

# Committee Daily Bulletin



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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Ecology	Substitute Bill to HBs 142, 540, 1528, 2964, 3610, 4287, 5901, 6596, 7093, 8288 & 8776	Reps. Acosta-Alba, Yap (V.), Gonzales (A.P.), Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, Reps. Lanete, De Jesus, Romero, Alejano, Deputy Speaker Villarica, and Rep. Villafuerte	Providing for a comprehensive hazardous and radioactive wastes management and providing penalties for violation thereof	<p>The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, approved the Committee Report on the substitute bill which seeks to provide a comprehensive hazardous and radioactive wastes management and penalize violations thereof.</p> <p>The proposed law shall apply to the generation, possession, collection, recovery, reuse, storage, transport, treatment and disposal of hazardous and radioactive wastes in the country. Likewise, it shall cover the entry, even in transit, into Philippine territory of such wastes.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 235 & 3279	Reps. Marcoleta and Ocampo	Providing for the establishment of national framework for mandatory environmental insurance coverage for environmentally-critical projects	<p>The Committee approved the Committee Report on the substitute bill which seeks to establish a national framework for mandatory environmental insurance coverage for environmentally-critical projects.</p> <p>The proposed law aims to compensate the damages to health and property, environmental rehabilitation, remediation, and clean-up costs and expenses as a result of environmental impairment arising from the operations of environmentally-critical projects, such as heavy industries, major manufacturing industries, major resource-extractive industries, major infrastructure projects, and other similar projects like golf courses.</p>
Globalization and WTO (Special Committee)	HRs 796 & 797	Rep. Casilao	Inquiry into the effects on the local livestock, poultry, and vegetable industries of the implementation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade - World Trade Organization's (GATT-WTO) policies and programs in the country	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP), approved the Committee Report on HRs 796 and 797.</p> <p>In its report, the Committee found that as a result of trade liberalization, the steady influx of low-priced agricultural products into the country adversely affected the local agricultural sector.</p> <p>However, withdrawing from the WTO as proposed in the measures will only bring more harm than benefits as membership in the WTO affords the country the proper venue to continually explore better trade opportunities that would be mutually beneficial to farmers and trading partners.</p> <p>The Committee recommended that the government provide a more coordinated support to farmers in the form of technical assistance and subsidies and capability-building programs, among others, to enhance agricultural competitiveness.</p>

**PUBLIC HEARING**

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p>Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Automated Election System (JCOC-AES)</p>	<p>Briefing on the output of the technical working group (TWG) in relation to its technical findings on the conduct of the 2016 elections</p>	<p>The Joint Congressional Oversight Committee (JCOC), co-chaired by Rep. Sherwin Tugna (Party-List, CIBAC), and Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III, conducted a public hearing to discuss the technical findings of the TWG on the conduct of the 2016 elections.</p> <p>The TWG was formed to study and make necessary conclusions and recommendations regarding the vote counting machines (VCMs), Consolidation and Canvassing Systems (CCS), and other election computer logs submitted by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) to the JCOC. The TWG focused its investigation on the allegations of Senate President Vicente Sotto III in his privilege speech delivered last year.</p> <p>The Senate President alleged that irregularities transpired during and after the 2016 national and local elections, which include the early transmission of votes and the existence of “queue servers,” where election results were supposedly stored before transmission to the CCS. This created the fear that results might have been tampered with.</p> <p>IT expert Jeffrey Ian Dy, a member of the TWG, reported that the TWG found 16 early transmission attempts from VCM logs submitted by the COMELEC. However, the TWG cannot conclude if these altered election results.</p> <p>Senate President Sotto asked how such transmissions could happen before the actual election day. Dy replied that this may be the result of a configuration issue with COMELEC’s system.</p> <p>On the issue of alleged existence of “queue server,” Dy noted that election results from 92% of all the VCMs were indeed intercepted by a store-and-forward server (queue server) before they were transmitted to the CCS. The TWG had identified this queue server only with the IP address 10.101.1.198, Dy said.</p> <p>Reps. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma (Nueva Vizcaya) and Edgar Erice (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Caloocan City) inquired about the possibility that votes were counted twice because of the queue server. Dy disclosed two instances in Libon, Albay and in Tugaya, Lanao del Sur, where two entries were processed successfully by the CCS from one VCM. Dy confirmed that one of the entries was transmitted by the queue server.</p> <p>No conclusive findings however were presented on the allegation that foreign entities accessed the servers before, during, and after the elections. Likewise, the TWG was unable to investigate the allegation that 1.7 election results were not transmitted to the CCS due to lack of sufficient data, Dy added.</p> <p>Also present during the public hearing were Reps. Francisco Datol Jr. (Party-List, Senior Citizen) and Sarah Jane Elago (Party-List, KABATAAN), on the part of the House; and Senators Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan and Maria Lourdes Nancy Binay, on the part of the Senate.</p>
	<p>Final report of the local source code reviewers</p>	<p>The local source code reviewers presented a final report to the JCOC. This group consists of election information and technology experts.</p> <p>The report contained observations on the conduct of the recent elections as well as recommendations on how the COMELEC should conduct the next elections to promote better transparency.</p>

