

Committee Daily Bulletin

17th Congress
Third Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. III No. 64
December 18, 2018

AGENCY BRIEFING

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Public Accounts jt. w/ Games and Amusements	Discussion on the operations of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO)	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Minority Leader Danilo Suarez (3rd District, Quezon), Chair of the Committee on Public Accounts, and Rep. Gus Tambunting (2nd District, Parañaque City), Chair of the Committee on Games and Amusements, continued its discussion on the operations of the PCSO.</p> <p>In today's meeting, the Committee focused on the details of implementation of PCSO's Nationwide Online Lottery System (NOLS) for Luzon.</p> <p>PCSO Chair Anselmo Pinili reported that the Supreme Court ruled on August 15 in favor of the PCSO in connection with the writ of preliminary injunction issued by the Makati City Regional Trial Court against the conduct of bidding for the NOLS for Luzon. The petition for the writ was earlier filed by the Philippine Gaming Management Corporation (PGMC), which claims to have exclusive rights to supply online lottery equipment for lotto operations in Luzon under an Equipment Lease Agreement that ended on August 21. Pinili said that with the favorable SC ruling, PCSO proceeded with the bidding of NOLS for Luzon with an approved budget contract of P10.9 billion.</p> <p>PCSO Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Chair Lauro Patiag disclosed that out of four companies that passed the pre-qualification stage, only Isla Lipuna & Co. submitted bid documents, and was eventually awarded the contract to operate the NOLS for Luzon.</p> <p>Rep. Tambunting questioned the qualification of Isla Lipuna as NOLS project grantee as it is known as an auditing firm. Pinili replied that Isla Lipuna is pre-qualified by the PCSO BAC as an "information technology (IT) gaming consultant."</p> <p>Rep. Tambunting stressed that PCSO does not have to hire a consultant for its lottery operations because it is supposed to have already gained ample experience in operating the NOLS for the past 23 years. PCSO General Manager Alexander Balutan explained that aside from consultancy services, the contract will cover all aspects of operations of the NOLS.</p> <p>Several lawmakers suggested that instead of hiring a consultant for the NOLS, the PCSO should just use the budget for such service to its charitable programs.</p> <p>The Joint Committee later conducted an executive meeting to discuss confidential matters.</p>