

# Committee Daily Bulletin

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Ecology	HR 1187	Deputy Speaker Garcia	Inquiry into the dumping of 5,000 metric tons of garbage from South Korea in Cebu in February 2017	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1<sup>st</sup> District, Nueva Ecija), terminated its deliberation on HR 1187. The corresponding Committee Report will be submitted later to the plenary.</p> <p>During the meeting, Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Cebu) asked Entry Processing Unit (EPU) Chief Jessica Delgado of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) Cebu City if she knew a certain Edmund Roxas of Moving Forward Global Trading Incorporated, the consignee of the shipment of 5,000 metric tons of garbage from South Korea.</p> <p>Delgado first denied knowing Roxas but later admitted that she knew the latter after pictures of them together in several occasions were shown to her.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Deputy Speaker Garcia asked “broker for hire” Romer Gastador, who had dealt with the consignee, on his reason for changing the harmonized system (HS) code for the questioned shipment.</p> <p>The Harmonized System is an international nomenclature for the classification of products. It allows participating countries to classify traded goods on a common basis for customs purposes.</p> <p>Gastador said that he altered the HS code of the shipment to hide the true content of the shipment and do away with having to apply for import permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Garcia recalled the statement of BOC Cebu District Collector Elvira Cruz that altering or changing the HS code is illegal and anyone caught doing it will be penalized.</p>
Energy	HB 942	Rep. Tiangco	Removing the allowable systems loss from private utility companies and reducing the cap of recoverable system losses of rural electric cooperatives from 14% to 5%, amending for the purpose RA 7832, as amended	<p>The Committee, chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, will deliberate further on the three bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>PowerSolv, Inc. Technical Consultant Ivan Benedict Nilo Cruz briefed the Committee on the study his company conducted on system</p>

Continuation... Energy	HB 2297	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Prohibiting private electric utilities from collecting system losses from the consumers and reducing the cap of recoverable system losses of rural electric cooperatives to a maximum of 5%, amending for the purpose RA 7832, as amended	<p>loss charges which are included in the consumers' electric bills with the aim of reducing the burden on consumers from unreasonable costs and coming up with the draft rules on setting the caps on distribution system loss (DSL).</p> <p>Cruz said that the study recommended a gradual reduction in the maximum rate of DSL that may be collected from consumers from years 2018 to 2021, after which a review will be made to determine the subsequent caps.</p> <p>According to Cruz, system losses can be segregated into technical and non-technical loss. Technical system loss occurs when a percentage of power generated is lost in the distribution network (as it passes through large and complex networks like transformers, overhead lines, cables and other equipment until it reaches the end users). On the other hand, non-technical system loss can be attributed to pilferage, incorrect reading of the electric meter or irregularity in electric billing, Cruz explained.</p> <p>PowerSolv Inc. is composed of graduates of electrical engineering from the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman that envisions to become the premier software solutions provider for electric power distribution system to improve the quality of electric service provided to customers worldwide. (Source: <i>powersolv-ph.com</i>)</p> <p>Energy Regulatory Commission's (ERC) Standards and Compliance Monitoring Division Chief Legario Galang Jr. confirmed that the ERC commissioned PowerSolv, Inc. to review and enhance the existing methodology of segregating the technical and non-technical system losses and prepare a draft rule for determining the appropriate DSL caps.</p> <p>Navotas City Rep. Tobias "Toby" Tiangco inquired on the steps undertaken by the Manila Electric Company (Meralco) to address the problem of pilferage. Meralco First Vice President Ivana dela Peña said that Meralco has already identified the areas where pilferage is rampant. However, Dela Peña admitted that the company lacks the necessary manpower to regularly monitor all these areas, adding that it needs the support of the police and local government units (LGUs) to effectively address this concern.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP) why system losses have to be passed on to the consumers, Dela Peña said that the practice is accepted internationally and is authorized by the ERC.</p> <p>Representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE), ERC, National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), and National Grid</p>
	HB 6341	Rep. Batocabe	Prohibiting power distribution utilities (DUs) from collecting system losses from consumers, amending for the purpose RA 7832	

