



Continuation...  
Appropriations

Atty. Robert Nomar Leyretana, officer-in-charge (OIC) of the Land Registration Authority (LRA), reported on the success of LRA's Land Titling Computerization Project (LCTP) saying that 156 of the 164 Registries of Deeds (RDs) in the country are now fully computerized. The LCTP, which interconnects all the RDs in the country, allows a query on the status of a land title from any of the various RDs nationwide. (Source: LRA website)

Leyretana also mentioned that the *Task Force Titulong Malinis* (TFTM), which was created to uphold the integrity of the country's land titling system, has completed its investigation of more than 1,300 out of 2,700 spurious titles. The cases against persons involved in producing fake titles were referred to the DOJ for criminal prosecution, as well as to the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) for the cancellation of bogus titles.

Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) OIC Danilo Richard Daniel noted that in the past 30 years, the PCGG has always received the smallest budget compared to the other attached agencies of the DOJ. But despite the meager budget, the PCGG has been cited as the best performing agency of the DOJ. Daniel said the PCGG was able to recover a total of \$4 billion worth of ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses, adding that he looks forward to a favorable ruling on the 38 cases pending before the *Sandiganbayan*, which seek to recover an additional P44.5 billion

The other attached agencies of the DOJ conveyed their requests for an increase in their respective 2017 budgets to effectively implement their mandates.

National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Deputy Director Jose Doloiras pointed out the need to provide additional funds for the Bureau's modernization programs, such as the procurement of modern equipment and facilities to improve its forensic investigation service.

Rep. Leachon reminded the NBI that Republic Act No. 10867 or the National Bureau of Investigation Reorganization and Modernization Act allows the NBI to retain and use 30% of its collections from clearance fees every year for its modernization programs and to augment its operational expenses.

Solicitor General Jose Calida expressed the need for funds to build a new OSG building; while Atty. Elpidio Vega of the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) said additional funds are needed to purchase office furniture and fixtures.

Deputy Chief Public Attorney Silvestre Mosing of the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) underscored the importance of allocating P91 million to fund the newly created plantilla positions in PAO and to pay the retirement benefits of its retirees. He explained that the creation of new positions is in compliance with Republic Act 9406 or the PAO Law, which requires the assignment of one public attorney per organized court sala, with the corresponding support staff. At present, there are 2,747 courts in the country, but there are only 1,622 plantilla positions for PAO lawyers, Mosing further said.

Administrator Manuel Co of the Parole and Probation Administration (PPA) requested the inclusion of P3.6 million in PPA's 2017 proposed budget for the procurement of vehicles for the use of its offices in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Region VII and Region XII. The said amount was included in PPA's original budget proposal but was not approved by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) OIC Rolando Asuncion presented the expense items that he said must be included in the BuCor's FY 2017 proposed budget, such as the increase in the inmates' food allowance from P50 to P75 and the titling of BuCor's properties. On the other hand, Associate Commissioner Michael Robles of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) explained the need to increase the Bureau's budget for the creation of additional plantilla positions to do away with contractualization.

Rep. Leachon reminded the DOJ and its attached agencies that the plenary deliberations on their 2017 proposed budget is scheduled on October 4.



