

Committee Daily Bulletin

Vol. I No. 15

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

September 14, 2016

BUDGET BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Appropriations	Briefing on the proposed FY 2017 budget, plans and programs, and major accomplishments of the Department of National Defense (DND)	<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 DND.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair and Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozanno Rufino Biazon presided over the budget briefing of the DND.</p> <p>Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said that under the 2017 National Expenditure Program (NEP), the DND and its attached agencies will get P178.22 billion, which is 7.8% higher than their current budget of P165.31 billion. The increase in the budget of the DND is intended to address national security concerns, particularly on the fight against terrorism, war on drugs and other criminalities.</p> <p>The DND's 2017 budget is distributed as follows: DND Proper and its civilian agencies, P3.88 billion; Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), P130.41 billion; and Pension Gratuity Fund, P43.02 billion.</p> <p>By expense class, DND's 2017 proposed budget will be distributed as follows: personnel services (PS), P116.19 billion; maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE), P32.14 billion; and capital outlay, P29.89 billion.</p> <p>Lorenzana discussed the DND's strategic thrusts for FY 2017, among which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To secure the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the State; • To promote and sustain the internal stability of the country; • To attain the highest standard of capability and preparedness during disasters; • To improve and sustain operations in support to global peace and security; and • To continue undertaking institutional reforms in order to promote good governance <p>The DND was requested to submit to the Committee a written report on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of implementation of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA), particularly on the use of public funds and properties; • Status of implementation of the AFP Modernization Program; • Budget expenditures for bilateral engagements entered into by the Philippine government from 1987 to the present. <p>Lorenzana gave an assurance that the DND "shall continue to pursue its mandate and achieve its goal with more vigor to ensure a stable national security environment conducive for economic growth and development and poverty alleviation."</p>

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Foreign Affairs	Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Linabelle Ruth Villarica (4th District, Bulacan), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress, with amendments.</p> <p>The Committee's priority legislative agenda include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the Philippine archipelagic sea lanes; • Defining the Philippine maritime zone; • Amending the Philippine Passport Act of 1996; and • Amending the Foreign Service Act of 1991. <p>The Committee agreed to discuss the Philippine foreign policy in an executive session.</p>
Government Reorganization	<p>Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure</p> <p>Briefing by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) on the implementation of the government's rationalization program, and on the proposal to rightsize the national government</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Batanes Rep. Henedina Abad, adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p> <p>Rep. Abad underscored the Committee's role in crafting legislative measures that will improve government structures and performance to serve the needs of the people in a responsive, efficient and competent manner.</p> <p>DBM Director Clotilde Drapete apprised the Committee on the implementation of the Government Rationalization Program pursuant to Executive Order 366, which was issued in October 2004.</p> <p>Drapete said the goal of the rationalization program, which was completed in February 2013, was to transform the executive branch into a more effective and efficient government. The program also aimed to focus government efforts and resources on its vital functions and channel them to core public services; minimize/eliminate overlaps and duplications; and rationalize delivery and support systems, organizational structures and staffing within departments/agencies.</p> <p>The rationalization program covered a total of 178 entities composed of all the departments of the executive branch and the agencies and government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs)/government-owned financial institutions (GFIs) attached to these departments.</p> <p>According to Drapete, government personnel affected by the rationalization program had three options: to retire/separate from the service with applicable incentives; transfer without reduction in salary to other agencies needing additional personnel; or remain in their mother agency, but their positions were converted from regular to coterminous status (to be abolished once vacated).</p> <p>Drapete also reported that the program implementation resulted in the abolition of around 36,863 regular positions, generating savings for personnel services of about P4.27 billion (FY 2005 level) or P7.26 billion (FY 2012 level). It also resulted in the strengthening of some agencies' core functions, improvement in systems and procedures, and abolition or scaling down of duplicate/overlapping of functions.</p> <p>With regard to the legislative measure being proposed by the DBM which seeks to rightsize the national government to improve public service delivery, Drapete explained the bill's salient features, among which are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covers all national government departments/agencies, but is optional to the legislature, judiciary, constitutional offices, state universities and colleges (SUCs), and local government units (LGUs); • Empowers the President to rightsize the national

