

Committee Daily Bulletin

17th Congress
First Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. I No. 127
June 27, 2017

AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Transportation	Discussion on the road safety measures in the country in light of recent traffic accidents and on the status of implementation of the motor vehicle inspection system (MVIS)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, discussed with concerned transport agencies the effectiveness of the country's road safety measures in view of recent serious traffic accidents, particularly those involving public utility vehicles (PUVs), and the status of implementation of the MVIS.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento and members of the Committee present during the meeting cited several road mishaps in the country that resulted in deaths and injuries to passengers. Concerned about the report of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) that at least 34 Filipinos are killed daily in road crashes, the House Members asked what the different transport agencies are doing to address the matter. They emphasized that road accidents could have been prevented had road safety laws been strictly implemented and had inspection of the road worthiness of motor vehicles and screening of drivers been properly conducted.</p> <p>Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Danilo Lim attributed road crashes to the drivers' lack of discipline, faulty road condition, and lack of traffic enforcers to man the roads.</p> <p>Senior Superintendent Florante Torres of the Philippine National Police (PNP)-Highway Patrol Group (HPG) added that most road accidents happened during daytime and on national roads, and involved vehicles that have mechanical defects.</p> <p>Admitting the need to improve the procedure for screening drivers prior to the issuance of driver's license, Land Transportation Office (LTO) Assistant Secretary Edgar Galvante said that the LTO is in the process of reviewing its policies and procedures for the issuance of driver's license, including the written and practical examinations given to the applicants.</p> <p>As regards the inspection of motor vehicles to ascertain their roadworthiness, Galvante said the LTO is faced with some difficulties saying that there is only one fully functioning stationary MVIS center located in Alaminos, Laguna and that most of the inspections are done manually by its evaluators. He added that while there are other MVIS facilities in other places, these require repair and rehabilitation. However, he said, the LTO is in the process of procuring 26 mobile MVIS facilities that will be distributed to its regional offices.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon inquired on the competence of LTO evaluators to certify the roadworthiness of vehicles. Galvante replied that the evaluators have undergone training and have passed the test for qualified evaluators.</p> <p>For his part, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Board Member Ronald Corpus said that part of the LTFRB's franchising guideline is a requirement for PUV operators or owners to designate a safety officer who will be in charge of inspecting and testing the roadworthiness of their vehicles and of screening their drivers.</p>

<p>Continuation... Transportation</p>		<p>Corpus also informed the Committee that the LTFRB has established a Driver's Academy in June 2017 wherein PUV drivers are required to undergo a one-day session on road safety measures, traffic laws, as well as anger management for free. Classes will start in July, with the LTFRB targeting to cover all the drivers of more than 400,000 PUVs registered in the country.</p> <p>On comments that poor road condition is a major cause of accidents, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Undersecretary Raul Asis said that the Department has always considered the safety and structural integrity of roads around the country through the following strategies: pro-active approach, which means safety considerations start from the design of the road; road safety audit or inspection; and "black spot" investigation. (A "black spot" is an area or stretch of road with an occurrence of an average of three accidents over a period of three years.)</p> <p>Department of Transportation's (DOTr) Road Transport Planning Division Chief Arnel Manresa said that the DOTr has embarked on a project dubbed Data for Road Incident Visualization, Evaluation, and Reporting (DRIVER) system which centralizes the gathering, reporting, and analysis of road crashes across the country. He added that the DOTr also conducts seminars for PUV drivers and operators under its Eco Safe Driving Program.</p> <p>Replying to the question raised by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), Galvante said that the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the Anti-Distracted Driving Act (RA 10913) has already been finalized and that the law will take effect on July 6, 2017. Galvante assured the Committee that proper information dissemination campaign will be conducted by the LTO to ensure the effective implementation of the law.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento requested the MMDA to submit its deployment plan of traffic enforcers.</p>
---	--	---