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COMMITTEE MEETING				
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 (2nd District, Oriental Mindoro), decided to continue its investigation into the proliferation of illegal drug trade and syndicates at the NBP next week to allow other witnesses to present their testimonies.</p> <p>In today's meeting, Rep. Umali emphasized that the Committee did not yield the floor to Department of Justice (DOJ) Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II when he was allowed to lead the questioning of the witnesses during the previous hearing of the Committee relative to HR 105. He also asserted the Committee's impartiality toward the issue at hand when it has invited Senator Leila de Lima to attend the series of meetings to give her the opportunity to defend herself.</p> <p>Thereafter, six more witnesses brought in by the DOJ gave their respective testimonies regarding the illegal drug trade inside the NBP and the alleged involvement of Sen. De Lima in this illicit activity when she was still the DOJ secretary.</p> <p>Joanel Sanchez, a former close-in aide of Sen. De Lima and current member of the Presidential Security Group (PSG), described the "extraordinary relationship" and closeness between Sen. De Lima and her former driver Ronnie Dayan, who was tagged as the one collecting the payoffs from drug syndicates at the NBP allegedly for the Senator's election campaign funds. Sanchez also claimed that sometime in 2012, he personally viewed two private videos of Sen. De Lima and Dayan, which were played from the phone of Dayan himself.</p> <p>Murder convict and former police officer Engelberto Durano testified that he introduced drug lord Jeffrey "Jaguar" Diaz, who was once an inmate at the NBP, to Dayan when the latter asked him to help raise funds for the senatorial bid of then DOJ secretary De Lima. Durano said that Diaz, assured of the protection of his illegal drug business, went on to deal with Dayan, making millions of pesos worth of transactions in 2014 which were coursed through several bank accounts in Banco de Oro. Before the raid inside the NBP in December 2014, Durano also said that he personally handed to Sen. De Lima P1.5 million in drug money coming from Diaz inside the Bilibid Channel 3 office that also served as the office of inmate Jaybee Sebastian, another person being linked to the Senator.</p> <p>Rep. Salvador Belaro Jr. (Party-list, 1-Ang Edukasyon) chided Durano for failing to remember the exact date when he handed over a big amount of money to the Senator. On the other hand, Rep. Doy Leachon (1st District, Oriental Mindoro) requested the Committee to issue a subpoena to the BDO to produce records of the bank accounts mentioned by Durano.</p> <p>NBP inmate Joel Capones, leader of the Sique Sique Sputnik</p>

Continuation... Justice				<p>gang at the NBP, said he sold illegal drugs on orders of Sebastian again purportedly to raise funds for De Lima’s senatorial campaign and in the process enjoyed some privileges inside the Bilibid. One time, Capones said, Sebastian invited him to the latter’s <i>kubol</i> (<i>quarters</i>) when then DOJ Secretary De Lima was also inside just for Sebastian to prove that De Lima was the recipient of the drug money.</p> <p>Another NBP inmate, Nonilo Arile, testified that Sebastian told him sometime in November 2014 that he would get rid of his drug competitors in the NBP in order to monopolize the drug trade and thus raise huge campaign funds for De Lima. According to Arile, Sebastian claimed that he was the “asset” of Sen. De Lima and then Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) Director Franklin Jesus Bucayu.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Henry Oaminal (2nd District, Misamis Occidental) if there is shabu laboratory inside the NBP, Arile answered in the negative.</p> <p>Col. Jerry Valeroso, who was then assigned at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the Philippine National Police (PNP), confirmed Arile’s claim that he (Arile) was his “asset” at the NBP. Valeroso added that through surveillance operations with the help of Arile, his unit saw the “extravagant lifestyle” of some of the inmates who were involved in the drug trade at the NBP.</p> <p>On the other hand, Bucayu denied the allegations that he was receiving drug money from the NBP inmates. Bucayu believed that the inmates implicated him because of the raids conducted inside the NBP, called “Oplan Nomad” and “Oplan Galugad,” which resulted in the dismantling of the illegal drug operations at the NBP and the transfer of 19 high-profile inmates to the detention facility at the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI). He also denied the allegation of PNP Deputy Chief for Operations Benjamin Magalong that he asked Magalong not to push through with “Oplan Cronus,” the codename for a raid in NBP planned by the CIDG along with some law enforcement agencies but was eventually aborted.</p> <p>Rep. Robert “Ace” Barbers (2nd District, Surigao del Norte) requested Bucayu to submit to the Committee records of apprehensions in connection with the illegal drug transactions at the NBP when he was still the BuCor chief.</p> <p>The Committee directed Police Superintendent Rolando Asuncion, officer-in-charge of BuCor, to submit the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record of visits to the NBP made by Sen. De Lima from 2004 up to the present ; • Copy of the memorandum of De Lima as Justice Secretary which listed the names of NBP inmates to be transferred to the NBI facility; and • Documents pertaining to “Oplan Galugad” and “Oplan Nomad.” <p>The DOJ, BuCor and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) were also requested to submit documents relevant to this inquiry.</p>
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