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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Transportation	<p>Briefing by government transport agencies on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Omnibus Guidelines on the Planning and Identification of Public Road Transportation Services and Franchise Issuance 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, listened to the briefings conducted by the Department of Transportation (DOTr) on the status of the Integrated Terminal System (ITS) and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) on the omnibus franchising guidelines (OFG).</p> <p>LTFRB Chair Martin Delgra III presented the main features of the omnibus franchising guidelines based on Department Order No. 2017-011, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The establishment of public transportation routes and modes is based on passenger demand, road network configuration, and road hierarchy (road functions); A local level public transport planning approach is adopted on the notion that local government units (LGUs) are in a better position to identify local public transport service requirements; and The Local Public Transport Route Plan (LPTRP) to be prepared by the LGUs shall serve as basis for LTFRB's issuance of franchise for public transportation services. <p>Delgra said that the DOTr issued the OFG in line with its PUV Modernization Program, which is a flagship project of the present administration to institute fundamental reforms in the country's public transport system.</p> <p>Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1st District, Ilocos Norte) asked about possible undue delegation of powers vested by law in the LTFRB to the LGUs as a result of the OFG.</p> <p>Delgra explained that under the OFG, the power to grant public transport franchises still remains with the LTFRB. He added that the responsibilities of LGUs are confined to preparing their respective LPTRPs, which shall first be reviewed by the LTFRB prior to the issuance of the corresponding local ordinance and the issuance of franchise. He admitted that the LTFRB lacks the manpower to study and identify the transportation service that will be best for each locality in the entire country.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento pointed out that it is the LTFRB's responsibility, and not the LGU's, to conduct a study on transport services in line with the issuance of franchise, citing EO 202 or the law that created the LTFRB. He added that LGUs may not have the capability to prepare their own LPTRPs, especially within the prescribed six-month period, even with the training and capacity building services extended to them.</p> <p>Similar questions on the matter were raised by CIBAC Party-List Rep. Sherwin Tugna, Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), PBA Party-List Rep. Mark Aeron Sambar, and Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City).</p> <p>Department of the Interior and Local Government's (DILG) Bureau of Local Government and Supervision Director Manuel Gotis explained that</p>

<p>Continuation... Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Terminal System (ITS) 	<p>the preparation of the LPTRP is within the mandate of the LGU, citing Section 16 of the Local Government Code (RA 7160), which provides LGUs' duty to promote the general welfare of their people.</p> <p>Also responding to the lawmakers' questions, Delgra clarified that public consultations were made prior to the issuance of the guidelines. He added that in the crafting of the LPTRP, the inputs and comments of all the stakeholders shall be secured.</p> <p>The representatives from the different transport groups present during the meeting made known their desire to be involved in the formulation of the LPTRP.</p> <p>On the query of Bayan Muna Party-List Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate, Delgra said that the LTFRB, based on the OFG, encourages consolidation in the transport industry or the formation of cooperatives, corporations or consortiums for a bigger fleet, instead of dealing with individual PUV operators with only one unit each.</p> <p>In response to the question raised by BUHAY Party-List Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr., Delgra said that the LTFRB is in dire need of additional manpower to better perform its mandate. He mentioned that the proposal of the LTFRB to create a Franchising and Planning Division composed of six to eight personnel per region to partner with the LGU in the preparation of the LPTRP is with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for approval.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to further discuss the issues and concerns relative to the OFG.</p> <p>The DOTr and LTFRB were requested to submit to the Committee various documents, including a report on the status of utilization of the P250 million budget for 2016 for PUV modernization, proposed budget for additional manpower requirement, and possible sanctions against LGUs for failure to prepare the LPTRP within the prescribed period.</p> <p>DOTr Assistant Secretary Mark de Leon reported on the status of the Integrated Terminal System. He said that the P2.5 billion Southwest ITS Project along the coastal area in Parañaque City bagged by MWM Terminals Inc. under a build-transfer-operate (BTO) scheme is 25% completed. The project is expected to be completed and operational by April 2018.</p> <p>On the other hand, De Leon said the P4 billion South ITS Project, with ARCA South Integrated Terminal Inc. as the concessionaire also under the BTO scheme, is still under the engineering design stage. Project construction will start in September 2017. However, De Leon said that due to certain issues, DOTr Secretary Arthur Tugade instructed the DOTr's Legal Division to study the possibility of terminating the contract and to move the project to another location.</p> <p>On the request of Reps. Sarmiento and Castelo, the DOTr will submit a written report to the Committee on the status of the South ITS Project.</p> <p>As to the North ITS Project, De Leon said that the DOTr is still in the process of choosing the most appropriate site for the project.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento reminded the DOTr that the ITS projects were conceived to address the traffic crisis in Metro Manila, particularly on EDSA, thus any further delay in implementation is unacceptable.</p>
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PUBLIC POLICY DIALOGUE		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
People's Participation	Dialogue with people in the regions regarding HB 1166 (in consolidation with HB 1615), which institutionalizes industry cluster-based programs and projects through inter-local cooperation and people's participation	<p>The Committee, chaired by San Jose del Monte City Rep. Florida "Rida" Robes, held its first of a series of "public policy dialogues" in relation to HB 1166 (in consolidation with HB 1615) on July 6, 2017 in Calbayog City, Province of Samar.</p> <p>The proposed law was approved by the House of Representatives on third reading in February this year. Its objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To strengthen the participation of the civil society and business organizations in community development through industry cluster-based programs and projects of the government; and • To build and strengthen partnership among concerned agencies, local government units (LGUs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) toward the development of competitive local products and services. <p>The dialogue focused on the livelihood component for social protection of the bill, which was supported by most of the CSO representatives present.</p> <p>Aside from Rep. Robes, the House Members present in the meeting were Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba (1st District, Bukidnon), author of HB 1166, and AASENSO Party-List Rep. Teodoro Montoro.</p> <p>Calbayog City Mayor Ronaldo Aquino and representatives from various CSOs in the city also attended the meeting.</p> <p>The dialogue is being undertaken by the Committee in partnership with the International Center for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Governance (INCITEGov), an organization committed to developing and operationalizing a policy agenda that links democratic politics, good governance, and development outcomes in critical reform areas within the country.</p> <p>After this dialogue in Visayas, the Committee intends to hold a similar activity in Luzon and Mindanao.</p>

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