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PRE-PLenary CONFERENCE ON THE FY 2017 BUDGET

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Appropriations	Pre-plenary conference on the proposed FY 2017 budget and plans and programs of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and its attached agencies	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles (1st District, Davao City), held a pre-plenary conference with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and its attached agencies to thresh out issues and concerns raised by House Members prior to the budget deliberations of their FY 2017 budget in the plenary.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair and Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma presided over this pre-plenary conference.</p> <p>Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1st District, Ilocos Norte) aired his observation about the lack of initiative of Philippine National Police (PNP) regional directors (RDs) to confer with the congressmen in their areas of jurisdiction. He further emphasized the importance of establishing good working relationships between the police and the Members of Congress.</p> <p>PNP Chief Ronald dela Rosa apologized for his failure to instruct all RDs to make courtesy calls on the district representatives, promising to issue a formal directive on the matter.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City) on how the PNP plans to utilize its proposed 2017 budget of P110.17 billion, PNP Comptrollership Director Archie Francisco Gamboa answered that 20% will go to scholarship grants for PNP personnel and the remaining 80% will be allocated to capital outlay (CO) and maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE).</p> <p>AKBAYAN Party-List Rep. Tom Villarin requested the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) to make a report on the progress of the ongoing review of the Fire Code, which was initiated in response to the Kentex Factory fire tragedy in Valenzuela City that killed 74 people in 2015. PNP was also asked to submit a quarterly report on the programming and utilization of their 2016 budget.</p> <p>Among the recommendations of the Committee Members for consideration by the DILG and its attached agencies are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide fire trucks to all municipalities; • Make permanent the creation of the Negros Island Region (NIR), which was created under Executive Order 183; • Investigate the illegal purchase of tanks or armored vehicles and other armaments by unauthorized civilians; • Reduce the amount of unobligated funds in the PNP; • Adopt an automated salary system; and • Increase the budget of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP).