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DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Transportation (Technical Working Group)	On the alleged exorbitant shipping charges in the transport of goods using the Roll-on/Roll-off (RoRo) system	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Manuel Zubiri (3rd District, Bukidnon), will continue its discussion on the alleged exorbitant cost of shipping goods via the RoRo system which also leads to higher prices of goods using this mode of transportation.</p> <p>Rep. Zubiri said that the TWG intends to identify what the problems are in order to come up with solutions that will serve the purpose of the nautical highway.</p> <p>The RoRo system, which is one of the priority programs of former President and now House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga), aims to establish a seamless inter-island connectivity between Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao to enhance local trade and tourism. <i>(Source: PIDS website)</i></p> <p>Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Deputy Administrator for Operations Nanette Villamor-Dinopol explained that 80% to 90% of the shipping cost through RoRo, involving land and sea transport, consists of trucking fees. (In a RoRo system, trucks carrying goods roll up to the platforms of inter-island vessels and roll down the platforms upon reaching designated ports, and drive off to designated drop-off points.)</p> <p>Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Chair Martin Delgra III confirmed that the service rates of trucks carrying cargoes are not regulated by the LTFRB, unlike other public utility vehicles (PUVs) which have a standard rate.</p> <p>Rep. Bayani Fernando (1st District, Marikina City) underscored the need to study the rates being charged on cargo shipments, including the trucking services, and designate an agency that would regulate the same.</p> <p>Meanwhile, representatives from various shipping associations mentioned the high cost of shipping cargoes, which include: huge capital investments, high fuel cost, and numerous taxes.</p> <p>The resource persons were asked to submit their comments and recommendations on the issue.</p>