Continuation... Energy				<p>Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) expressed support for the bills.</p> <p>Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. (PHILRECA) General Manager Wendell Ballesteros warned that any improvement in the distribution facilities to minimize system losses will require intensive capital investments the cost of which will surely be passed on to the consumers.</p> <p>Laban Konsyumer Inc. head Victor Dimagiba suggested a review of the draft rules on DSL caps proposed by PowerSolv Inc. before it is implemented.</p>
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Science and Technology	Substitute Bill to HBs 25, 1691, 2977, 3651, 4369, 4785 & 4878	Reps. Abaya, Rodriguez (M.), Yu, Aumentado, Salceda, Macapagal-Arroyo, and Salo	Providing for a comprehensive nuclear regulatory framework, creating for the purpose the Philippine Nuclear Regulatory Commission (PNRC), and appropriating funds therefor	The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Erico Aristotle Aumentado (2nd District, Bohol), Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology, approved the substitute bill, subject to style and amendment. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Youth and Sports Development	HBs 65, 287 & 3633	Reps. Nograles (K.A.), Romero, and Roa-Puno	Creating the Department of Sports, defining its powers and functions, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Conrado Estrella III (Party-List, ABONO), Chair of the Committee on Youth and Sports Development, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on the three bills.</p> <p>The TWG will be co-chaired by Rep. Christopher V.P. de Venecia (4th District, Pangasinan) and Rep. Manuel Luis Lopez (1st District, Manila).</p> <p>The proposed Department of Sports shall be primarily responsible for formulating and implementing policies on the promotion and development of sports and physical fitness in the country.</p> <p>Rep. Mark Aeron Sambar (Party-List, PBA), co-author of HB 6, and Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. (1st District, Surigao del Sur) cited the need for more funds to make the implementation of the Philippine sports program successful. The meager funds of the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), according to Rep. Sambar, prevents it from coming up with an effective sports program.</p> <p>Rep. Pichay suggested that every region be allowed to have its own local sports program where athletes at the grassroots level can be trained and nurtured.</p> <p>Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) Chair Jose "Peping" Cojuangco said that modern sports facilities are badly needed especially at the regional level to be able to develop the abilities of local athletes and make them</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Government Reorganization jt. w/ Youth and Sports Development</p>				<p>competitive in the international sports arena. Likewise, PSC Chair William "Butch" Ramirez supports the creation of a Department of Sports, adding that sports is a tool for unifying the people.</p> <p>However, Department of Budget and Management's (DBM) Systems and Productivity Improvement Bureau Director Clotilde Drapete objected to the creation of a new Department, saying that what needs to be done is to just review and update the programs and projects of the PSC. Drapete added that the mandate of the proposed Department of Sports is almost the same as the mandate of the PSC.</p> <p>Representatives from the POC, PSC, Games and Amusements Board (GAB), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) expressed their support for the bills.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the Department of Education (DepEd), Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), and Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) promised to submit their respective position papers as soon as possible.</p>
<p>Human Rights</p>	<p>HBs 79, 1556, 3312 &amp; 3541</p>	<p>Reps. Aglipay-Villar, Villafuerte, Bag-ao, and Deputy Speaker Garin</p>	<p>Prohibiting discriminatory practices, and providing penalties therefor</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2nd District, Zambales), agreed to come up with a substitute bill on the four measures, using HB 79, authored by Rep. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar (Party-List, DIWA), as its working draft.</p> <p>Atty. Eunice Sta. Maria-Manahan, head of the Commission on Human Rights' (CHR) Legislative Linkages Division, suggested the deletion of a provision in Section 6 (Duty of the CHR) of HB 79, which mandates the CHR to provide the procedures for the resolution, settlement or prosecution of acts of discrimination.</p> <p>She also expressed reservation on the additional duties being assigned to the CHR, as proposed in HB 79, explaining that these are functions of other government agencies and not of the Commission.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their recommended phraseology for Section 8 (Common Penal Provisions) to conform to HB 4982 or the proposed Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity or Expression (SOGIE) Equality Act, which was already approved by the House of Representatives on September 20, 2017.</p>
<p>Ways and Means</p>	<p>HR 1324</p>	<p>Rep. Lacson</p>	<p>Inquiry into the alleged violations of Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI) of the terms of its registration under the Motor Vehicle Development Program (MVDP) with the end in view of reviewing the effectiveness of this policy in reviving the</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 1324 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Virgilio Lacson (Party-List, MANILA TEACHERS), author of the resolution, said that</p>

