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COMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Local Government jt. w/ Muslim Affairs and Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity	HB 6475 in consolidation with HBs 92, 6121 & 6263	Speaker Alvarez, Deputy Speaker Sema, Reps. Macapagal-Arroyo, and Dimaporo (M.K.)	Providing for the Basic Law for the Bangsamoro and abolishing the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), repealing for the purpose RA 9054, or the law strengthening and expanding the Organic Act for the ARMM, and RA 6734 or the law providing for an Organic Act for the ARMM	<p>The Joint Committee approved the Committee Report on HB 6475 in consolidation with HBs 92, 6121 and 6263.</p> <p>The meeting was presided by Rep. Pedro Acharon Jr. (1st District, South Cotabato and General Santos City), Chair of the Committee on Local Government, Rep. Mauyag "Jun" Papandayan Jr. (2nd District, Lanao del Sur), Chair of the Committee on Muslim Affairs, and Rep. Amihilda Sangcopan (Party-List, AMIN) of the Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity.</p> <p>Rep. Acharon informed the body that during an executive meeting of the Joint Committee held on April 16, the Committee on Muslim Affairs and the Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity voted favorably on the motion of Deputy Speaker Bai Sandra Sinsuat Sema (1st District, Maguindanao) to approve HB 6475 without amendments and to consolidate it with the three other bills having similar subject matter. However, the Committee on Local Government thumbed down the motion.</p> <p>Referring to Section 12 of the internal rules of the Joint Committee, Rep. Acharon explained that each Committee voted on the motion of Deputy Speaker Sema; and with two committees voting in favor of it, the motion was carried.</p> <p>Reps. Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City) and Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte) manifested that the approval of HB 6475 without amendments will put to naught the comments and recommendations solicited from various resource persons and intently studied and deliberated upon at the subcommittee level.</p> <p>Rep. Juan Pablo "Rimpy" Bondoc (4th District, Pampanga) explained that according to Section 39 of the House Rules, a dissenting Member may file an "objection or dissenting</p>

Continuation... Local Government jt. w/ Muslim Affairs and Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity				vote in writing with the Secretary General within seven (7) calendar days from the inclusion thereof (Committee Report) in the Order of Business, or is allowed to do so by the Speaker upon satisfactory explanation in writing made by the Member within the same period."
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Ecology (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 235 & 3279	Reps. Marcoleta and Ocampo	Requiring mandatory environment insurance coverage (MEIC) for environmentally-critical projects	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP), will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>The TWG focused its discussion on the following concerns: that there must be an assessment of the level of risks the projects may have on the environment to determine the appropriate amount of insurance coverage and to identify the rightful beneficiaries; and that the bill must be reviewed in conjunction with existing environmental laws.</p> <p>Raul Dealino, member of the Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI), said that the imposition of the MEIC would entail additional costs for project proponents. He suggested that the MEIC should only supplement and not duplicate existing government regulatory mechanisms governing environmentally-critical projects.</p> <p>Atty. Denis Cabucos, division manager of the Legal Liaison Office of the Insurance Commission (IC), said that the proposed MEIC should be aligned with the country's environmental laws, specifically the range of violations and the corresponding penalties. He also suggested that the bill should clarify the parameters of the proposed environment insurance including the amount of insurance that shall be paid to the identified beneficiaries, and the system of determining the project's potential risks to the environment.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Marcoleta, Engr. Marivic Yao, chief of the Systems Planning, Policy and Special Projects Section of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), said that the EMB has a definition for the term "environmentally-critical projects" but not for the term "environmentally-critical business." Yao, however, added that the EMB will make a study on the appropriate definition of the latter.</p>

Continuation... Ecology (Technical Working Group)				Rep. Marcoleta requested the resource persons present to submit their suggestions and comments on the bill.
Information and Communications Technology (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 2333, 2447, 2604, 2872, 3268, 4654, 5109, 7335, & 7409 and HRs 100 & 254	Reps. Cojuangco, Yap (A.), Santos-Recto, Yap (V.), Roque (H.), Lazatin, Castelo, Vargas, Nieto, and Herrera-Dy	Protecting telecommunication subscribers against unauthorized services and consumption of load credits	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), will deliberate further on the substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>The TWG focused its discussion on Section 5-A which prohibits the imposition of an expiration period on the validity of unused load credit loaded in mobile or landline phones that enable consumers to use telecommunication or value-added services.</p> <p>Deputy Commissioner Edgardo Cabarios of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) agrees that load credits should not have any expiration period.</p> <p>Globe Telecom's Policy Division Head Ariel Tubayan and Smart Communications' Legal and Regulatory Manager Pamela Felizarta both opposed Section 5-A, explaining that maintaining and monitoring unused load credits would entail "carrying cost" or the cost of holding goods in stock. They suggested instead that unused load credits may be redeemed before the expiration date.</p> <p>Internet Society-Philippine Chapter (ISOC-PH) Vice President Mary Grace Mirandilla-Santos asked the telecommunications companies how such redemption can work out.</p> <p>The TWG requested Globe and Smart to submit their proposed mechanism on redeeming load credits before the expiration date.</p>

AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Ways and Means	Briefing by the Bureau of Customs (BOC) on the illegal withdrawal of at least 105 containers covered by "manual alert orders" from the BOC Port of Manila premises operated by the Asian Terminals Inc. (ATI)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, will deliberate further on the issue on the alleged illegal withdrawal of containers from the BOC Port of Manila premises in its next meeting.</p> <p>District Collector Erastus Sandino Austria of the BOC Port of Manila stated that between January and March 2018, several shipments arrived at the Port of Manila consisting of 119 containers, of which 105 were tagged as "alerted containers" (shipments that are subject to a 100% physical examination and only the BOC Commissioner can authorize their release). Despite being classified as such, the alerted containers were released without clearance from the BOC Commissioner.</p> <p>Austria disclosed that based on the investigation conducted by the BOC's Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS), the ATI violated Custom's procedure by releasing the alerted shipments based on a fake "transmittal release order" allegedly bearing the forged</p>

<p>Continuation... Ways and Means</p>	<p>signatures of former BOC Formal Entry Division (FED) Chief Antonio Meliton Pascual and his Assistant Chief Marilyn Estur.</p> <p>BOC Deputy Commissioner Natalion Ecarma III confirmed that ATI acted without proper documents, adding that a memorandum from Custom's Commissioner Isidro Lapeña himself, lifting the alert order, should have been attached to the supposed "transmittal release order."</p> <p>Austria assured the Committee that legal actions have already been taken against those involved in the illegal release of the said alerted shipments. He also revealed that said containers have been located in some warehouses in Meycauayan, Bulacan.</p> <p>On the other hand, ATI Senior Vice President Sean Perez maintained that ATI had the necessary supporting documents and acted in accordance with the existing BOC rules and practices at that time.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Horacio Suansing (2nd District, Sultan Kudarat) informed the Committee that he has filed HR 1824 calling for a formal congressional investigation on the matter.</p> <p>The ATI was requested to submit to the Committee documents it has in its possession relative to the release of the 105 containers, while the BOC was requested to submit data on its electronic and manual alert orders issued from October 2017 to March 2018, including the names of importers and the description of covered items, as well as copy of the bill of lading and commercial invoice pertaining to the 105 containers.</p> <p>"Electronic alert orders" are generated through BOC's electronic-to-mobile (e2m) system where the alerting officer is given unique username and passwords; while "manual alert orders" are written documents that can only be issued on unmanifested cargoes or shipments, entries processed under "informal entry", export cargoes, and when the e2m system is inaccessible (<i>Source: Customs Memorandum Order No. 35-2015</i>).</p>
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