Continuation... Appropriations		<p>enable a holistic management of the housing and urban development sector;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No updated and complete inventory of land and ISFs;</li> <li>• Long and tedious processes and requirements that need to be complied with to develop housing;</li> <li>• Problematic proclamation of government lands for housing;</li> <li>• Limited appropriations for the housing sector; and</li> <li>• Low affordability levels of beneficiaries.</li> </ul> <p>According to Salvosa, a technical working group (TWG) was already convened by the HUDCC in coordination with the DBM to study proposals creating a Department of Housing and Urban Development (DHUD).</p> <p>Salvosa added that the HUDCC likewise plans to establish a nationwide integrated land and ISF information system either through the enactment of an enabling law or through an executive order.</p> <p>On the query of Baguio City Rep. Mark Go on the plans of the HUDCC to address the 5.6 million housing backlog, Salvosa said that private sector participation is encouraged to raise additional funds in order to prevent the yearly incremental increase in the number of ISFs that contribute to the increasing demand for housing.</p> <p>The HUDCC responded to the queries made by the Members of the Committee concerning their respective districts.</p>
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ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Diplomacy	Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rose Marie "Baby" Arenas (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Pangasinan), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress.</p> <p>The Committee has general jurisdiction over all matters directly and principally relating to inter-parliamentary relations and linkages with international parliamentary organizations such as but not limited to the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union (APPU), Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU); establishment of inter-parliamentary friendship societies; and visits of parliamentary delegations as well as other foreign dignitaries.</p> <p>Rep. Arenas provided a brief background of the Committee saying that it was created during the 12<sup>th</sup> Congress to pursue lateral friendship ties with the legislators of other countries. She added that the Committee embarks on fostering good relations with the various organizations of parliamentarians to strengthen inter-parliamentary diplomacy and encourage interaction among people of different countries for the sake of peace, political stability, economic growth and cultural enhancement.</p>
Youth and Sports Development	Approval of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Conrado Estrella III (Party-List, ABONO), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress, with amendments.</p> <p>It also approved the proposed criteria for the adoption of House Resolutions commending certain individuals or groups for their achievements in the field of sports.</p> <p>The Committee, which is presently composed of 24 Members, has general jurisdiction over all matters directly and principally relating to youth development, including the development of their leadership potentials and the promotion of their moral, physical, intellectual and social well-being; and sports development.</p>

<p>Continuation... Youth and Sports Development</p>		<p>The Subcommittees created and their respective chairpersons are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subcommittee on Youth - Rep. Allen Jesse Mangaoang (Kalinga);</li> <li>• Subcommittee on Sports - Rep. Michael Romero Ph.D. (Party-List, 1 PACMAN);</li> <li>• Subcommittee on Athletes' Welfare - Rep. Cristina "Chiqui" Roa - Puno (1<sup>st</sup> District, Antipolo City); and</li> <li>• Subcommittee on Oversight - Rep. Rogelio Pacquiao (Sarangani).</li> </ul>
	<p>Briefing on the programs and projects, and priority legislative agenda of the following government agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Philippine Olympic Committee (POC)</li> <li>• Philippine Sports Commission (PSC)</li> </ul>	<p>The Committee also listened to the briefing of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) and the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) on their respective programs and projects, and priority legislative agenda that aim to promote and develop Philippine sports.</p> <p>POC President Jose "Peping" Cojuangco underscored the importance of preparation and training in order to develop high-performing athletes ready to compete in the international arena. To achieve this goal, Cojuangco made the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a national training center for athletes;</li> <li>• Provide additional funding support;</li> <li>• Introduce sports at the grassroots level; and</li> <li>• Develop the physical attributes of the athletes to prepare them cope with the rigors of training and competition.