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PRE-PLenary CONFERENCE ON THE FY 2019 BUDGET

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Appropriations	Pre-assembly conference on the proposed FY 2019 budget, plans and programs, and major accomplishments of the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles (1st District, Davao City), held a pre-assembly conference with the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) to thresh out issues and concerns raised by the House Members relative to its proposed FY 2019 budget prior to the deliberations on DDB's budget at the assembly.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Jose Antonio "Kuya Jonathan" Sy-Alvarado (1st District, Bulacan), presided over this pre-assembly conference.</p> <p>DDB Chair Catalino Cuy said that under the FY 2019 National Expenditure Program (NEP), the DDB is set to receive a budget of P258.32 million, which is 11% higher than its current budget of P232.26 million.</p> <p>Several Committee Members asked if the DDB can achieve its vision of a "drug-free communities by 2022." Cuy replied in the affirmative, adding that the DDB adopts the strategy of eradicating the supply of and demand for illegal drugs through aggressive law enforcement and prosecution, and increased engagement with the local government units (LGUs). Cuy also said that since 2016, the DDB has already cleared 6,000 out of the 26,000 barangays known to have problems with illegal drugs, through its Barangay Drug Clearing Program.</p> <p>Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo (2nd District, Lanao del Norte) suggested to the DDB to involve religious institutions or groups in its efforts to eliminate drugs in the barangays as they may prove helpful in this undertaking.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Arnolfo "Arnie" Teves Jr. (3rd District, Negros Oriental) questioned the veracity of the so-called "narco list" which the DDB and other law enforcement agencies are using as basis for the administration's campaign against illegal drugs. Rep. Teves claimed he knew of several government officials allegedly being involved in illegal drugs but were surprisingly absent from the said list.</p> <p>Cuy explained that the narco list is a result of an inter-agency effort to identify the people behind the proliferation of illegal drugs in the country. Cuy promised to look into the veracity of the list as well as the involvement of other personalities, as raised by Rep. Teves.</p> <p>The DDB was asked to submit a roadmap of its campaign towards a drug-free community, as well as its programs against illegal drugs that are being implemented in partnership with the LGUs.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Energy (Technical Working Group)	HB 2172	Rep. Santos-Recto	Reducing the cost of electricity for national government offices by promoting the development and utilization of solar energy in all	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Jose "Pingping" Tejada (3 rd District, North Cotabato), will deliberate further on the four bills in its next meeting.

Continuation... Energy (Technical Working Group)			government buildings and offices, providing funds therefor	Reps. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA) and Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2 nd District, Bataan), authors of HBs 6565 and 6960, respectively, explained the merits of their bills.
	HB 5402	Rep. Olivarez	Mandating government offices and/or establishments to allot at least 30% of their energy requirements to solar energy, and mandating them to install solar panels in their buildings	The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), through Edwin Matanguihan, head of the Bridges Division of the Bureau of Design, submitted to the TWG an inventory of all government-owned buildings, excluding government school buildings, nationwide. Based on the inventory as of year 2015, a total of 2,147 government-owned buildings, out of a total of 4,054, need repair or retrofitting in order to accommodate solar panels.
	HB 6565 & 6960	Reps. Zarate and Garcia (J.E.)	Providing incentives and credit facilities for consumers of small solar power systems in the Philippines	<p>As for the House of Representatives (HRep), Business Development Manager Pamela Ceo-Borlaza of the Philippine National Oil Company Renewable Corporation (PNOC RC) reported that the corporation has already submitted to the HRep's Engineering Department the potential areas within the complex where solar panel systems may be installed.</p> <p>The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), through Chief Regulation Officer Sharon Montaner, has submitted to the TWG a summary of the regulatory fees it collects from generation companies, end-users, and entities with self-generation facilities in connection with the installation of solar power energy systems.</p> <p>Montaner also explained the net metering system as provided for under RA 9513 or the Renewable Energy Act of 2008, including the charges/fees imposed by distribution utilities (DUs) on net metering customers subject to the rules of the ERC.</p> <p>Under the law, net-metering is defined as "a system, appropriate for distributed generation, in which a distribution grid user has a two-way connection to the grid and is only charged for his net electricity consumption and is credited for any overall contribution to the electricity grid."</p> <p>Board of Investments (BOI) Senior Investment Specialist Dexter Pajarillo and AboitizPower Distributed Energy, Inc. (APX) General Manager Ping Mendoza, expressed support for the bills. Pajarillo underscored the importance of utilizing solar energy and other renewal energy to ensure the country's energy security, expand its energy access, and promote a low carbon future.</p> <p>Department of Finance's (DOF) Fiscal Policy and Planning Office Director Elsa Agustin does not favor the proposed grant of tax incentives to promote the utilization of solar power systems, and recommends the grant of subsidy assistance instead.</p> <p>The Committee will invite in its next meeting representatives from the Bureau of Product Standards of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and suppliers of solar panel systems.</p>