Continuation... Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Automated Election System (JCOC-AES)		<p>According to Atty. Ivan John Uy, a member of the team, the group reviewed source codes that came from the election management system (EMS), CCS and VCM of the COMELEC which basically cover the entire automated election system.</p> <p>Uy presented the group's recommendations which included, among others, improving the information security management system through a framework conforming to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO); using quick response (QR) codes for election returns and not only on VCMs; allowing a third-party Certificate Authority; setting security enhancement feature in the use of digital signatures in the VCMs; and creating an audit protocol to cover the entire automated election system.</p>
	Initial discussion on the 2019 national and local elections	<p>The JCOC discussed with concerned government agencies issues surrounding the conduct of the recently-held 2019 midterm elections.</p> <p>The issue on the seven-hour glitch or the delay in the transmission of results from the VCMs to the server of media and other parties such as the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPRCV) was also raised during the meeting.</p> <p>COMELEC Spokesperson James Jimenez explained that the issue is a mere file transfer protocol issue in COMELEC's third server, the Transmission Server, that pushes data to the online or live projections of the PPRCV which are, in turn, relayed to the public through the media. He assured that the canvassing of votes was continuous for all national and local positions, explaining that the other two servers, the Canvassing and Central Servers, did not experience any problem throughout the vote canvassing period.</p> <p>In response to the President's call to do away with Smartmatic in the upcoming elections, Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Secretary Eliseo Rio manifested that the agency has formulated other options should the COMELEC decide to no longer avail the services of Smartmatic in the next elections. However, he did not elaborate on the said "options" during the public hearing. The DICT heads the multi-partite COMELEC Advisory Council.</p>

AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Ecology	Briefing on the status of the foreign shipments of materials believed to be hazardous wastes in Mindanao International Container Terminal (MICT) in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental	<p>The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, discussed with concerned government agencies the status of the foreign shipments of materials believed to be hazardous wastes in MICT in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental.</p> <p>Rep. Cua said that today's meeting is in line with President Rodrigo Duterte's strong stand that the Philippines should not be regarded as a dumping ground for the waste of other countries. Rep. Cua said that a clear policy on the matter should be put in place to avoid similar illegal importations.</p> <p>Bureau of Customs (BOC) Deputy Commissioner Edward James Dy Buco and Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) Hazardous Management Section Chief Geri Geronimo Sañez reported the status of the shipment from South Korea, Australia, Hong Kong, and Canada.</p>