</li> </ul> <p>POC First Vice President Jose Romasanta informed the Committee that the POC, the umbrella organization of all National Sports Associations (NSAs), is a private organization that is primarily responsible for activities pertaining to the country's participation in the Olympic, Asian Games, Southeast Asian (SEA) Games, and other international athletic competitions. It is affiliated with the International Olympic Committee, and recognized in the PSC Charter as the National Olympic Committee of the Philippines.</p> <p>Romasanta added that the POC is financially independent, and does not receive any subsidy from the government, generating its own funds through donations, sponsorships, proceeds from special projects, and collections from licensing activities.</p> <p>PSC Commissioner Celia Kiram highlighted the following programs and projects of the PSC in pursuit of its policies of providing access to sports to a great number of people, promoting good governance in sports, and achieving excellence in international sports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports-For-All and Grassroots Program;</li> <li>• Establishment of the Philippine Sports Institute;</li> <li>• Establishment and implementation of a six-year sports development plan;</li> <li>• Establishment of regional training centers; and</li> <li>• Participation in the SEA Games, Asian Games, Olympic Games, and other international competitions.</li> </ul> <p>Kiram likewise discussed the priority legislative agenda of the PSC for the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress, which are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amendment of RA 6847 or the PSC Law by increasing the funding for the General Fund and National Sports Development Fund; and including in the PSC's organizational structure 18 regional offices that will provide communication link with local government units (LGUs) and local sectors; and</li> <li>• Institutionalization of the Philippine Sports Institute to serve as the training, education, and research arm of the PSC.</li> </ul> <p>The Committee agreed to invite the National Youth Commission (NYC), Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), and the Department of Education (DepEd) in the Committee's next meeting.</p>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Justice	HR 105	Speaker Alvarez	Investigation into the proliferation of drug syndicates at the National Bilibid Prison (NBP)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Oriental Mindoro), agreed to refer HR 105 to the Subcommittee on Correctional Reforms for further deliberation of the issues raised in order to determine the extent and severity of the proliferation of illegal drugs and syndicates at the NBP.</p> <p>In his opening remarks, Rep. Umali clarified that his role as Committee Chair is to manage the proceeding in an orderly manner and to ensure that the facts presented are well-defined and established. He explained that Department of Justice (DOJ) Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II led the questioning of the witnesses because the DOJ itself conducted the investigation at the NBP and that the national penitentiary is under its supervision.</p> <p>Aguirre presented in today's meeting five more witnesses who are all inmates at the NBP, namely: Noel Martinez, Jaime Patcho, Jojo Baligad, Froilan Trestiza, and Hans Anton Tan.</p> <p>The witnesses narrated their knowledge of and involvement with the drug syndicates inside the NBP and linked Senator Leila de Lima to the illegal drug trade in the facility when the latter was the DOJ secretary. They claimed that they were compelled to raise money by selling illegal drugs inside the NBP to finance De Lima's senatorial bid in 2016 in exchange for their protection and special treatment inside the national penitentiary.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Henry Oaminal (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Misamis Occidental) on the bank account holders and account numbers that were used in drug transactions inside the NBP, Martinez and Patcho promised to provide the Committee information on the matter.</p> <p>Majority Floor Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1<sup>st</sup> District, Ilocos Norte) and Rep. Romeo Acop (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Antipolo City) inquired on the events that transpired in connection with "OPLAN Cronus" initiated by the Philippine National Police (PNP).</p> <p>PNP deputy chief for operations Director Benjamin Magalong narrated that the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), which he used to head, began building their case against those behind the NBP drug trade in December 2013, in coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of</p>