<p>Continuation... Government Reorganization</p>		<p>government (NG);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates a Committee on Rightsizing the NG, with the Executive Secretary as chair and the DBM Secretary as co-chair; • Grants retirement benefits and separation incentives to affected personnel, subject to certain requirements; • Prohibits rehiring of retirees for a period of five years except as teaching staff in SUCs; and • Provides funds for separation incentives. <p>Asked why it took nine years before the DBM completed and implemented the 2004 rationalization program, DBM Undersecretary Janet Abuel explained that there was immense work involved as it required the simultaneous reviewing of the rationalization plans submitted by the national agencies and the processing of other agencies' proposals for exemption from the program.</p> <p>Rep. Abad asserted that the rationalization program was not able to correct the conflicting functions of some agencies which serve both as regulatory and implementing bodies, citing as examples the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), National Food Authority (NFA), and National Irrigation Administration (NIA). Abuel admitted that Rep. Abad's observation was recognized by the DBM as a lesson learned. She explained that the agencies should not have done the review and evaluation of their own requirements under the rationalization program because it could be self-serving. The Change Management Team (CMT) should have done this for the agencies instead, Abuel added.</p> <p>Abuel believes that the bill on the rightsizing of the government will correct that problem since it will create a committee, to be supported by a technical working group (TWG) composed of experts from the government and the private sector, which will manage the efforts to rightsize the bureaucracy.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Aniceto "John" Bertiz (Party-List, ACTS-OFW) on why the Department of Education (DepEd) continues to hire additional personnel when the government is pursuing rationalization efforts, Abuel said that the DepEd is exempted from this program owing to the severe lack of teachers in the country.</p>
	<p>Briefing by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) on the current profile of the Philippine civil service</p>	<p>Presenting the current profile of the Philippine civil service, CSC Director Azucena Perez-Esleta of the Human Resource Policies and Standards Office cited the following statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 2,939 government agencies nationwide, broken down as follows: national government agencies (NGAs) - 186; GOCCs - 83; LGUs - 1,688; SUCs - 113; and local water districts – 869. • The civil service workforce is composed of 2.3 million employees, broken down as follows: 1.71 million holders of career and non-career positions; and 595,162 workers under a job order/contract of service. <p>Esleta also discussed the salient provisions of RA 6656 or the law protecting the security of tenure of civil service officers and employees in the implementation of government reorganization; and the 2016 Omnibus Rules on Appointments and Other Human Resource Actions.</p> <p>The CSC's current initiatives and programs that will sustain efficiency and integrity in the civil service are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in HR Management (PRIME-HRM); • Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS); • Competency-based Recruitment and Qualification Standards (CBRQS); • Competency-based Learning and Development Program

