



Committee Daily Bulletin

18th Congress
Third Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. III No. 116
December 14, 2021

COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Climate Change	Consolidated Bill on HBs 3136, 3315, 5353, 539, 1554 & 5543	Rep. Acosta-Alba, Deputy Speaker Villar, Reps. Castelo, Cabatbat, Garbin, and Deputy Speaker Rodriguez	Adopting integrated coastal management as a national strategy for the holistic and sustainable management of coastal and related ecosystems and the resources therein from ridge to reef, other supporting mechanisms for implementation, and providing funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Edgar Chatto (1st District, Bohol), approved the Consolidated Bill on the six bills, as amended, and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Chatto said that the proposed law has undergone an extensive process of consultation and deliberation with experts in the field of coastal management. He thanked the members of the technical working group that crafted the consolidated bill, headed by Rep. Elisa "Olga" Kho (2nd District, Masbate), for the work they have poured into the consolidated bill.</p> <p>Rep. Argel Joseph Cabatbat (Party-List, MAGSASAKA), author of HB 539, manifested that the explanatory note attached to his bill shall serve as his sponsorship speech.</p> <p>The proposed law seeks to ensure the sustainable management of the country's coastal and marine environment and resources by looking at the interconnectivity of the ecosystems from the watersheds to the coastal and marine areas.</p> <p>In today's meeting the resource persons gave their respective comments and suggestions to further improve the proposed law.</p> <p>Local Government Operations Officer Arce Fajardo of the Department of the Interior and Local Government - Bureau of Local Government Development asked whether the local government units (LGUs) will still be required to prepare an integrated coastal management (ICM) plan separate from their existing development plans.</p> <p>Committee Secretary Glenda Daco and Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) representative Maria Katrina Apaya explained that LGUs will not prepare separate ICM plans, but rather, they shall mainstream ICM strategies in their local development plans like the Local Climate Change Action Plan and the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.</p> <p>National Economic and Development Authority Supervising Economic Development Specialist Mary Jane dela Rosa said that indeed the LGUs are already saddled with various local plans that they have to prepare and adding another one will be burdensome to them.</p>

Continuation... Climate Change				To clarify Section 13 of the consolidated bill, the Committee amended the same to reflect that the City or Municipal Development Council established pursuant to Section 107 (b) of Republic Act 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, shall be responsible for the mainstreaming of national ICM strategies in their respective development plans, land use plans, and other relevant plans.
Youth and Sports Development	HR 2319	Rep. Mariano-Hernandez	Congratulating and commending the members of the Pilipinas Obstacle Sports Federation for ruling the first World's Highest Obstacle Course Race Championship in Tanzania, Africa	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Faustino Michael Carlos Dy III (5 th District, Isabela), adopted House Resolution 2319, subject to style, and the corresponding Committee Report. Rep. John Marvin "Yul Servo" Nieto (3 rd District, Manila) sponsored HR 2319 on behalf of the author, Rep. Ruth Mariano-Hernandez (2 nd District, Laguna). He manifested that the explanatory note attached to the bill be considered as the author's sponsorship speech.
	HR 2328	Rep. Olivarez	Congratulating and commending Mr. Carlos Yulo for winning the gold medal in the Men's Vault event 2021 Artistic Gymnastics World Championship	The Committee adopted HR 2328, subject to style, and the corresponding Committee Report. Deputy Speaker Rufus Rodriguez (2 nd District, Cagayan de Oro City) sponsored HR 2328 on behalf of the author, Rep. Eric Olivarez (1 st District, Parañaque City). He manifested that the explanatory note attached to the bill be considered as the author's sponsorship speech.
	HR 2380	Valeriano	Investigation into the alleged harassment by the Philippine Athletic Track and Field Association (PATAFA) of Olympian and pole vaulter EJ Obiena, and to review the rules and relationships of the National Sports Associations (NSA), athletes, and other stakeholders under RA 6847, otherwise known as the Philippine Sports Commission Act	The Committee suspended its investigation relative to HR 2380 pending efforts to hold mediation proceedings involving the two contending parties. Aside from addressing the issues involving PATAFA and Olympian and pole vaulter Ernest John "EJ" Obiena, Rep. Dy mentioned at the start of the hearing that the Committee intends to determine whether public funds that were disbursed to the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) have been used for its intended purpose and received by the appropriate beneficiaries. Rep. Manuel Luis Lopez (1 st District, Manila) sponsored the bill on behalf of the author, Rep. Rolando Valeriano (2 nd District, Manila), and manifested that the explanatory note attached to the bill be considered as the author's sponsorship speech. He also took the opportunity to state that it would be beneficial for the parties involved and for the country if a "win-win" solution will be arrived at out of this investigation. He added that prolonging the issue would only damage the reputation of the parties involved. He suggested that the parties go back to the negotiating table and iron out the issues among themselves. Deputy Speaker Rodriguez, who is also the chair of PATAFA, requested that the side of PATAFA be heard first and allow it to answer the serious accusations stated in the resolution. The main issue in the resolution is that the PATAFA

