

# Committee Daily Bulletin

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SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Smokey Mountain Development and Reclamation Project (Housing and Urban Development)	Review of the status of settlement of the dispute among parties involved in the implementation of the Smokey Mountain Development and Reclamation Project (SMDRP)	<p>The Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL), continued its review of the status of settlement of the dispute among parties involved in the implementation of the Smokey Mountain project.</p> <p>The SMDRP, which was initiated in 1993, involves the conversion of the garbage dumpsite called Smokey Mountain in Tondo, Manila and the reclamation and development of several hectares of land from Manila Bay into a combined housing and industrial/commercial complex. In the course of project implementation, disputes arose between the government agencies, National Housing Authority (NHA) and Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC), and the project contractor-developer, the R-II Builders Inc. (RBI).</p> <p>Rep. Batocabe recalled the discussions and decisions made during the previous meeting on this issue, one of which was the task given to the Commission on Audit (COA) to reactivate its ad hoc committee created in 2012 to conduct an audit and validate the claims of the parties involved.</p> <p>The issue has also been discussed in several meetings during the previous Congress.</p> <p>When asked about the subsequent actions taken by the concerned parties, RBI Executive Vice President Jerome Canlas and HGC officer-in-charge Corazon Corpuz said that they have agreed to form their own technical working group (TWG), together with the NHA, to validate and reconcile their respective claims. The two also insisted to do away with the COA audit, explaining that the transactions involving the Smokey Mountain Asset Pool (SMAP), which they claim consists of private funds, are beyond COA's jurisdiction.</p> <p>SMAP is a securitization scheme that was established when RBI failed to raise the required funds for the project.</p> <p>However, NHA National Capital Region (NCR) OIC Maria Teresa Oblipias argued that the completion of the COA audit will help the parties reconcile their respective claims. She informed the Subcommittee that the NHA is also currently reviewing the documents pertinent to the issue.</p> <p>The Subcommittee directed the three parties to conduct meetings to finally settle their dispute regarding the implementation of the SMDRP.</p>