		<p>(CBLDP); and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership and Coaching Program (LCP).
Metro Manila Development	Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p> <p>The Committee, which is presently composed of 19 Members, has general jurisdiction over all matters directly and principally relating to policies and programs to promote and enhance the development of Metro Manila.</p> <p>Rep. Castelo said that the Committee will give priority to the deliberation of HB 554, authored by Deputy Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga), that prescribes measures to effectively address the traffic crisis in Metro Manila.</p>
	Briefing by the Department of Transportation (DOTr) on its priority plans & projects in Metro Manila	<p>The Committee listened to the presentation of DOTr Undersecretary for Roads and Infrastructure Anneli Lontoc on the Department's priority plans & projects in Metro Manila.</p> <p>Lontoc disclosed that, based on the study conducted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the economic loss due to traffic congestion is estimated at P2.4 billion a day, which is projected to increase to P6 billion a day by year 2030 if the government fails to address the problem.</p> <p>Lontoc also cited a study conducted by the UP School of Urban and Regional Planning which found that the number coding scheme is not an effective method to reduce the volume of vehicles on the road.</p> <p>The DOTr's policy to address traffic congestion in the metropolitan areas is directed towards developing public transport systems like the bus rapid transit (BRT) and the intermodal transport (IT), which are considered to be more efficient and can accommodate more people per trip.</p>
Natural Resources	Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party List, BAYAN MUNA), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p> <p>The Committee, presently composed of 51 Members, has general jurisdiction over all matters directly and principally relating to natural resources, except energy and fisheries resources, and their exploration, conservation, management and utilization, lands of the public domain, mines and minerals, forests, parks and wildlife, and marine resources.</p>
	Briefing by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on its strategies and major programs, and its priority legislative agenda	<p>DENR Undersecretary for Staff Bureaus Demetrio Ignacio Jr. apprised the Committee of the Department's strategies and major programs. Among the key targets under each priority program are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced National Greening Program – planting of trees and mangrove on 300,000 hectares of land; • Intensified Forest Protection Program – maintenance and protection of over one million hectares of forest lands planted with trees; • Responsible Mining Program – intensified anti-illegal mining operations; • Intensified Environmental Protection Program – close monitoring of compliance with environmental laws; extension of support to local government units (LGUs) in their management of solid waste; • Enhanced Biodiversity Conservation Program – establishment of new sites and maintenance of existing ecotourism facilities in protected areas; and • Pilot Convergence Areas - creation of island models that will

<p>Continuation... Natural Resources</p>		<p>showcase best practices in local area development and climate change adaptation, resiliency and mitigation.</p> <p>Senior Undersecretary for Environment Leo Jasareno discussed the following priority legislative agenda of the DENR for the 17th Congress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Forest Management; • Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (E-NIPAS); • National Land Use Bill; • Amendment of the Mining Law; • Land Administration Reform Act; • Integrated Coastal Management; • Forest Boundary Limit Act; • Amendment of the Water Code of the Philippines; and • Indigenous Communities Conserved Areas (ICCA). <p>Jasareno also informed the Committee of the status of the mining audit conducted by the DENR, which involves the inspection of 40 metal mines and 62 non-metallic mines. He reported that the initial audit resulted in the suspension of the operations of 10 metal mining firms for violation of laws and terms and conditions of their permits. Jasareno said that the DENR expects to complete the audit of non-metallic mines by the end of September. The DENR will submit to the Committee an official report on the mining audit once it has been completed.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Francisco Jose “Bingo” Matugas II (1st District, Surigao del Norte), Jasareno said the audit focused on mining safety, health of the mine workers, environment and social development, and compliance with International Standard Organization (ISO) 14001 and with the conditions stated in the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC).</p> <p>National Water Resources Board (NWRB) Executive Director Seville David Jr. mentioned that the NWRB has ongoing programs aimed at protecting underground water as well as the river systems. ANGKLA Party-List Rep. Jesulito Manalo requested the DENR to submit a legislative proposal for the protection of underground water.</p>
<p>Public Order and Safety</p>	<p>Approval of the Committee’s Rules of Procedure</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p>
	<p>Briefing by the Philippine National Police (PNP) on the country’s current peace and order situation</p>	<p>The Committee listened to the briefing conducted by Police Senior Superintendent Rene Pablico Pamuspusan, chief of PNP’s Law Enforcement Division, on the country’s peace and order situation as well as the on the plans and programs of the PNP.</p> <p>Pamuspusan said in the first two months of President Rodrigo Duterte’s administration, there has been a notable downtrend in the number of reported criminal activities, attributing this to the PNP’s intensified anti-criminality programs.</p> <p>The PNP, according to Pamuspusan, is relentlessly implementing its two-pronged anti-illegal drugs program called “Double Barrel,” comprising of Project “Tokhang” (police visitation in barangays and subdivisions) and Project HVT (high value target). So far, he said a total of 710,961 individuals across the country have voluntarily surrendered, of which 658,217 are confessed drug users and 52,744 are pushers of illegal substances. The PNP likewise conducted 16,628 lawful arrests involving drug users and pushers, and has dismantled drug syndicates.</p> <p>Other initiatives of the PNP to address criminality include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Kontra Boga” - campaign against loose firearms;