<p>Continuation... Ecology</p>		<p>They reported that the BOC and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) already filed a case against Verde Soko Industrial Philippines, Inc., the consignee of the pre-washed, dry shredded and sorted soft plastic which turned out to be hazardous plastic waste from South Korea that arrived in the Philippines by batches in 2018. Most of the wastes were shipped back to the country of origin while the remaining unloaded mixed municipal wastes contained in the Philippine Veterans Investment Corporation (PHIVIDEC) Industrial Estate in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental are still subject to disposition by the DENR and BOC.</p> <p>On the alleged wastes from Australia that arrived in MICT on May 7, 2019, Director Sañez said that the DENR considers the shipment not as a waste disposal in the Philippines but as processed engineered fuel that Holcim Philippines, Inc. uses in cement processing. Holcim is the consignee of the shipment from Australia. Nevertheless, Deputy Commissioner Dy Buco said that the BOC is coordinating with the DENR, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and other concerned agencies to determine if there is probable cause for HOLLCIM to be charged for violating the country's existing laws.</p> <p>Dy Buco reported that the electronic wastes from Hong Kong were shipped back to the country of origin on June 2, 2019. The shipment arrived in the Philippines on January 2, 2019 in the guise of assorted electronic accessories. However, upon inspection, it was found that the shipment was misdeclared as it consisted mainly of shredded components of electronic devices.</p> <p>With regard to the wastes from Canada, Dy Buco informed the Committee that the 69 containers of trash from the said country that was dumped in the Philippines six years ago were finally shipped back on May 31, 2019.</p>
<p>North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>	<p>Briefing by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on its plans and programs, and the FY 2019 budget for North Luzon</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1<sup>st</sup> District, Ilocos Sur), was briefed by the DSWD on its plans and programs, including the FY 2019 budget for North Luzon projects.</p> <p>DSWD's Financial Management Service Director Wayne Belizar apprised the Committee that out of the P138.62 billion budget of the DSWD for FY 2019, P12.66 billion is allotted for North Luzon, to be distributed as follows: Region I, P6.16 billion; Region II, P4.1 billion,; and Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR), P2.4 billion, which will be used for the various programs of the DSWD in the said regions.</p> <p>Rep. Baby Aline Vargas-Alfonso (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Cagayan) lamented that her constituents only receive P1,000 to P1,500 educational assistance instead of the P3,000 to P5,000 that the DSWD usually issues to students as financial support.</p> <p>Rep. Romeo Acop (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Antipolo City) explained that complaints like what Rep. Vargas-Alfonso raised started when Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 9 was issued in 2016 by then DSWD Secretary Judy Taguiwalo, prescribing new guidelines for the implementation of DSWD's Protective Services Program (PSP). The PSP provides support to vulnerable individuals/sectors such as food packs and transportation, medical, burial, and educational assistance.</p> <p>The circular provides that referral letters from individuals, groups of individuals, or organization, including public officials whether national or local executives, legislators, members of the judiciary, or constitutional commission are not integral to the implementation of the PSP. Likewise, under MC No. 9, the DSWD retained sole authority to determine the beneficiaries of the program pursuant to existing guidelines.</p>

<p>Continuation... North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>		<p>Rep. Acop strongly argued that each legislative district is entitled to a fair share of the national budget. He also said that it is not unlawful for legislators to allocate funds to DSWD's PSP as such process was done prior to the approval of the national budget. He then instructed the DSWD to coordinate with the Committee on Appropriations with regard to the particulars of the PSP fund that was allocated for every congressional district amounting to P1.89 billion.</p> <p>Director Belizar said that the Department is aware of the changes in the PSP budget and the amounts that have been augmented leading to the increase of the program's budget. He also acceded to the suggestion to coordinate with the Committee on Appropriations and be informed of how the P1.89 billion was allocated.</p>
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OTHER MATTERS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Report on the Committee's accomplishments for the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress and its legislative recommendations for the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress</p>	<p>The Chairperson, Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, reported to the Body the accomplishments of the Committee in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress and submitted as well, for the Committee's consideration, certain legislative recommendations for passage in the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento said that during the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Committee pushed for the passage of several laws, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RA 10930 or the law extending the validity of the driver's license from three years to five years;</li> <li>• RA 11229 or the law protecting child passengers aboard motor vehicles; and</li> <li>• RA 11235 or the law preventing the use of motorcycles in the commission of crimes.</li> </ul> <p>Rep. Sarmiento also mentioned that proposed laws on the improvement of land transportation terminals as well as on the institutionalization of the grant of a student fare discount are already awaiting the President's approval. If approved, this will bring to five the notable measures endorsed by the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee also reported out several measures and conducted various investigations that aimed to address the problems in the transportation sector and respond to the plight of the commuters and motorists. He hopes that the measures which were reported out by the Committee during the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress will be considered anew in the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress. These include the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic Crisis Act;</li> <li>• Sustainable Transport Act;</li> <li>• National Road Safety Awareness;</li> <li>• Bill of Rights for Passengers of Taxis and Similar Vehicles;</li> <li>• Maritime Passenger Bill of Rights; and</li> <li>• Ship Registry Act.</li> </ul> <p>Rep. Sarmiento expressed gratitude to his fellow legislators as well as to representatives from various government agencies and private organizations who contributed their time and inputs to help the Committee pursue its legislative mandate.</p>