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IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURE	SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
Justice	Impeachment Complaint	Verified complaint for impeachment against Commission on Elections (COMELEC) Chair Juan Andres Bautista.	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2nd District, Oriental Mindoro), approved with amendments the Committee Report and the accompanying resolution dismissing the impeachment complaint filed against COMELEC Chair Juan Andres Bautista.
		Determination of the sufficiency of the grounds in the verified complaint for impeachment against Supreme Court Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno	<p>The Committee found the grounds alleged in the verified complaint for impeachment filed by Atty. Lorenzo Gadon against the Chief Justice sufficient.</p> <p>In his opening remarks, Rep. Umali stated that the Committee received Sereno's answer to the impeachment complaint filed against her on September 25, 2017 after being notified that the impeachment complaint was found to be both sufficient in form and substance. After which, the Committee received Gadon's reply and then Sereno's rejoinder. According to Rep. Umali, the said pleadings shall be taken into consideration in determining the sufficiency of the grounds alleged in the complaint. If the Committee finds that sufficient grounds for impeachment exist, it shall then conduct a hearing to determine whether there is probable cause to impeach the Chief Justice.</p> <p>Rep. Edcel Lagman (1st District, Albay) proposed that the 27 acts allegedly committed by Sereno which serve as grounds for her impeachment be voted upon separately. He explained that the motion to approve the sufficiency of the grounds was premature for lack of an in-depth debate on the matter prior to voting.</p> <p>Likewise, Dinagat Islands Rep. Kaka Bag-ao objected to declare the grounds alleged in the complaint sufficient for impeachment, after noting, for instance, that the complaint did not cite the specific provision of the Constitution which was allegedly violated by the respondent.</p> <p>Several Members of the Committee opposed the proposal of Rep. Lagman, arguing that the allegations are embodied in a single complaint and therefore must be resolved in its totality. They added that individual scrutiny of the allegations will only cause delay in the proceedings.</p> <p>The matter was put to a vote, and with 25 Members voting in favor and only two against, the Committee found the grounds alleged in the complaint sufficient for the impeachment of Sereno. Hence, a hearing shall be conducted to determine probable cause.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Umali requested the Members of the Committee to submit their comments on whether or not to allow the lawyers of Sereno to confront and cross-examine the witnesses on her behalf. This, Rep. Umali said, after the Committee received two letters from the lawyers of Sereno asserting the latter's right to confront and cross-examine witnesses through counsel.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Energy (Technical Working Group)	HB 4892	Rep. Batocabe	Establishing the virtual one stop shop (VOSS) for the purpose of streamlining the permitting process of power generation projects	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by AKO BICOL Party-List Rep. Rodel Batocabe, author of HB 4892, will deliberate further on the bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>The TWG thoroughly discussed the following sections of the bill: Sections 1 (Title); 2 (Declaration of Policy); 3 (Scope); 4 (Definition of Terms); 5 (Creation and Establishment); and 6 (Characteristics of the Virtual One Stop Shop).</p> <p>The resource persons made the following recommendations to the bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend Section 1, title of the bill, to read as “Energy Virtual One Stop Shop Act of 2017;” • Include a provision in the bill that will ensure transparency and accountability in approving energy generation projects (Section 2); • Expand the scope of the proposed law to include other government agencies, including private companies, in the permitting process of energy generation projects (Section 3); and • Define “energy projects” (Section 4); <p>The resource persons were requested to submit to the TWG their comments and recommendations on Sections 7 to 10 of the bill.</p>
Natural Resources (Technical Working Group)	HBs 4387, 5086, 5301, 5789, 5790, 6011, 6012 & 6405	Reps. Cosalan, Almario, Mercado, Ungab, Espina, Tejada, Rodriguez (M.), and Acosta	Declaring certain areas in the country as mining-free zones	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by LPGMA Party-List Rep. Arnel Ty, terminated its discussion on the eight bills.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Ty said that the bills had already been transmitted to the Committee on Rules but were recommitted to the TWG to thresh out the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible problems that may arise due to existing mineral production and sharing agreements (MPSAs); and • Need to align the proposals with existing mining laws. <p>Edgardo Castillo, Mining Tenements Management Division Chief of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB), said that cases involving conflict between government issuances and holders of MPSAs are usually decided on in favor of the latter.</p> <p>Castillo opposed the proposal to prohibit quarry operations involving cement and gravel, arguing that such activities serve as the “backbone” of the construction projects in the</p>

<p>Continuation... Natural Resources (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>provinces.</p> <p>For his part, House of Representatives Bill Drafting Service Director Jose Noel Garong proposed that the MPSAs of large-scale mining companies should be honored but upon expiration, they should not be renewed anymore. On the other hand, small-scale companies should be allowed to operate for one year and thereafter their MPSAs shall be cancelled.</p> <p>Likewise, Garong suggested that the monitoring and supervision of quarry operations be placed under the DENR.</p> <p>League of Provinces Policy Officer Angelica Sanchez, however, argued that placing the monitoring of quarry operations under the DENR might encroach upon the rights of the local government units (LGUs) pursuant to RA 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991.</p> <p>The TWG agreed that the DENR shall monitor all the quarry operations.</p> <p>Upon the suggestion of Rep. Joel Mayo Almario (2nd District, Davao Oriental), the MGB was requested to provide the Committee with a list of existing MPSAs and their current status.</p>
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