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BUDGET BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Appropriations	<p>Briefing on the proposed FY 2019 budget, plans and programs, and major accomplishments of the following government Offices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles (1st District, Davao City), listened to the presentation on the proposed FY 2019 budget, plans and programs, and major accomplishments of the DPWH and CHED.</p> <p>DPWH Secretary Mark Villar said that under the 2019 National Expenditure Program (NEP), the Department is set to receive P555.67 billion, which is 15% lower than its current budget of P650.87 billion.</p> <p>The bulk of the DPWH's budget or P523 billion goes to capital outlay (CO); while the rest will go to maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE), P12.76 billion; personnel services (PS), P8.76 billion; motor vehicle user's charge (MVUC), P10.37 billion; and retirement and life insurance premiums (RLIP), P78 million. The proposed 2019 budget for CO will be distributed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mindanao – P151.6 billion; Southern Luzon – P101.5 billion; Northern Luzon – P99 billion; Visayas – P70.2 billion; Inter-regional/ nationwide projects – P64.11 billion; and National Capital Region (NCR) – P34.9 billion. <p>Villar also reported on DPWH's major accomplishments for the last two years including the construction, widening and rehabilitation of roads and bridges. He also presented the Department's programs for next year which include: integrated and seamless transport system; highway/road network development; disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation; and roads leveraging linkages for industry and trade, and tourism road infrastructure.</p> <p>On Rep. Nograles' comment that reducing DPWH's budget may adversely affect the implementation of its projects, Villar explained that the budgetary reduction is the result of the new cash-based budgeting policy of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).</p> <p>As opposed to the multi-year obligation-based budget, the annual cash-based budget limits incurring obligations and disbursing payments for goods delivered and services rendered, inspected, and accepted within the fiscal year. An extension of three months will only be given to settle payments.</p> <p>Rep. Edcel Lagman (1st District, Albay) enjoined the Members to restore or even augment the budget originally proposed by the DPWH. He stressed that there is no reason to cut the budget of the DPWH at this time considering that the government is in the thick of implementing its "Build, Build, Build" Program, which seeks to accelerate infrastructure spending.</p> <p>Villar took note of the comments of the Members and also gave assurance that he will look into their concerns regarding the</p>

<p>Continuation... Appropriations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission on Higher Education (CHED) 	<p>implementation of projects in their respective districts. The DPWH was likewise requested to submit the reports, data, and all other documents required by the Members during the meeting.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair and Antique Rep. Paolo Javier sat as the presiding officer during the CHED's budget briefing.</p> <p>CHED Chairperson Prospero de Vera III said that under the FY 2019 NEP, CHED is set to receive P50.44 billion, which is slightly lower (0.18%) than its current budget of P50.53 billion. By expense class, CHED's 2019 proposed budget will be distributed as follows: personnel services (PS), P449.52 million; maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE), P48.83 billion; capital outlay (CO) P255.44 million; and higher education development fund (HEDF), P907.20 million.</p> <p>De Vera also discussed the CHED's key reforms and accomplishments in 2018 and prior years, and the thrusts and priorities for FY 2019.</p> <p>Rep. Nograles asked about the effect of the annual cash-based budgeting on the implementation of RA 10931 considering that the academic year of some SUCs are not synchronized with the government's fiscal year. (The annual cash-based budget limits incurring obligations and disbursing payments for goods delivered and services rendered, inspected, and accepted within the fiscal year.)</p> <p>RA 10931 provides free tuition fees to students enrolled in SUCs, local universities and colleges (LUCs), and all technical-vocational education and training programs registered under the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).</p> <p>De Vera answered that CHED might encounter difficulties in determining and allocating the actual amount that should be reimbursed to SUCs and LUCs for a one-year period because the academic year is not the same as the fiscal year. He explained that under the annual cash-based budgeting, CHED can only spend its 2019 budget for that year alone.</p> <p>De Vera instead suggested that the funds for SUCs and LUCs should be downloaded directly to them rather than pass through CHED. He likewise requested Congress to include a provision in the General Appropriations Act that will classify the payments for tuition fees as income and not covered by the annual cash-based budget. He disclosed that before the enactment of RA 10931, collections from tuition and miscellaneous fees are classified as income which can be used on a multi-year basis.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL), De Vera said that with the help of the University of the Philippines (UP), the CHED has designed an inventory system for all the land assets of the SUCs. As of date, about 60 SUCs were identified to have land problems with informal settlers, indigenous peoples (IPs), and agrarian reform claimants. He said that President Rodrigo Duterte instructed concerned government agencies to create a team that will solve the conflicting claims on lands owned by SUCs.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Sarah Jane Elago (Party-List, KABATAAN) asked if CHED has already amended its guidelines on the conduct of drug test to students of SUCs. She opined that it should not be made a requirement for admission in SUCs but rather should be conducted randomly as prescribed under RA 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002. De Vera answered in the affirmative and promised to submit a copy of the new guidelines to the Committee.</p>
