

# Audit of foreign-funded projects pushed

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Senator Sherwin Gatchalian has called for a comprehensive performance audit of 20 foreign-funded government projects.

This, he said, is to examine the financial and legal risks the government is exposed to in relation to the said projects.

Gatchalian, chairman of the Senate committee on economic affairs, asked the Commission on Audit (COA) to do a special review of the contracts, which have been red-flagged in the 2017 General Appropriations Act (GAA), and submit its findings to the committee.

Specifically, Gatchalian is calling for an audit of the following projects: the Philippine Rural Development Project, Pampanga Development Flood Control, Bohol Irrigation Phase II, Angat Water Supply Optimization, Sixth Road (Tullahan) Project, Power Sector Development Program, Help for Catubig Agricultural Advancement, Agrarian Reform Communities Project, Global Maritime Safety, Small Water Impounding Management, Third Elementary Education Project, Emergency Network Project, Southern Philippines Irrigation Sector Project, Calaca I coal-fired thermal power plant, Calaca II coal-fired thermal power plant, Calaca II coal-fired thermal project plant additional financing, Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project, Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project 2, Irrigation System improvement, and the South Luzon Expressway Construction Project I.

“We want to know exactly whether these projects were executed, if they were executed to specifications, whether or not the loans were drawn, and if yes, when will it be paid. Do they form part of our public debt stock?” Gatchalian said during the committee hearing on Senate Resolution No. 253 seeking a debt audit on foreign loans contracted by the government within the last 15 years.

“We want to see an independent audit of these projects,” he added.

Aside from the COA, Gatchalian likewise asked the Department of Finance (DoF) and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to furnish the Senate through the committee with copies of the projects’ contracts, the list of Official Development Assistance (ODA) that funded the projects, and status and assessment reports on the undertakings.