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PUBLIC HEARINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Congressional Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA) Oversight Committee (House Panel)	Briefing by the Port Collector of Cebu on: port collection for the last three years; port operations and procedure on importation; alert orders issued and action taken; and other issues and concerns	<p>The Congressional Oversight Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, held a public hearing in Cebu on March 20, 2018 to discuss Cebu's port collection performance, import procedure, and administrative actions. It also discussed the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of six misdeclared or undervalued sports utility vehicles; • P289 million worth of illegal rice shipments from Vietnam, Pakistan and Thailand; and • Waste shipment from South Korea. <p>House Members present in the hearing were Deputy Speakers Romero "Miro" Quimbo (2nd District, Marikina City) and Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), and Reps. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija) and Paolo Javier (Antique).</p> <p>Officials from the Bureau of Customs (BOC) in Cebu also attended the hearing.</p>
Congressional Oversight Committee on Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (CTRP) (House Panel)	Briefing/presentation by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Revenue Region No. 13 (Cebu City) and its five Revenue District Offices (RDO) on revenue target and collection performance, effect of the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law, and other issues and concerns	<p>The Congressional Oversight Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, held a public hearing on March 21, 2018 in Mandaue City in Cebu to discuss among others the effect of the TRAIN Law on the revenue collection of BIR Cebu.</p> <p>Resource persons from the BIR informed the Committee that the implementation of TRAIN did not greatly affect the collection of excise tax in Cebu as major companies selling petroleum and sugar sweetened beverages, products which are subject to excise tax, are registered in Manila. However, a significant impact was noticeable on collections from income tax for the period January to February 2018 due to the new reduced rates.</p> <p>Rep. Cua and Deputy Speaker Quimbo attended the hearing together with BIR officials from Cebu and Tagbilaran City, and stakeholders from the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA).</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Mindanao Affairs (Technical Working Group)	Briefing by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on its proposed 2019 budget for Mindanao	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Lawrence "Law" Fortun (1st District, Agusan del Norte), listened to the presentation of the DSWD on its proposed 2019 budget for Mindanao.</p> <p>DSWD OIC-Secretary Emmanuel Leyco remarked that DSWD's proposed 2019 budget highlights the social development agenda of the DSWD, particularly in spearheading the poverty alleviation efforts of the government.</p>

<p>Continuation... Mindanao Affairs (Technical Working Group)</p>		<p>Leyco also mentioned the need to hire additional permanent personnel to fully deliver the services of the DSWD. He lamented that the current manpower complement of DSWD, composed of 3,000 permanent employees and 27,000 contractual employees, is inadequate to fully implement the Department's plans and programs nationwide.</p> <p>DSWD's Financial Management Service Director Wayne Belizar reported that for 2019, DSWD has proposed a tentative budget of P49.70 billion for the implementation of its various programs in Mindanao, which are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, P36.26 billion; • KALAHI-CIDSS National Community-Driven Development Project (KC NCDDP), P2.11 billion; • Sustainable Livelihood Program, P1.54 billion; • Supplementary Feeding Program, P1.37 billion; • Social Pension, P7.44 billion; • Centenarian Program, P41.8 million; • Protective Services to Individuals, P930.41 million; and • Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons, P10.01 million. <p>The Committee Chair, Rep. Maximo Rodriguez Jr. (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), requested the DSWD to validate its claim that its proposed budget for Mindanao gives prime consideration to the eradication of poverty in the region. He pointed out that eight out of the 10 identified poorest provinces in the country in 2015 are in Mindanao. He likewise said that from 2006 to 2015, Mindanao region had the highest poverty incidence rate.</p> <p>Leyco assured Rep. Rodriguez that poverty, population growth rate, and occurrence of disasters in the region are factors to be considered in the finalization of its proposed 2019 budget for Mindanao.</p> <p>Rep. Amihilda Sangcopan (Party-List, AMIN) suggested that the DSWD-ARMM should be involved in the budget process of the DSWD to ensure that the concerns of the ARMM are adequately heard and considered.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Fortun inquired whether the economic condition of the beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) has significantly improved. Leyco answered that the program beneficiaries "have not moved up to a level of prosperity," pointing out the need to continue the program to fully realize its objective of poverty alleviation.</p> <p>The DSWD was requested to submit a copy of its final proposed 2019 budget for Mindanao for the TWG's reference in its meeting with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) on April 10.</p> <p>Likewise, the DSWD regional directors in Mindanao were asked to submit a copy of their proposed budget which they submitted to their respective Regional Development Councils (RDCs).</p>
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