<p>Continuation... Ways and Means</p>			<p>automotive industry of the country</p>	<p>the MVDP is implemented to boost the country's local automotive manufacturing industry and create job opportunities. Under the MVDP, car manufacturers pay only 1% tariff on imported completely knocked down (CKD) kits instead of the regular 30% tariff. However, Rep. Lacson emphasized the need to study the effectiveness of the MVDP following the alleged import misdeclarations of HARI, the country's exclusive distributor of Hyundai automobiles and an MVDP registrant.</p> <p>In his resolution, Rep. Lacson disclosed that the Board of Investments (BOI) recently found that HARI violated its MVDP registration when it misdeclared the importation of some of its vehicles as CKD when they were completely built-up units (CBUs).</p> <p>BOI Undersecretary Ceferino Rodolfo confirmed that BOI has issued a cancellation order on HARI's MVDP registration in June 2017 and ordered HARI to pay P1 billion for violating the terms of its registration. This after BOI found out that the company had been importing semi-knocked down (SKD) kits instead of CKD kits for EON and H350, the MVDP-registered models for local assembly.</p> <p>Rodolfo explained that SKD kits, without wheels and engine, are almost the same as completely built-up units, and therefore subject to 30% tariff.</p> <p>Rodolfo explained further that with HARI's filing of a motion for reconsideration, the actual cancellation of its MVDP registration has been put on hold, hence, in effect, it remains to be MVDP registrant.</p> <p>HARI's Senior Technical Adviser, Atty. Alex Cabrera, argued that the company is compliant with the MVDP guidelines. He said that EO 877-A, series of 2010 or the Comprehensive MVDP, provides that "the production and/or assembly of motor vehicles and other vehicle assemblies covered under the MVDP shall be in knocked-down (KD) condition only."</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA) and Rep. Lianda Bolilia (4th District, Batangas) pointed out that EO 156, which requires that the "MVDP shall be in CKD condition only," was used as the basis for BOI's cancellation order. However, they said that EO 156 was already amended by EO 877-A, series of 2010.</p> <p>Several Members of the Committee chided the BOI for its failure to promulgate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of EO 877-A after several years since its issuance. The BOI was requested to submit a list of MVDP registrants as well as all documents relative to BOI's investigations and decisions against non-compliant MVDP registrants.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Ecology (Technical Working Group)	HBs 49 & 1843	Reps. Fortun and Alejano	Preventing and controlling pollution from ships, providing penalties therefor	The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Lawrence "Law" Fortun (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Agusan del Norte), will deliberate further on the three bills in its next meeting.
	HB 1714	Rep. Biazon	Increasing the penalty imposed against polluters of navigable waters by amending Section 7 of PD 979, otherwise known as the Marine Pollution Decree of 1976	<p>The TWG discussed extensively Section 42 [Marine Environmental Management Fund (MEMF)] of HB 49, authored by Rep. Fortun.</p> <p>It was agreed during the last meeting that the TWG will use HB 49 as its working draft.</p> <p>Rep. Fortun emphasized the need to establish the MEMF which will be utilized by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) in its containment, removal and clean-up operations in case of marine pollution caused by the discharge of oil and harmful substances from ships into Philippine waters.</p> <p>Philippine Inter-Island Shipping Association (PISA) Executive Director Pedro Aguilar objected to a provision in Section 42 which requires owners and operators of tankers and barges hauling petroleum products to contribute five centavos per liter to the fund for every transshipment of oil.</p> <p>Legal Service head Maximo Banares Jr. of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) suggested that fines and other fees being collected by the PCG may accrue to the MEMF to serve as additional fund source.</p> <p>Representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE), PCG, and MARINA, as well as from oil companies were requested to submit pertinent data to help determine the appropriate amount to be imposed on tankers and barges plying the Philippine waters, in line with the proposed MEMF.</p>

