to sponsor his resolution.</p> <p>Rep. Velasco explained that the purpose of HR 135 is to ensure that there will be no power outages this year, particularly in the summer months where the heat may be unbearable. Rep. Velasco recalled that last year, major power plants in Luzon simultaneously shut down causing power outages. He said that a reliable and sufficient, as well as affordable, supply of electric power must be ensured nationwide.</p> <p>Rep. Velasco asked the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) of any scheduled routine maintenance of power plants this year that may again cause power interruptions.</p> <p>Ermelindo Bugaoisan Jr., head of the NGCP's Systems and Standards, Technical Services Department, said that although some power plants are scheduled to undergo maintenance, no power interruptions are expected at this time.</p> <p>Presenting the country's electric power supply situation, Assistant Director Irma Exconde of the DOE's Electric Power Industry Management Bureau said that the total installed capacity as of end of 2016 is 21,423 megawatts, with coal as the top source (34.6%), followed by renewable energy (32.5%). Exconde also presented the breakdown of the installed energy capacity for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao regions.</p> <p>With regard to the post-election electricity price increase, Melinda Ocampo, president of the Philippine Electricity Market Corporation (PEMC), said that the spike in electricity prices last year was caused by the high demand for power due to the shutdown of some power plants aside from it happening during summer time. Nevertheless, energy prices were immediately stabilized as a result of the PEMC's mitigating measures, Ocampo added.</p> <p>Meanwhile, ACT TEACHERS Party-List Rep. Antonio Tinio asked about the results of the ERC's investigation of the power plants involved in the July 2016 simultaneous shutdowns.</p>

Continuation... Energy				<p>Director Debora Anastacia Layugan of the ERC's Market Operations Service disclosed that the Commission is still in the process of investigating the matter, pointing out that some of the power plants involved have requested an extension of the deadline for the submission of required documents. She promised to submit a status report of ERC's investigation as soon as possible.</p> <p>Rep. Lianda Bolilia (4th District, Batangas) asked the DOE if there is a need to revise certain provisions of the Constitution to ensure a reliable and efficient power supply in the country.</p> <p>DOE Undersecretary Felix William Fuentebella answered that instead of revising the Constitution for that purpose, the government needs only to streamline the process of evaluating and issuing permits to establish and operate power plants. He claimed that at present, it takes a period of five to seven years before a power plant is able to secure all the required permits and clearances.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte) concerning the power supply outlook in Mindanao, Fuentebella stated that there is progress in terms of power generation but more effort should still be made concerning transmission.</p> <p>Rep. Uybarreta urged the resource persons to study if a separate bill, creating an electricity transmission highway, is necessary in order to expedite NGCP's project of interconnecting the transmission lines of Mindanao with Luzon and Visayas by the end of 2020.</p>
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PUBLIC HEARING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Dangerous Drugs	HR 585	Rep. Sarmiento (C.)	Directing the Philippine Coast Guard, Maritime Industry Authority, Office of Transport Security, Land Transportation Office, and other government agencies to intensify and coordinate their efforts to suppress the trafficking of illegal drugs within the country	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Robert "Ace" Barbers (2nd District, Surigao del Norte), held a public hearing in Catanduanes State University, Virac, Catanduanes on February 23, 2017 in relation to HR 585.</p> <p>Chief Superintendent Melvin Ramon Buenafe, regional director of Philippine National Police (PNP) Region 5, and PNP Senior Superintendent Jeffrey Fernandez presented the investigation report of the PNP on the clandestine shabu laboratory discovered in Virac, Catanduanes on November 26, 2016.</p> <p>After the report, the House Members took turns in asking the PNP clarificatory questions.</p> <p>Aside from Rep. Barbers and Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, author of HR 585, the other House Members who attended the public hearing were Reps. Arnolfo "Arnie" Teves Jr. (3rd District, Negros Oriental), Seth Frederick Jalosjos (1st District, Zamboanga del Norte), and Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL).</p> <p>Also present were Catanduanes Governor Joseph Cua and Vice Governor Shirley Abundo, and representatives from the Department of Justice (DOJ), Philippine Drug</p>

