



Committee Daily Bulletin

18th Congress
Third Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. III No. 23
July 7, 2021

COMMITTEE MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Natural Resources	Substitute Bill to HB 36	Rep. Biazon	Declaring a portion of the Philippine Rise situated within the exclusive economic zone of the Philippine Sea as a protected area with the category of marine resource reserve under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), to be referred to as the Philippine Rise Marine Resource Reserve, providing for its management, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. (4th District, Cavite), approved the Substitute Bill to House Bill 36.</p> <p>At the outset, Chair Barzaga said that all the bills in today's agenda have already been discussed extensively by the technical working groups that were created to fine-tune the bills.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources presented the result of its study in relation to HB 36, and expressed its support for the passage of the bill.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Jose Atienza Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY) sought clarification on why the bill was amended. He said he supports the bill's original intent which was to declare the entire Philippine Rise as a protected area under the NIPAS. He emphasized that doing otherwise might suggest limitations in the country's sovereign right over this territory.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Ruffy Biazon, author of HB 36, explained that he amended his bill to accede to the advice of environmental experts that it is best to just declare a portion of the Philippine Rise as a protected area with the category of marine resource reserve under the NIPAS. Through this, he said the country will still be able to utilize the natural resources found in the other portions of the Philippine Rise not declared as protected areas, for the benefit of the economy.</p> <p>By a majority vote, the proposed law was approved by the Committee. Deputy Speaker Atienza, who registered his objection to the approval of the proposed measure, said that he reserves his right to state his reservations and pose questions during the bill's deliberation in the plenary.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 107 & 4518	Reps. Fortun and Cabochan	Establishing marine protected areas in all coastal municipalities and cities	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 107 and 4518.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 1686, 5442 & 4052	Reps. Villafuerte, Nieto, and Fortun	Providing for the preservation and protection of mangrove forests, providing penalties for violations thereof, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to the three bills.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 3460 & 8925	Deputy Speaker Hataman and Rep. Villafuerte	Institutionalizing the national wetlands conservation policy	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 3460 and 8925.

DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p>Metro Manila Development</p>	<p>Discussion on the letter-complaint dated 15 March 2021 of various transport groups on the alleged unwarranted increased fees imposed in SM transport terminals within Metro Manila</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Manuel Luis Lopez (1st District, Manila), will continue its discussion on the alleged unwarranted increase in the fees being collected from the users of SM transport terminals in Metro Manila.</p> <p>Rep. Lopez said that the Committee received on March 15 a letter-complaint from various transport groups with regard to the new terms and conditions being imposed and implemented by Park Solutions, Inc. (PSI), the new transport terminal operator in SM malls. He cautioned that the dispute between the transport groups and the PSI, if not resolved, will adversely affect the commuting public. Hence, the Committee aims to help find a viable solution to the problem whether through an appropriate resolution or a proposed law in order to harmonize the interest of all stakeholders, Rep. Lopez further said.</p> <p>The representatives of the various transport groups opposed the PSI's new terminal fees, which include the following: P1,000 accreditation fee per unit per month; P150 for quick response (QR) code; and P30 for jeepney and P50 for UV Express daily rental fee. They claim that the terminal fees are exorbitant and there was no prior consultation with the transport groups before imposing such fees. Among the transport groups that opposed the PSI's terminal fees are the Pasang Masda, Faithron Transport Service Cooperative, and Samahang Manibela Mananakay at Nagkaisang Terminal ng Transportasyon.</p> <p>On the other hand, PSI Chief Operating Officer Pitero Reig maintained the company's position that the fees are reasonable and necessary to properly maintain and improve the condition of transport terminals.</p> <p>Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) National Capital Region Director Zona Russet Tamayo said that the transport groups did not inform the LTFRB of their complaint on the increased fees imposed by the PSI. Nevertheless, LTFRB OIC-Executive Director Joel Bolano said that the LTFRB will hold consultations with the stakeholders to discuss the matter.</p> <p>Rep. Jesus "Bong" Suntay (4th District, Quezon City) agreed that the LTFRB must conduct public consultation to determine if the amount of the terminal fees being charged by the PSI is fair and reasonable.</p> <p>Rep. France Castro (Party-List, ACT-TEACHERS) suggested that the existing terminal charges should be maintained until the Committee's next hearing on July 28. The Committee supported Rep. Castro's recommendation.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Ferdinand Gaité (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA) manifested that public terminals should be funded and operated by the local or national government and not by the private sector.</p> <p>The LTFRB was requested to submit a list of public terminals nationwide, franchises issued, and routes approved in Metro Manila.</p>

Comments, suggestions and requests for copies may be sent to the Committee Publication Staff, Committee Management Support Service I, 3rd Floor, Ramon V. Mitra, Jr. Bldg., House of Representatives, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, through cmss1.cad@house.gov.ph or at tel. nos. 8932-6118/8931-5001 local 7122. Also available at <http://www.congress.gov.ph>