FORUM		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Welfare of Children	<p>Forum on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing the age to determine sexual consent</li> </ul>	<p>As part of the celebration of the Children's Month, the Committee on Welfare of Children, in partnership with the Child Rights Network (CRN) and the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD), conducted two fora on November 21 at the House of Representatives.</p> <p>The morning forum has the theme: "Sexual Consent in the Eyes of the Child: A Policy Forum on Increasing the Age to Determine Sexual Consent."</p> <p>Siquijor Rep. Ramon V. A. "Rav" Rocamora welcomed the guests to the forum. Advocating an increase in the age of determining sexual consent, Rep. Rocamora lamented that in the Philippines, the current minimum age by which a child is considered legally capable of giving consent to a sexual act is 12 years old, which is the lowest in the world. This makes</p>

<p>Continuation... Welfare of Children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil registration and vital statistics</li> </ul>	<p>Filipino children more vulnerable to sexual assault or abuse, he said.</p> <p>Child Protection Officer Faye Balanon of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) discussed the results of the UNICEF's study on the prevalence of violence against children in the country. She reported, among others, that 80% of children and young people aged 13-24 experienced a form of violence in various settings.</p> <p>Associate Professor Ronald del Castillo of the University of the Philippines (UP) Manila said that the age of determining sexual consent should be raised to 18 years old. He explained that children in adolescent stage are not yet capable of making matured decisions on their own as their brain is still in the process of development.</p> <p>Executive Director Cristina Sevilla of Action against Violence and Exploitation (ACTIVE) shared four case studies of children who were exposed to sexual trafficking, rape, intergenerational prostitution, and pornography. Sevilla firmly believes that if the age of determining sexual consent is increased, such cases would be reduced and successfully prosecuted.</p> <p>Rep. Cristina "Chiqui" Roa-Puno (1st District, Antipolo City) highlighted the importance of raising awareness on children's rights as a way of deterring sexual abuse in children and empowering victims to speak out.</p> <p>On the other hand, Rep. Ma. Lourdes Aggabao (4th District, Isabela) urged the resource persons to submit their recommendations to prevent sex trafficking in children and raise the age of determining sexual consent.</p> <p>In the afternoon, Rep. Evelina Escudero (1st District, Sorsogon) welcomed the participants to the forum with the theme: "Making Every Child Count: A Policy Forum on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS)." She stressed the need to establish a reliable source of data and efficient civil registration system for the listing of vital occurrences in the lives of people such as their birth and death. She hopes to gather valuable inputs from the forum that could be incorporated in her bill, HB 3474, which provides for a more responsive civil registration system.</p> <p>HB 3474 is among the bills on civil registration under review by the Committee on Population and Family Relations.</p> <p>Rep. Tom Villarin (Party-List, AKBAYAN), a member of the PLCPD, lauded the objectives of the forum which to him would help address the policy gaps in the country's birth registration system.</p> <p>The following resource speakers presented their respective topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pauleen Santos, campaign advocacy specialist of Plan International, an independent humanitarian organization promoting the rights of children, discussed the importance of CRVS and the various barriers on birth registration in the Philippines;</li> <li>• Yam Palma of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), an international institution which protects and supports refugees, discussed the population at risk of being "stateless" and gave her recommendations on birth registration; and</li> <li>• Betchwell Matienzo, statistical specialist at the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), gave a lecture on the policy gaps in the country's birth registration system.</li> </ul> <p>An open forum followed after the presentations of the resource speakers.</p>
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