

By dexter yap

The Bicameral Committee is expected to meet in July to hold much-awaited deliberations on the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL).

The members of the Bicameral Conference Committee include the biggest supporters and critics of the proposed BBL measure.

First District Congressman Celso Lobregat, who abstained during voting done by the House of Representatives, is expected to join the deliberations.

Lobregat is one of 29 senators and House representatives who will be responsible for reconciling the conflicting provisions in the bills which were passed separately by the two houses of Congress.

They will be tasked to finalize the proposed BBL law which is aimed towards implementing a peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) here in Mindanao.

The members of the Bicameral Conference Committee are Senators Aquilino Pimentel III, Rodolfo Fariñas, , Sherwin Gatchalian, Juan Miguel Zubiri, Joel Villanueva, Francis Escudero, Franklin Drilon, Risa Hontiveros, Loren Legarda, Francis Pangilinan.

In the House of Representatives, the members of the bicam are: Pedro Acharon Jr (South Cotabato), Mauyag Papandayan (Lanao del Sur), Ruby Sahali (Tawi-Tawi), Celso Lobregat (Zamboanga City), Abdullah Dimaporo (Lanao del Norte), Bai Sandra Sema (Maguindanao), Juan Pablo Bondoc (Pampanga), Arthur Defensor Jr (Iloilo), Johnny Ty Pimentel (Surigao del Sur), Eugene Michael de Vera (ABS Party List), Rodolfo Albano III (Isabela), Amihilda Sangcopan (AMIN Party List), Wilter Palma (Zamboanga Sibugay), Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (Lanao del Norte) Romeo Acop (Antipolo City) Seth Frederick Jaloslos (Zamboanga del Norte) and Shernee Abubakar Tan (Kusug Tausug Party List).

Lobregat described the bicam discussion as the last venue to make sure that contentious provisions which he introduced in the bill will be included in the law.

The solon said that since there is an amendment by substitution on the proposed Bangsamoro law, meaning the entire original BBL Law (House Bill 6475) was changed into a substitute bill with amendments, wherein all of the issues and concerns he raised to protect Zamboanga City were addressed.

“I really took a stand. My vote of abstention was also to make sure that I can be a goal keeper. I wanted to be in the Bicam so I can, not only propose but also to guard what was already been accomplished or achieved, cay si nuay yo alya, baka cambia pa sila el cosa ya man agree kame earlier cay otro el version del senado, y otro el version del kamara aserca el BBL Law,” Lobregat said. (Dexter Yap)