

Committee Daily Bulletin

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BUDGET BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Appropriations	Briefing on the proposed FY 2017 budget, plans and programs, and major accomplishments of the Department of Transportation (DOTr)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles (1st District, Davao City), listened to the presentation on the proposed FY 2017 budget, plans and programs, and major accomplishments of the Department of Transportation (DOTr).</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair and Malabon City Rep. Federico “Ricky” Sandoval II sat as the presiding officer during the budget briefing of DOTr.</p> <p>Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade said that under the 2017 National Expenditure Program (NEP), the DOTr is set to receive P55.48 billion, which is 25% higher than its current budget of P44.29 billion.</p> <p>The 2017 proposed budget of the DOTr is distributed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of the Secretary (OSEC) - P561.77 million; • Locally and foreign-assisted/funded projects - P 39.36 billion; • Maritime sector agencies - P 6.84 billion; • Land and road sector agencies - P 5.75 billion • Rail and toll roads sector agencies - P 1.52 billion; and • Aviation sector agencies - P 1.44 billion. <p>The DOTr used to be the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) but was renamed as such as a result of the creation of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) in May this year, which absorbed all of DOTC’s functions relating to communications.</p> <p>Speaker Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez (1st District, Davao del Norte), who was present in the meeting, asked the DOTr to find an immediate solution to the problems of delayed issuance of license plates of motor vehicles and driver’s license cards, as well as the delay in the release of the official receipt and certificate of registration (OR/CR) of newly-acquired vehicles. Tugade promised to immediately address the Speaker’s concerns.</p> <p>Speaker Alvarez also brought up the issue of possible conflict of interest of certain DOTr undersecretaries. Tugade vouched for his team’s integrity even as he said that he will immediately dismiss from the service any of his officials found to have vested interest in the office.</p> <p>Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1st District, Ilocos Norte) reminded the DOTr to update and coordinate with the legislators its projects implemented in their respective districts.</p> <p>Minority Leader Danilo Suarez (3rd District, Quezon) suggested the establishment of a common rail station to connect the LRT and MRT lines. He added that the current set-up of several rail stations is a burden to passengers who still have to walk quite a distance for their connecting rides.</p>

<p>Continuation... Appropriations</p>		<p>Tugade informed the Committee that the concerned stakeholders in the railway industry are set to sign an agreement to implement a common rail station.</p> <p>Rep. Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City) questioned the minimal budget allocation for the repair and rehabilitation of the Zamboanga Airport. DOTr Undersecretary for Administration and Finance Gary de Guzman replied that funds amounting to P200 million will be downloaded this year to the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) for the rehabilitation of the Zamboanga Airport.</p> <p>On the status of the Mindanao Railway System project, DOTr Undersecretary for Rails and Toll Roads Noel Kintanar reported that the DOTr, together with the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), is now conducting a feasibility study on a railway network in Visayas and Mindanao. Kintanar said the project is expected to be completed within the term of the present administration.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Michael Romero Ph.D. (Party-List, 1-PACMAN) on whether the DOTr has a master plan for air, land, and sea traffic, Tugade informed the Committee that the DOTr is crafting a three-phase, thirty-year master plan for transportation to avoid replicating traffic problems in metro cities, including those in Visayas and Mindanao.</p> <p>With regard to easing up the traffic on EDSA, BUHAY Party-List Rep. Jose Atienza Jr. suggested the clearing of side streets of vendors, illegally parked vehicles, and other obstructions so that vehicles can pass through the side streets instead of EDSA.</p> <p>Tugade explained that the local government units (LGUs) have the authority to clear side streets. But the national government can undertake the clearing of side streets upon the grant of emergency powers to President Rodrigo Duterte.</p> <p>The DOTr will submit to the Committee a list of projects the DOTr intends to implement to address metro traffic problems.</p>
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