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COMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Public Order and Safety	HB 3153	Rep. Alejano	Transferring the administrative supervision and operational control of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA), National Police Training Institute (NPTI), National Police College (NPC), and National Forensic Science Training Institute (NFSTI) from the Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC) to the Philippine National Police (PNP), amending Sections 24, 66, and 67 of RA 6975, otherwise known as the Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), agreed to consolidate the two bills.</p> <p>Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2nd District, Pangasinan), author of HB 5787, said that it is important for the PNP to exercise administrative and operational supervision and control of the PNPA and the NPTI to ensure the continuous and appropriate training and development of its personnel with the end in view of instilling the highest sense of police discipline, achieving the highest level of competency for its uniformed personnel, and attaining the highest standard of professionalism.</p>
	HB 5787	Rep. Bataoil	Providing for the transfer of the PNPA and NPTI from the PPSC to the PNP, amending for the purpose RA 6975, as amended	<p>His sentiments were shared by the representatives of the PNP, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), National Forensic Science Training Institute (NFSTI), and Department of Budget and Management (DBM), who all expressed support for the two measures.</p> <p>PPSC President Ricardo de Leon voiced out his objection to the transfer of control and administration of the PNPA to the PNP. According to De Leon, the PPSC has been undertaking appropriate measures to improve its operations. He added that adjustments in the PNPA's curriculum are done in consultation with the stakeholders to ensure that the skills and competencies of the graduates are aligned with the demands of the service.</p> <p>Reps. Amado Espino Jr. (5th District, Pangasinan) and Edgar Sarmiento (1st District, Samar) reminded the resource persons that no less than the President himself has endorsed the transfer of the PNPA and NPTI to the PNP. They urged the resource persons to heed the President's desire to inculcate discipline in and maintain the integrity of the country's police force.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Transportation (Technical Working Group)	Status of implementation of the Omnibus Franchising Guidelines and Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program (PUVMP)	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Jesulito Manalo (Party-List, ANGKLA), will continue its discussion on the status of implementation of the Omnibus Franchising Guidelines and the PUVMP in its next meeting.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Manalo informed the body that in the exercise of its oversight function, the Committee, through the TWG, shall scrutinize the progress of implementation of the Omnibus Guidelines on the Planning and Identification of Public Road Transportation Services and Franchise Issuance or the Omnibus Franchising Guidelines (OFG) issued by the Department of Transportation (DOTr) through Department Order No. 2017-011; and the complementary program on the modernization of PUVs. He added that the Committee wants to ensure that the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) is effectively performing its mandate, particularly in implementing the OFG.</p>

<p>Continuation... Transportation (Technical Working Group)</p>		<p>LTFRB Board Member Ronaldo Corpus explained that with the new guidelines, the issuance of franchise will be based on the Local Public Transport Route Plan (LPTRP) to be prepared and submitted by the local government units (LGUs) and the public transport involved shall be subject to the requirements and standards prescribed under the PUV modernization program.</p> <p>Corpus added that a special loan program will be implemented by the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) to assist small operators that will be affected by the PUVMP implementation.</p> <p>Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, Chair of the Committee on Transportation, advised that the rationalization of public transport routes should be given priority to ensure the success of the modernization program.</p> <p>But for Rep. Bayani Fernando (1st District, Marikina City), it is the problem on <i>colorum</i> vehicles that should be solved first. He also suggested that the “one route, one operator policy” should be implemented for easier monitoring of PUVs.</p> <p>Rep. Gavini "Apol" Pancho (2nd District, Bulacan) asked the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to revisit the new PUV design and standards in terms of cost and road worthiness.</p> <p>Pasang Masda President Roberto Martin requested the LTFRB to include the transport groups in its consultations with regard to the new franchising guidelines and asked that the transition period for the PUV modernization program be extended.</p> <p>DOTr officials led by Secretary Arthur Tugade as well as LTFRB Chair Martin Delgra III will be invited to attend in the next meeting of the TWG.</p>
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DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p>Public Order and Safety</p>	<p>Discussion on the safety of public officials and the people of the 1st District of Samar in light of the killing of Calbayog Assistant City Engineer Rafaelito “Joker” Serrano</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), discussed with the Philippine National Police (PNP) measures being undertaken to ensure the safety of public officials and the people of the 1st District of Samar following the killing of Calbayog Assistant City Engineer Rafaelito “Joker” Serrano on August 7.</p> <p>Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1st District, Samar) asked the help of PNP Chief Oscar Albayalde in ending the killings in the 1st District of Samar particularly in the City of Calbayog. According to Rep. Sarmiento, there had been a total of 71 killings in the area since 2014, and six of the victims were barangay officials and another four were government employees. He requested the PNP Chief to launch an investigation into these killings, many of which have remained unsolved to this day.</p> <p>Albayalde assured Rep. Sarmiento that he will personally look into these cases and will assign highly-skilled investigators to conduct the investigation. Albayalde added that he will require the investigators to report to him directly the developments of the case as well as their findings.</p>