Continuation... Justice				<p>the Philippines (ISAFP).</p> <p>Magalong said he met with then DOJ Secretary De Lima and presented his findings. After a series of planning activities, he proposed a raid at the NBP under the codename "Oplan Cronus" to which De Lima agreed.</p> <p>However, Magalong was surprised to find out that in December 2014, the DOJ led by De Lima, Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) Director Franklin Bucayu, Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PAOC) Executive Director Reginald Villasanta and former PNP Deputy Director General Marcelo Garbo conducted OPLAN Galugad, leaving out the CIDG and the rest of his group.</p> <p>Members of the Committee present during the meeting recommended the following reform measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strictly ban the use of cell phones inside the penitentiary;</li> <li>• Isolate high-profile convicts;</li> <li>• Submit jail guards to lifestyle check;</li> <li>• Decongest prison cells; and</li> <li>• Modernize the BuCor.</li> </ul> <p>Rep. Umali said the Committee may call for another hearing next week if the DOJ is able to present Jaybee Sebastian, the alleged drug lord in the NBP linked to Sen. De Lima, as witness.</p>
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, and Escudero	Granting the President emergency powers to address the massive traffic congestion in the country	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to harmonize the 10 measures and come up with a substitute bill.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento requested the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to explain the extent of the traffic crisis in the maritime and aviation sectors.</p> <p>DOTr Undersecretary Felipe Judan reported that there is no traffic congestion in the ports of Manila and in the surrounding areas. However, port congestion is expected to happen during the Christmas season because of the increased volume of cargos that will arrive. The DOTr is looking at the possibility of transporting cargos to the ports in Batangas and Subic to decongest the port of Manila this coming Christmas season.</p> <p>Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) General Manager Jay Daniel Santiago claimed that the port congestion at the Manila port and surrounding areas has been addressed by the institutionalization of the terminal appointment booking system (TABS), an online booking system which allows concerned parties to schedule the withdrawal and delivery of containers at the Manila port. Through the TABS, trucks will no longer have to queue and</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>wait along the streets near the ports.</p> <p>Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chair Roberto Garcia said the Subic port can accommodate the container vans with destinations in Central and Northern Luzon, citing the port's capacity of 600,000 container vans per annum. He further suggested that all cargos to be delivered to Central and Northern Luzon should be directly unloaded at the Subic port.</p> <p>On the air traffic congestion at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), DOTr Undersecretary for Aviation and Airports Roberto Lim said NAIA's on-time performance (OTP) has significantly improved by 70%, with lesser flight delays in the last two months. He suggested the following policies to further improve NAIA's operations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transfer commercial flights from NAIA to Clark Airport; and</li> <li>• Increase the number of night rated airports in the country. (Night rated airports have the facility for night flight landing operations.)</li> </ul> <p>On the road traffic congestion at the NAIA Terminal 3, Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) General Manager Ed Monreal mentioned that the proposal to construct a parking area, when approved, will be implemented in the next three months.</p> <p>DOTr Undersecretary for Administration and Finance Garry de Guzman revealed that part of the solution to the road traffic at the NAIA terminals is the construction of the expressway going to NAIA, some segments of which will be opened to the public by September 22.</p> <p>The Committee recommended various solutions to the traffic problems in the aviation and maritime sectors, among which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of holding areas for trucks at the ports;</li> <li>• Improvement of the Pasig River Ferry Service;</li> <li>• Maximizing the use of the NAIA runway by increasing the number of take-offs and landings from 40 to 50 movements per hour;</li> <li>• Night-rating of local airports;</li> <li>• Establishment of additional waiting and holding areas for vehicles in all NAIA terminals;</li> <li>• Setting of a clear-cut policy on the use of Clark Airport; and</li> <li>• Strict enforcement of laws on aviation and maritime.</li> </ul> <p>Police Chief Superintendent Antonio Gardiola Jr. of the Highway Patrol Group (HPG) presented the plans and budgetary requirement of the Inter-Agency Council for</p>
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Continuation... Transportation				<p>Traffic on Enforcement and Education (i-ACT e<sup>2d</sup>) designed to address the traffic crisis. He stressed that traffic enforcement and traffic education will result in immediate and feasible solutions to the traffic problems.</p> <p>Rep. Johnny Pimentel (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Surigao del Sur) inquired if granting emergency powers to the President will ultimately solve the country's traffic problems.</p> <p>DOTr Undersecretary for Legal and Procurement Raoul Creencia replied that with the magnitude of the traffic problem right now, it would take more than two years to solve the traffic crisis, but granting emergency powers to the President will allow a speedier time to address the problem.</p> <p>Rep. Maximo Rodriguez (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Cagayan de Oro City) suggested that the DOTr should conduct a study on a shuttle service system that would transport passengers to NAIA to lessen the volume of vehicles going to the airport.</p> <p>Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez (4<sup>th</sup> District, Leyte) underscored the huge potential of the Pasig River ferry not only as a means to address the traffic crisis in Metro Manila but also as a tourist attraction.</p> <p>Minority Leader Danilo Suarez (3<sup>rd</sup> District Quezon) requested the DOTr to submit its master plan in addressing the traffic problem in Metro Manila and other areas. He also suggested solutions to the traffic crisis, among which are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of a central station connecting the three mass transit lines; and</li> <li>• Prohibiting the selling of vehicles to persons whose homes or places of residence have no car garage; and to persons who have not filed their income tax returns.</li> </ul> <p>The DOTr was requested to submit to the Committee all pertinent documents and reports required by the House Members.</p>
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