

<p>Continuation... Appropriations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) 	<p>with ERC rules and regulations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issued permits and licenses within the prescribed period; and • Increased collection of fees from P224.4 million in 2005 to P1.68 billion in 2015. As of June 30, 2016, fees collected reached P222.6 million, which is 45% of ERC's total 2016 revenue target. <p>Salazar explained that the increase in collection came largely from the payments of the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) representing supervision and regulation fees amounting to P468.4 million a year. He, however, revealed that the NGCP has filed a case in court questioning the amount of fees being imposed by the ERC.</p> <p>SAGIP Party-List Rep. Rodante Marcoleta asked how the DOE monitors the proper implementation of RA 8479 or the "Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act of 1998." He said that RA 8479 mandates the DOE and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to ensure a truly competitive market under a regime of fair prices and an adequate and continuous supply of high quality petroleum products.</p> <p>DOE Secretary Alfonso Cusi answered that the law has built-in measures to protect the consumers from unfair trade practices. He added that there is a formula for computing the prices of petroleum products in the market which ensures that the interest of the public is protected. The DOE's monitoring of the industry's compliance with the law includes the conduct of actual inspections down to the level of gasoline stations.</p> <p>Cusi also confirmed that the DOE has taken steps to encourage new players in the oil industry. He reported that while in 2015 there were only 23 industry players with a total investment of P3 billion, now there are 270 players with a total investment of P50.73 billion.</p> <p>Rep. Salceda reminded the body that the 2017 proposed budget of the DOE and its attached agencies, including the ERC, is scheduled for plenary deliberations on September 28.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair Rep. Oscar "Richard" Garin Jr. (1st District, Iloilo) presided over the pre-plenary conference on the DSWD's proposed budget.</p> <p>Rep. Peter "Sr. Pedro" Unabia (1st District, Misamis Oriental) asked about the status of the Rice Distribution Project of the DSWD. Social Welfare Secretary Judy Taguiwalo said that the DSWD is still in the process of finalizing the project in coordination with the Department of Agriculture (DA).</p> <p>On the concern raised by Rep. Ariel "Ka Ayik" Casilao (Party-List, ANAKPAWIS) if relocated families, particularly the Lumads, are qualified beneficiaries to the DSWD's Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), Taguiwalo confirmed that they are qualified. For the Lumads, Taguiwalo said the DSWD is studying lifting some of the program requirements in consideration of the present situation they are in.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Anthony Bravo Ph.D. (Party-List, COOP-NATCCO) on the number of beneficiaries who have graduated from the 4Ps, Taguiwalo said about 1.2 million beneficiaries have already crossed over the poverty threshold.</p> <p>Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo (2nd District, Lanao Del Norte) requested the DSWD to submit an updated list of beneficiaries under the 4Ps per district.</p>
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<p>Continuation... Appropriations</p>		<p>As to the query of Rep. Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP) on what the DSWD is doing in the area of “development,” Taguiwalo cited the Department’s various programs which are geared towards community development, job generation, microfinancing, and people’s participation.</p> <p>Taguiwalo also mentioned that the Department has already issued Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 11 which clarifies certain aspects of MC No. 9, which provides the policy guidelines in implementing the DSWD’s protective service programs. In a previous meeting of the Committee, the legislators were protesting the issuance of MC No. 9 which in effect disregards the referrals or recommendations given by legislators for their constituents to be included as beneficiaries in the DSWD’s programs. Taguiwalo apologized for the inconvenience that MC No. 9 has caused.</p> <p>The Committee Members made the following recommendations which they asked the DSWD to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study and evaluate further the social and economic impact of the 4Ps to make sure that government funds are utilized properly; • Initiate programs for families transitioning from being beneficiaries of 4Ps to being self-supporting so that they may not go back to their status as poor; • Build more daycare and senior citizen centers, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH); and • Increase cash assistance from P5,000 to P10,000 which may be released on a staggered basis. <p>Some members of the Committee recommended the deletion of the provision in the proposed 2017 General Appropriations Act (GAA) requiring the accreditation of civil society organizations (CSOs) by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Commission on Audit (COA), and DSWD. Instead, they said the agency which will provide the funding should be authorized to conduct the accreditation itself in order to prevent unnecessary delay.</p>