<p>Continuation... Youth and Sports Development</p>				<p>allegedly harassed Obiena in relation to his non-payment of the salary of his coach, Vitaliy Petrov, amounting to 85,000 euros.</p> <p>PATAFA President Philip Ella Juico stated that it is just part of his oversight function, as the president of the organization, to ask about the status of funds and if payments have been made to the intended beneficiaries as he also needs to report this to the PSC, from which the funds are coming. He disclosed that it was him that introduced Obiena to Petrov through a mutual acquaintance, legendary pole vaulter and International Association of Athletics Federation Senior Vice President Sergey Bubka. However, he said ever since Petrov became the coach of Obiena, he never got the chance to meet or talk directly with Petrov as Obiena would often say that Petrov is busy and unable to speak in English. Nevertheless, he said a contract between PATAFA and Petrov was drawn up and the payment for his coaching fees was coursed through Obiena.</p> <p>Juico presented a table showing the dates when PATAFA released the funds to Obiena as payment for his coach. He said the payments made in batches for the 85,000 euros started in May 3, 2018 and ended on August 11, 2020. However, PATAFA discovered that Obiena only started making payments to his coach in September and November 2020 and September and November 2021 amounting to 57,506 euros. Also, when Juico was finally able to communicate directly with Petrov, the latter admitted that he has not received any payment directly from Obiena for his coaching fees.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Rodriguez also informed the body that based on a questionnaire accomplished and signed by Petrov himself, the latter admitted that he never signed any acknowledgment receipt as he did not receive any of his monthly coaching fees. However, Petrov confirmed that he received payments from American sports patron James Michael Lafferty, who is the sponsor and mentor of Obiena.</p> <p>For his part, Obiena expressed his disappointment at how the PATAFA treated him, saying that the latter did not give him the benefit of the doubt and already accused him of being an embezzler. He explained that he had difficulty transferring the money to Petrov since he still has to convert it to euros in order to be accepted by the bank. Since it involved a huge amount of money, he confirmed that he sought the help of Lafferty, who then converted to euros the money he received from Obiena and wired it to Petrov using his own bank account.</p> <p>According to Obiena, he has requested PATAFA many times to just directly send the payment to Petrov as he finds it hard to deal with such matters. He said it is not his job to manage the coaching fee payments and that his ultimate duty</p>
---	--	--	--	---

<p>Continuation... Youth and Sports Development</p>				<p>is to focus on his training in order to compete well and win medals for the country. He then read a letter from Petrov dated and signed on November 30 which serves as the final statement of the latter on this issue.</p> <p>Based on the letter, Petrov is retracting all the previous statements he made and issued to Juico and stated that he has been fully paid by Obiena. He admitted that he was paid late by Obiena and had received payments in irregular tranches because the PATAFA also sent the payments late, as explained by Obiena to him. Nonetheless, Petrov maintained that he does not doubt the trustworthiness of Obiena and that he was misled by the “proactive questioning” of Juico and mistakenly answered his questionnaire in the belief that it would facilitate smoother payments and unburden Obiena from managing his coaching fees. Moreover, he stressed that it was never his intention that the statements he issued to Juico will be used in such a way as it is being used now, “as a weapon to destroy the promising career of Obiena.”</p> <p>Lafferty confirmed the statements of Obiena that he used his own bank account to deliver the coaching fee payments to Petrov. He agreed that the payments should be made directly to Petrov and not through Obiena. He also said that mistakes such as delayed payments to Petrov should be expected as the funds were also released late to Obiena.</p> <p>On the query of the Chair relative to the cause of delay in the release of funds, PSC Director Guillermo Iroy Jr. replied that the reason, in general, is due to the unliquidated cash advances of national sports associations. He added that the PSC follows the Commission on Audit’s memorandum circulars which prescribe that cash advances must be liquidated within the prescribed period and that no funds shall be released unless the prior cash advances were liquidated.</p> <p>However, Juico reiterated the fact that Obiena only made his first payment to Petrov in September 2020, 28 months after the first release of the fund to Obiena. He said by then, Obiena has already received a total of 85,000 euros before he made his first payment.</p> <p>Upon the motion of Rep. Lopez, duly approved, the Committee instructed the PSC to facilitate the mediation between PATAFA and Obiena’s group.</p> <p>PSC Chair William Ramirez informed the Committee that the PSC has in fact already initiated the mediation process for both parties. On his request, Ramirez said the PATAFA has already suspended its own investigation on the matter and already signed an agreement for mediation while Obiena’s group has yet to give its consent to sit down with the PSC. He agreed that the PSC should serve as the extension of</p>
---	--	--	--	---

Continuation... Youth and Sports Development				<p>Congress to resolve the dispute, as even Malacañang and the Senate expect the PSC to finally mediate and resolve the dispute the soonest.</p> <p>Asked if he is willing to take part in the mediation, Obiena answered that he will have to consult with his lawyers first.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Rodriguez said if the mediation will not push through, he recommends that the Committee should continue with its investigation.</p>
	HB 868, 2297, 5516, 6340, 6379, 6426, 6528, 6579, 8533, 9064 & 9234	Reps. Aglipay, Aragones, Nogralles (J.F.F.), Tan (Sharee), Haresco, Garin (S.), Acosta- Alba, Fortun, Villafuerte, Vargas, and Deputy Speaker Rodriguez	National policy on preventing adolescent/teenage pregnancies	The Committee agreed that the 15 measures previously referred to the Subcommittee on Youth be referred back to the mother Committee.
	HRs 538, 612, 1571 & 1608	Rep. Castelo, Vargas, Brosas, and Tambunting	Inquiry into the alarming increase of teenage/adolescent pregnancies	
	HR 2333	Deputy Speaker Martinez	Investigation into the incentives provided by law to be received by gymnast Carlos Yulo for winning gold and silver medals at the 50th Artistic Gymnastics World Championships	<p>The Committee deferred consideration of HR 2333 in the absence of the author who had some urgent matters to attend to.</p> <p>Gymnastics Association of the Philippines President Cynthia Norton disclosed that gymnast Carlos Yulo only received P750,000.00 from the PSC when he is supposed to receive P1.5 million pursuant to Republic Act 10699 (National Athletes and Coaches Benefits and Incentives Act) for winning gold and silver medals at the 2021 Artistic Gymnastics World Championships.</p> <p>The positions and views of other resource persons will be heard in the Committee's next meeting.</p>