

Committee Daily Bulletin

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BUDGET BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Appropriations	<p>Briefing on the proposed FY 2017 budget, plans and programs, and major accomplishments of the following government agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission on Higher Education (CHED) 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles (1st District, Davao City), listened to the presentations on the proposed FY 2017 budget, plans and programs, and major accomplishments of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Department of Justice (DOJ) and its attached agencies.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair and Antique Rep. Paolo Javier sat as the presiding officer during the CHED's budget briefing.</p> <p>CHED Chair Patricia Licuanan said that under the FY 2017 National Expenditure Program (NEP), CHED is set to receive P13.37 billion, which is 38.41% higher compared to its current budget of P9.66 billion.</p> <p>By expense class, CHED's 2017 proposed budget will be distributed as follows: personnel services (PS), P362.15 million; maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE), P12.46 billion; and capital outlay (CO), P548.06 million.</p> <p>The huge increase in CHED's budget for next year is largely due to the increase in allocations for personnel salaries and benefits; scholarship programs such as the Student Financial Assistance Program (StuFAP), PAMANA Study Grant Program, Iskolar ng Bayan, Tulong-Dunong Program and other scholarship grants; the Philippine-California Advance Research Institutes (PCARI) projects; and the K to 12 Program. CHED will also receive fresh funds for the implementation of the Unified Financial Assistance Program for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) Law.</p> <p>Licuanan presented the higher education reform agenda, which she said are aligned with President Rodrigo Duterte's 10-point socioeconomic agenda, as follows: expand access to quality education and training; enhance the capacity or competencies of graduates and faculty; develop and foster excellence in colleges and universities; and enshrine ethical and innovative governance in higher education system and institutions.</p> <p>Asked by the House Members on the reasons for CHED's late releases of scholarship funds, Licuanan explained that CHED lacks the manpower to effectively handle the scholarship programs and that the release of funds for the scholarship programs is not synchronized with the school calendar. She also cited the problems encountered by higher education institutions (HEIs), including state universities and colleges (SUCs), in the liquidation of scholarship funds coursed through them.</p> <p>To improve the implementation of the scholarship programs, Licuanan said CHED is considering hiring three contractual personnel per region who will process scholarship funds. She added that CHED also plans to reduce the number of documents required for the liquidation of scholarship funds to facilitate the HEIs' compliance with the liquidation requirements.</p>

<p>Continuation... Appropriations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Justice (DOJ) 	<p>Committee Vice Chair Rep. Doy Leachon (1st District, Oriental Mindoro) was the presiding officer during the budget briefing of the DOJ.</p> <p>Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said that under the 2017 NEP, the DOJ and its attached agencies will get a total budget of P15.02 billion, an increase of 15.8% compared to the Department's 2016 budget of P12.97 billion.</p> <p>The DOJ budget for 2017 is distributed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of the Secretary (OSEC) – P5.21 billion; • Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) –P2.17 billion; • Bureau of Immigration (BI) – P975 million; • Land Registration Authority (LRA) – P1.05 billion • National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) – P1.30 billion; • Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) – P119 million; • Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) – P724 million; • Parole and Probation Administration (PPA) – P756 million; • Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) – P110 million; and • Public Attorney's Office (PAO) – P2.61 billion. <p>By expense class, the largest portion of the proposed budget goes to personnel services (PS), P11.02 billion (73%); while the rest goes to the maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE), P3.58 billion (24%); and capital outlay (CO), P421 million (3%).</p> <p>Aguirre also apprised the Committee of the major accomplishments of DOJ, among which are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the disposition rate or percentage of cases resolved from 74.6% in 2010 to 80.6% in 2015; • Increase in the conviction rate of cases under the Witness Protection Program (WPP) from 78.9% in 2010 to 83% in 2015; and • Increase in the number of case convictions under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act (Republic Act 9208) from 18% in 2010 to 49% in 2015, and the number of persons convicted from 16% in 2010 to 51% in 2015. <p>With regard to the proliferation of illegal drugs in national penitentiaries which allegedly involved former DOJ secretary and now Senator Leila de Lima, Aguirre said that the present administration is relentless in its campaign against illegal drugs and that an investigation of the people who are involved has already started.</p> <p>Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay) suggested that a certain percentage of the income of the DOJ's attached agencies should be retained in the Department to augment the funds for the establishment of DOJ's academy and new prison facilities, as well as for the increase of prisoners' meal allowance.</p> <p>Rep. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL) suggested that a uniform compensation for prosecutors should be adopted among the agencies of the DOJ. Aguirre said that he will create a task force to study the proposal.</p> <p>On the disapproval of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) of PAO's budget request for the creation of additional positions, DBM Director Ma. Soledad Doloiras clarified that the request was disapproved due to PAO's failure to submit the complete set of documents required by DBM.</p> <p>Based on reports that "last-minute" rulings on cases filed with the DOJ were issued by former DOJ Secretary Emmanuel Caparas just before the end of his term allegedly in exchange for money, Rep. Leachon</p>
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Continuation... Appropriations		<p>requested the DOJ to submit a copy of such “midnight resolutions” before the budget deliberations in the plenary.</p> <p>Majority of the House Members present agreed to push for an increase in the DOJ’s budget for 2017.</p>
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ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Public Information	Approval of the Committee’s Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Antonio Tinio (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS), adopted its Rules of Procedure for the 17th Congress.</p> <p>Rep. Tinio mentioned that there are 56 House Bills and two House Resolutions so far referred to the Committee for consideration. Most of these measures, he said, provide for a law on freedom of information (FOI).</p> <p>Rep. Tinio declared that the proposed law on FOI will be a priority measure of the Committee, in compliance with the marching orders of the House leadership and in line with President Rodrigo Duterte’s policy pronouncement on the matter.</p> <p>The Committee will use as template in the crafting of an FOI law Executive Order No. 2, issued on July 23, 2016, which operationalizes the people’s right to information and full public disclosure and transparency in public service in the executive branch of the government.</p> <p>Rep. Jorge Almonte (1st District, Misamis Occidental), former Chair of the Committee on Public Information, manifested that the FOI bill was approved at the Committee level during the 16th Congress.</p>