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COMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Transportation	HBs 03, 38, 554, 1315, 1666, 3048, 3162, 3314, & 3442	Majority Leader Fariñas, Rep. Yap (A.), Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, Reps. Castelo, Revilla, Deputy Speaker Cayetano, Reps. Tambunting, Primicias-Agabas, & Escudero	Granting the President emergency powers to address the massive traffic congestion in the country	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, will deliberate further on the ten measures in its next meeting.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Sarmiento inquired on the steps being undertaken by the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to address the severe backlog in the issuance of driver’s licenses and license plates.</p> <p>Land Transportation Office (LTO) Assistant Secretary Edgar Galvante informed the Committee that there are already initial talks with the APO Production Unit Inc. which confirmed its commitment and capability to address the backlog in the printing of driver’s licenses by the second quarter of 2017. 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.</p>
	HR 119	Deputy Speaker Abu	Resolving the serious nationwide traffic problems by urgently granting the power of traffic management and control of national roads in the provinces to the Office of the Provincial Governors	

<p>Continuation... Transportation</p>				<p>As regards the delayed issuance of license plates, the DOTr is studying the possibility of manufacturing the license plates locally in view of the problems it experienced with the supplier which sources the license plates from abroad.</p> <p>Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Chair Martin Delgra III, replying to the query about the status of the P250 million budget for the Route Rationalization Plan for the current year, reported that the DOTr is already preparing the guidelines and parameters of the plan.</p> <p>Rep. Winston “Winnie” Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City) asked about the specific emergency powers that should be granted to the President. DOTr Secretary Arthur Tugade said that these are powers that will allow the President to institute measures to immediately address the worsening traffic situation in the country, such as: to reorganize and rationalize agencies in the transportation sector; create a single authority in charge of traffic management; enter into negotiated contracts and other modes of procurement for infrastructure projects; and exercise the power of eminent domain.</p> <p>Tugade added that the proposed emergency powers of the President shall be limited to two years and will only cover Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, Metro Davao, and other highly urbanized cities.</p> <p>Reps. Edgar Erice (2nd District, Caloocan City) and Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA) asked whether the grant of emergency powers to the President would mean bypassing the established procurement process in the government sector, and whether contracts for several infrastructure projects proposed by the DOTr to address the traffic crisis will entail a sovereign guaranty.</p> <p>DOTr Undersecretary Raoul Creencia said that the procurement process will not be ignored but will be streamlined to expedite the implementation of the projects. He also stressed that while most of the projects will be under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) scheme, they will not be covered by a sovereign guaranty.</p> <p>Tugade added that the proposed law provides for safeguards against abuses in the exercise of the emergency powers, among which are the creation of a congressional oversight committee and the online publication of contracts entered into by the government.</p> <p>Rep. Raul del Mar (1st District, Cebu City) suggested the setting of parameters that will clearly define the scope of emergency powers that will be granted to the President.</p>
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Continuation... Transportation				<p>Rep. Harry Roque Jr. (Party-List, KABAYAN) opined that the emergency powers proposed to be granted to the President are inherent powers already provided for under the Constitution and therefore can already be exercised without need of legislative action.</p> <p>In the same vein, Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City) emphasized that the exercise of emergency powers unhampered by existing laws, regulations, and court orders runs counter to the principle of check and balance that remains to be the hallmark of democracy.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Raneo Abu (2nd District, Batangas) suggested the decentralization of the procurement process such that the line agencies, and not only their central offices, are authorized to handle the procurement process.</p> <p>Tugade agreed with Deputy Speaker Abu, adding that the DOTr is already taking steps towards that direction.</p> <p>Rep. Alfredo “Albee” Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental) recommended the development of the 3,500 hectares of government-owned lands into highways and alternate routes, and the transfer of government offices outside of Metro Manila.</p> <p>The DOTr was requested to submit to the Committee the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of infrastructure projects; • List of offices that will be subject to reorganization; • List of private subdivisions which roads will be opened as alternative routes for motorists; and • Features of the comprehensive traffic plan.
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