

# Committee Daily Bulletin

Vol. I No. 14

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

September 13, 2016

BUDGET BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Appropriations	<p>Briefing on the proposed FY 2017 budget, plans and programs, and major accomplishments of the following agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office of the President (OP)</li> <li>• Office of the Vice President (OVP)</li> <li>• Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO)</li> </ul>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles (1st District, Davao City), listened to the budget presentations on the proposed FY 2017 budget, plans and programs, and major accomplishments of the Office of the President (OP), Office of the Vice President (OVP), Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO), and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).</p> <p>OP's Deputy Executive Secretary for Finance and Administration Rizalina Justol presented the OP's proposed budget for 2017.</p> <p>Under the FY 2017 National Expenditure Program (NEP), the OP will get a total of P19.99 billion, an increase of 607% compared to its 2016 budget of P2.82 billion.</p> <p>Justol explained that the huge increase in OP's budget for 2017 is meant to provide the funds required for the country's hosting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in 2017 (P15.46 billion), as well as additional funds of about P2 billion for the surveillance and intelligence gathering, and other activities related to the government's war against illegal drugs.</p> <p>By expense class, the budget of the OP is distributed as follows: personnel services (PS), P707.42 million; maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE), P19.28 billion; and capital outlay (CO), P660,000.</p> <p>Under the FY 2017 NEP, the OVP is set to receive P428.62 million, which is 14.28% lower compared to its 2016 budget of P500 million.</p> <p>By expense class, the OVP's 2017 proposed budget will be distributed as follows: PS, P61.13 million; MOOE, P357.32 million; and CO, P10.16 million.</p> <p>The presentation of the OVP's 2017 budget was dispensed with and the Committee Members did not have any question about its proposed budget.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair Rep. Eric Olivarez (1<sup>st</sup> District, Parañaque City) sat as the presiding officer during the PCOO's budget briefing.</p> <p>PCOO Secretary Jose Ruperto Martin Andanar said that under the FY 2017 NEP, the PCOO and its bureaus and attached agencies are set to receive P1.26 billion, an increase of less than 1% compared to their 2016 budget of P1.25 billion.</p> <p>The PCOO's proposed budget for 2017 is distributed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCOO-Proper - P234.99 million;</li> <li>• Philippine Information Agency - P336.77 million;</li> <li>• Bureau of Broadcast Services - P317.42 million;</li> <li>• Presidential Broadcast Staff (RTVM) - P180.90 million;</li> <li>• News and Information Bureau - P131.90 million;</li> <li>• Bureau of Communications Services - P42.04 million; and</li> <li>• National Printing Office - P11.37 million.</li> </ul> <p>Andanar said that the PCOO will continue to strive for a timely and effective dissemination of information about the programs, plans and projects of the government.</p>