<p>Continuation... Public Order and Safety</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “<i>Bilang Boga</i>” - accounting of unregistered firearms and those with expired licenses; • “<i>Sanglahi-Alpha</i>” - containment and neutralization of local and international terrorist groups; • Intensified internal security operation; and • Ensuring peace and order during observance of holidays, festivals, fiestas and other similar celebrations. <p>Rep. Winston “Winnie” Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City) raised the issue on the alleged extra-judicial killings and human rights violations related to the government’s campaign against illegal drugs which already caught the attention of the international community.</p> <p>PNP Director for Plans Noel Lazarus Vargas underscored that the PNP does not tolerate extra-judicial killings, adding that it has already conducted investigations on the matter with so far 303 cases against certain individuals filed in court. He also denied that the PNP is the source of President Duterte’s list of illegal drugs protectors, claiming that the President has his own intelligence gathering group.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Conrado Estrella III (Party-List, ABONO) on the effect of PNP’s campaign against illegal drugs on the incidence of crimes, Police Chief Superintendent Nestor Quinsay of the PNP Directorate for Intelligence said there is direct correlation between illegal drug use and overall criminality. Quinsay averred that about 70% of crimes are drug-related or have been committed by people under the influence of drugs.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Acop if criminal charges will be filed against the more than 700,000 surrenderees, Police Chief Superintendent Camilo Pancratius Cascolan explained that the PNP cannot file any charges against them because they voluntarily surrendered themselves and they were neither caught in the act of committing a crime nor were in possession of any contraband during their surrender.</p> <p>On why all suspected criminals could not be required to undergo drug testing, Cascolan said that based on a Supreme Court decision, a suspect can only be subjected to drug testing when the crime for which he was arrested is in connection with RA 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002. Cascolan requested Congress to pass a law that would allow the PNP to conduct drug testing on all suspected criminals confirming that almost all crimes committed could be attributed to illegal drug use.</p>
<p>Women and Gender Equality</p>	<p>Approval of the Committee’s Rules of Procedure; designation of subcommittee chairpersons</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar (Party-List, DIWA), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress, subject to the following amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of another Subcommittee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Rights; and • Renaming of the Subcommittee on Women and Female Children’s Rights to Subcommittee on Women and Rights of the Girl-Child. <p>The Subcommittees and their respective chairpersons are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subcommittee on Women and Rights of the Girl-Child– Biñan City Rep. Len Alonte-Naguia; • Subcommittee on Oversight – Rep. Sol Aragones (3rd District, Laguna); and • Subcommittee on LGBT Rights – Rep. Geraldine Roman (1st District, Bataan). <p>The chairperson of the Subcommittee on Violence Against Women and their Children will be named at a later date.</p>
	<p>Briefing on the programs and projects, priority legislative agenda, and other women and</p>	<p>The Committee also listened to the briefing of the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), Department of Social Welfare and</p>

