

# Committee Daily Bulletin

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## TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Transportation (Technical Working Group)	Discussion on the nautical highway system or the Roll-on/Roll-off (RoRo) system and the alleged exorbitant shipping charges in the transport of goods using this mode of transportation	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Manuel Zubiri (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Bukidnon), will continue its discussion on the problems affecting the country's nautical highway system, particularly the exorbitant cost of shipping goods via the RoRo system which also leads to higher prices of goods.</p> <p>Rep. Zubiri gave a brief background on the major issues discussed during the Committee's meeting held in Leyte last March 5, 2019. In that meeting, House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Pampanga) asked the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) to waive its collection of a weighbridge (truck scale) fee as it adds up to the cost of transport.</p> <p>PPA General Manager Jay Daniel Santiago said that while the PPA is open to reviewing its policy on the imposition of weighbridge fees, he also mentioned that removing these fees will deprive the agency of an important source of funds for its port development and maintenance projects. He also explained that the P516.00 weighbridge fee imposed on seven-meter long vehicles such as 10-wheeler trucks and buses is only about 2% of the total shipping cost. The mandatory weighing of inter-island cargo and passenger vehicles ensures that they comply with the prescribed weight limits.</p> <p>Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, Chair of the Committee on Transportation, and Rep. Zubiri asked about the feasibility of using compartmentalized container vans to accommodate various types of goods such as agricultural products since not all shippers can fill up an entire container van. Asian Marine Transport Corporation Chief Executive Officer Paul Rodriguez said that he will look into the matter and will submit to the Committee the estimated cost.</p> <p>Deputy Director Junibert de Sagun of the Department of Agriculture's Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service stated that the use of compartmentalized container vans has been previously discussed with industry stakeholders and the agreement was to create the design for this type of container van.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the PPA announced that it already posted on its website the list of all fees it is collecting at the ports, promptly heeding the TWG's request made early in the meeting.</p> <p>Based on the information that the high cost of shipping is largely attributed to the huge rates for trucking services, the TWG also asked the Confederation of Truckers Association of the Philippines (CTAP) to publish the current trucking rates and provide the TWG a report on the matter.</p> <p>Rep. Zubiri said that another meeting will be scheduled on April 2, 2019 in Cebu to continue its discussion on the RoRo system.</p>