<p>Continuation... Appropriations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and its attached agencies</li> </ul>	<p>Among the strategies that the PCOO plans to employ in order to pursue its thrusts and priorities for 2017 are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passage of an Executive Order merging the PCOO, the Presidential Communications Development &amp; Strategic Planning Office (PCDSPO), and the Office of the Presidential Spokesperson (OPS);</li> <li>• Passage of the People's Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) Charter;</li> <li>• Close coordination with other departments/agencies for joint efforts in information dissemination;</li> <li>• Judicious use of available resources; and</li> <li>• Continuous adjustment to trends and modes of effective communication to be able to reach all sectors of the society.</li> </ul> <p>Asked on the status of the Freedom of Information (FOI) manual for the executive branch, Andanar said that his Office is currently finalizing the manual that will serve as the template for all the agencies of the executive branch. He added that the list of exceptions to the FOI, submitted by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), is still being reviewed by the Office of the Deputy Executive Secretary for Legislative Affairs (ODESLA).</p> <p>When asked about the reason for the huge decrease in the 2017 budget for PS of the National Printing Office (NPO) of P11.37 million as compared to its current budget of P133.83 million, Andanar promised to clarify the matter with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).</p> <p>Andanar, however, mentioned that there are plans to either convert NPO into a government-owned and controlled corporation (GOCC) or merge it with APO Production Unit Inc. (APO is a government controlled corporation that handles the printing of accountable forms and sensitive high quality/volume printing jobs of the Philippine government agencies and offices. It is operating under the control and supervision of the PCOO).</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair Rep. Oscar "Richard" Garin Jr. (1<sup>st</sup> District, Iloilo) sat as the presiding officer during the DSWD's budget briefing.</p> <p>Since the DSWD has already presented its proposed 2017 budget during the Committee's previous meeting, the Members of the Committee started off by posing questions or seeking clarifications about specific concerns.</p> <p>Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy (Party-List, BAGONG HENERASYON) inquired on the criteria being used by the DSWD in determining the recipients of its programs.</p> <p>Social Welfare Secretary Judy Taguiwalo said that in order to qualify for most of DSWD's programs, the applicants must be living below the poverty threshold, as validated in the <i>Listahanan</i> or the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR). She added that the DSWD is considering coming up with new programs to assist previous beneficiaries who have "graduated" from its social programs so that they will not slide down to poverty again.</p> <p>Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Nueva Ecija) asked for an explanation regarding the DSWD's issuance of Memorandum Circular No. 9 which in effect disregards the legislators' referrals for their constituents to be included as beneficiaries of certain programs of the Department.</p> <p>Taguiwalo explained that the said circular only serves as a guide for DSWD personnel on the proper disbursement of funds, adding that referral letters from public officials are not integral to the process of implementing its protective services programs. What is important is that the applicants meet the requirements of the program based on the DSWD guidelines, she stressed.</p> <p>Rep. Antonio Tinio (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS) raised the issue of contractualization of employees in the government service.</p>
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<p>Continuation... Public Information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Telecommunications Commission (NTC)</li>   <li>• Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP)</li>   <li>• Optical Media Board (OMB)</li>   <li>• NGOs and other interest groups</li> </ul>	<p>For 2017, the MTRCB plans to include cultural sensitivity in their program line-up to encourage proper depiction of cultural communities. Villareal further said that the MTRCB is now studying the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the Closed Caption Law (RA 10905), which mandates television stations to use the subtitling system in television programs for the benefit of the hearing-impaired.</p> <p>NTC Commissioner Gamaliel Cordoba said the NTC, an attached agency of the Office of the President (OP), is responsible for the supervision, adjudication and control over all telecommunications services throughout the country. NTC adopts and promulgates guidelines, rules and regulations relative to the establishment, operation and maintenance of various telecommunications facilities and services nationwide.</p> <p>Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Quezon City) requested NTC to submit the list of franchises in the telecommunications industry that have already expired.</p> <p>FAP Director General Leo Martinez disclosed that the funds of FAP come from the proceeds of the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) coursed through the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA). He said prior to 2005, the FAP received P9 million annually from the MMDA. However, Martinez claimed that even when the gross income of the MMFF increased starting in 2005, the share of FAP in the MMFF proceeds started to decrease. He speaks of about P120 million unremitted funds to FAP from 2005 to 2015, and another P356 million from the revenues of MMFF film entries shown in the provinces.</p> <p>Martinez was requested to submit his position paper on the MMDA's unremitted funds to FAP.</p> <p>OMB Executive Director (OIC) Cyrus Paul Valenzuela presented the powers and functions of OMB, which include regulating the production, use and distribution of optical media in the Philippines, including those contained in compact discs, laser discs, and all other hard drives and magnetic media or materials. He also stressed that optical media piracy covers the sale, reproduction, importation and exportation of pirated optical media including the devices and equipment used in the unauthorized replication.</p> <p><i>Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP)</i> President Herman Basbaño gave an overview on the mission, vision and mandate of the KBP. He said that KBP is an association composed of radio and television station owners and operators that adopt common rules and standards as a self-regulatory body. He stressed that not all broadcast companies and operators are members of the KBP.</p> <p>Atty. Eirene Jhone Aguila of the Right to Know, Right Now Coalition said her group is a network of organizations and civil society leaders composed of more than 150 organizations and members from different sectors and across political spectrum. Its major advocacy is to push for the passage of the FOI bills. Toward this end, the Coalition provides support to the champions of FOI in the form of research and analysis.</p> <p>Internet Society of the Philippines (ISOC PH) Chair Winthrop Yu informed the Committee of ISOC PH's policies and principles. He said his group conducts trainings in schools on the proper and responsible use of the Internet.</p> <p>Ad Standards Council (ASC) Executive Director Digna Santos said that part of its mandate is to protect consumers from misleading and offensive advertisements. She also highlighted ASC's 42 years of self-regulation which has been globally recognized as one of the models for best practices in the advertising industry worldwide.</p>
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Continuation... Ways and Means	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR)</li> </ul>	<p>BIR Deputy Commissioner Nestor Valeroso disclosed that the BIR's collection for 2015 of P1.44 trillion fell short by 13.88% compared to its collection target of P1.67 trillion. On the other hand, revenue collections from January to June 2016 reached P785.97 billion or 19% short compared to its target of P968.55 billion. The BIR is targeting to collect P2.31 trillion revenues by 2017.</p> <p>Valeroso discussed the priority programs of the BIR for 2017, among which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvement of taxpayer's satisfaction – by reviewing revenue issuances and rulings that impose unnecessary burden to taxpayers; simplifying tax forms and streamlining requirements and processing time for application of clearances; strengthening the registration database;</li> <li>Protection of revenues and recapturing public trust – by removing corrupt and undesirable tax officers or relieving/transferring them; and by strengthening the BIR's Internal Affairs Service for swift action against erring BIR personnel;</li> <li>Attainment of collection targets – by implementing nationwide industry benchmarking activities; broadening the tax base; updating/revising existing schedule of zonal valuation to reflect the current real property valuation; and enhancing its Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) Program.</li> </ul>
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<b>ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING</b>		
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>SUBJECT MATTER</b>	<b>DISCUSSIONS</b>
Constitutional Amendments	Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Southern Leyte Rep. Roger "Oging" Mercado, adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair Rep. Edward Vera Perez Maceda (4<sup>th</sup> District, Manila) took over as presiding officer from Rep. Mercado after the latter delivered his opening remarks.</p> <p>Rep. Maceda said that, at present, there are 29 measures referred to the Committee proposing various modes of amending the 1987 Philippine Constitution, such as through a constitutional convention, constituent assembly, or constitutional commission.</p> <p>The Committee will decide, hopefully by December of this year, on which mode to recommend after conducting consultations with stakeholders, resource persons, and the public.</p>
Ways and Means	Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Karlo Cua, adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress.</p> <p>The Committee, which is presently composed of 53 Members, has general jurisdiction over all matters directly and principally relating to the fiscal, monetary and financial affairs of the national government, including tariff, taxation, revenue, borrowing, credit and bonded indebtedness.</p>