<p>Continuation... Women and Gender Equality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philippine National Police - Women & Children Protection Center (PNP-WCPC). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Magna Carta of Day Care Workers. <p>Police Superintendent Angela Rejano said the PNP-WCPC's mission is to enforce the laws, handle investigation, and conduct counter-intelligence and surveillance operations against trafficking in persons and violence against women and children.</p> <p>In response to the query of Rep. Aragonés on establishing a separate help-desk for LGBTs, Rejano explained that since there is no formal directive for the separate handling of LGBT and women concerns, she said the complaints or cases involving LGBTs are presently handled by the PNP's women's desks.</p> <p>Rep. Pia Cayetano (2nd District, Taguig City) recommended that the Anti-Prostitution Bill, the Bill on Marital Infidelity, and the Amendments to EO 209 (Family Code of the Philippines) on the full implementation of the Fundamental Equality Before the Law of Women and Men, be transferred from the Committee on Revision of Laws to the Committee on Women and Gender Equality. Rep. Cayetano also urged the DSWD to have clear directives on how to effectively implement the Foster Care Act of 2012 (RA 10165).</p>
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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Foreign Affairs	HR 76	Rep. Olivarez	Commending the Permanent Court of Arbitration in its favorable award against the People's Republic of China on the conflicting claims over the West Philippine Sea	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Linabelle Ruth Villarica (4 th District, Bulacan), adopted HR 76 with amendment.
	HRs 78, 79, 159 & 185	Reps. Biazon, Villafuerte, Alejano and Gatchalian	Commending the members of the Philippine delegation to the Arbitral Tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands for the successful conclusion of the Republic of the Philippines against the People's Republic of China	The Committee adopted the four resolutions.
Women and Gender Equality	HBs 152, 472, 483, 509, 580, 1046, 1382, 1644, 1912, 2838 & 3224	Reps. Aglipay-Villar, Tinio, Villar (M.), Andaya, Cayetano, De Jesus, Vargas, Villarica, Violago, Baguilat & Tambunting	Increasing the maternity leave period for female employees in the government service and in the private sector	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar (Party-List, DIWA), agreed to come up with a substitute bill, incorporating therein the recommendations of the Members and the resource persons present during the meeting.

AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Human Rights	Briefing by the Balay Rehabilitation Center, Inc. on its mission, vision, programs, and advocacies	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2nd District, Zambales), listened to the briefing conducted by the Balay Rehabilitation Center, Inc. on its mission, vision, programs, and advocacies.</p> <p>Executive Director Joy Lascano apprised the Committee of the Center's programs and advocacies that specifically deal with internally</p>

<p>Continuation... Human Rights</p>	<p>displaced persons (IDPs), among which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilizing psycho-social support to communities displaced by armed conflicts and socio-natural disasters; • Giving special attention to women and children who are considered as IDPs; • Facilitating the formation of self-help groups of women, and strengthen the network of youth peace advocates in security challenged communities; and • Advancing humanitarian protection through the enactment of the IDP Protection Law, and facilitating access of civilians to justice by linking them to agencies that are mandated to prevent internal displacement and secure civilians from harm. <p>Lascano said that the Center also provides psychological, social, medical and legal assistance to survivors of torture and organized violence (STOV) and their family members. It also caters to individuals and groups at risk of being tortured, notably the political prisoners and other conflict-related detainees, and the young people in poor urban neighborhoods. The Center likewise pushes for the full implementation of the Anti-Torture Law and is continuously doing research on how the conditions in the country's prisons and detention areas can be improved.</p> <p>The Center's Program Advocacy Officer Lisa Ugay discussed the current state of IDPs in the country. The leading causes of displacement in the country, according to Ugay, are armed conflict, man-made and natural disasters, demolitions, and large-scale development projects. She also presented the status of the IDP Bill during the past Congresses, as well as the salient features of similar bills currently filed in both Houses of Congress.</p> <p>Program Coordinator Ernesto Anasarias lamented that despite the country's extensive laws against torture, it remains widespread and increasing in number. He cited the studies conducted by Amnesty International and by other organizations which confirm this grim situation. He presented the following recommendations to stop torture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a national preventive mechanism (NPM) for the prevention of tortures which is also being proposed in the various bills referred to the Committee; • Convene the Congressional Oversight Committee on Anti-Torture; and • Address overcrowding in jails; <p>The Center's Board Secretary, Ellecer Carlos, briefed the Committee on the history of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT), to which the Philippines is a signatory. He also explained the important provisions of OPCAT including the basic principles, State obligations, mandate of the OPCAT's preventive bodies, and the composition of the NPMs and the Sub-committee for the Prevention of Torture.</p> <p>Rep. Deloso-Montalla urged the Members of the Committee to support the passage of the proposed IDP Protection Law which is touted to be the first in Asia and will be a source of pride for the country.</p>
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