Continuation... Dangerous Drugs				<p>Enforcement Agency (PDEA), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Land Transportation Office (LTO), and Office of Transport Security.</p> <p>The PNP was directed to submit documents pertaining to its investigation on the clandestine laboratory in Virac, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurate inventory of the seized dangerous drugs, controlled precursors and other drug paraphernalia; and • Copies of all complaints/charges filed against the alleged operators of the clandestine laboratory. <p>PNP officials, including Buenafe and the intelligence operatives involved in the investigation, were invited to attend the Committee's executive session to be held in Manila.</p>
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PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Constitutional Amendments	Public consultation on constitutional reforms	<p>The Committee, chaired by Southern Leyte Rep. Roger "Oging" Mercado, held a public consultation in Dagupan City on February 24, 2017 for the purpose of determining the sentiment of the public on proposals to amend the Constitution.</p> <p>Discussions revolved around three questions which the Committee asked of the attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether it is necessary to amend or revise the Constitution; • The preferred mode of amendment or revision; and • Specific proposals, if any. <p>Most of the attendees agreed with the proposal to revise or amend the Constitution.</p> <p>House Members present in the said consultation were: Reps. Vicente "Ching" Veloso (3rd District, Leyte), Edward Vera Perez Maceda (4th District, Manila), Virgilio Lacson (Party-List, MANILA TEACHERS), Christopher "Toff" Vera Perez de Venecia (4th District, Pangasinan), and Rose Marie "Baby" Arenas (3rd District, Pangasinan).</p> <p>Other attendees to the consultation were Dagupan City Mayor Belen Fernandez and other local officials, and representatives from multi-sectoral groups in the area.</p>

FORUM		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
East Asean Growth Area (Special Committee)	<p>Forum on the Davao-General Santos City-Bitung (Indonesia) shipping route/ASEAN Roll-off Shipping Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Davao del Sur Rep. Mercedes "Didi" Cagas, participated in the forum on the Davao-General Santos City-Bitung, Indonesia shipping route spearheaded by the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDa) at the SMX Convention Center in Davao City on February 24, 2017.</p> <p>The Committee also conducted an ocular inspection of three ports in Davao, Davao del Sur, and General Santos City which will be part of the Davao-GenSan-Bitung shipping route.</p> <p>The MinDa Chair and Philippine Signing Minister for Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines (BIMP)-EAGA, Datu HJ Abul Khayr</p>

<p>Continuation... East Asean Growth Area (Special Committee)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ocular inspection 	<p>Alonto, welcomed the participants and guests to the forum. He highlighted the importance of this new Philippine-Indonesia shipping route in strengthening trade relations between the two countries, stimulating foreign investments, developing the Mindanao Region, boosting the tourism industry, and reducing travel time and cost of transporting goods.</p> <p>Alonto emphasized that the opening of this route is considered by the national government as “one of the greatest highlights” of the country’s chairmanship of the BIMP-EAGA Summit this year. He also recalled that President Rodrigo Duterte committed the establishment of this route during the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit in Laos last year.</p> <p>President Duterte’s Chief Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo expressed the President’s all-out support for the opening of the new route, as he emphasized the gains that can be achieved from it in terms of promoting economic growth and boosting trade, tourism and investments especially in the BIMP-EAGA corridor.</p> <p>Indonesia Consul General Berlian Napitupulu said that the sea connection between the Philippines and Indonesia is a priority program of Indonesian President Joko Widodo. He added that this new shipping route, which will be formally launched on April 28, 2017, will cut travel time from three to five weeks to only less than two days to and from the two countries.</p> <p>Asian Maritime Transport Corporation (AMTC) Vice President for Corporate Affairs Edrick de Guzman discussed the role of the AMTC in the operation of the shipping route, as the owner and operator of cargo and RoRo car carrier vessels that will service this route.</p> <p>Other speakers during the forum who cited the advantages and importance of the new shipping route were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Henry Basilio, Chief of Party of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-Advancing Philippine Competitiveness Project (COMPETE); • Department of Transportation (DOTr) Assistant Secretary Fernando Juan Perez, who is also the Chairperson of the Philippine Interagency Task Force on ASEAN RoRo; • Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Assistant Secretary Arturo Boncato Jr., who is also a Philippine senior official for BIMP-EAGA; and • MinDa Assistant Secretary Romeo Montenegro. <p>Aside from Rep. Cagas, the other Members of the Committee who attended the forum were Reps. Gil “Kabarangay” Acosta (3rd District, Palawan), Henry Oaminal (2nd District, Misamis Occidental), Ma. Lucille Nava M.D. (Guimaras), and Orestes Salon (Party-List, AGRI).</p> <p>The Committee conducted an ocular inspection of the Kudos Port in Davao, Malalag Port in Davao del Sur, and Makar Wharf in General Santos City which will be part of the Davao-Gensan-Bitung route.</p> <p>Reps. Oaminal and Acosta urged the local government of Malalag to enter into an agreement with the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) for the construction and rehabilitation of the Malalag Port.</p> <p>Rep. Cagas assured Malalag Mayor Valentin Valtan of the Committee’s assistance in facilitating an agreement with the PPA favorable to both parties.</p>
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