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BUDGET BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Appropriations	Briefing on the proposed FY 2018 budget, and plans and programs of the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles (1st District, Davao City), listened to the DDB's briefing on its proposed FY 2018 budget, and plans and programs.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair Rep. Scott Davies Lanete M.D. (3rd District, Masbate) sat as the presiding officer during the DDB's budget briefing.</p> <p>DDB Undersecretary Benjamin Reyes said that under the FY 2018 National Expenditure Program (NEP), the DDB is set to receive P232.26 million, which is 13% higher than its 2017 budget of P206.38 million.</p> <p>Reyes reported that there are almost four million drug users in the country, 1% or 40,000 of whom require in-patient treatment and rehabilitation due to the severity of their health condition. However, Reyes said, only about 6,000 are admitted to both public and private rehabilitation centers due to lack of facilities.</p> <p>To address the situation, Reyes said a number of treatment and rehabilitation centers (TRC) are being established in Cavite, Bohol, Bukidnon, Davao, Agusan del Sur, and Saranggani, and the Bicutan rehabilitation center is being expanded.</p> <p>DDB Secretary Dionisio Santiago emphasized that under RA 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, each region is required to have one drug facility that could accommodate 1,200 to 1,500 patients with severe disorder. He said that a mega rehabilitation center which can accommodate 5,000 to 10,000 patients is not feasible and is not beneficial to the patients because they need to be confined near where their families live in order that they can get the necessary support. He pointed out the need to have a standard design for all rehabilitation centers and to encourage the participation of the local government units (LGUs) in this endeavor.</p> <p>Replying to Rep. Lanete's query on the amount necessary for the establishment of TRCs, DDB Assistant Secretary Earl Saavedra said that based on the Department of Health's (DOH) cost estimates, a 100-bed capacity TRC will cost P244 million; a 150-bed capacity, P271 million; a 300-bed capacity, P304 million, and a 500-bed capacity, P403 million.</p> <p>Rep. Lanete urged the DDB to study the possibility of tapping private companies as source of funds for the establishment of TRCs as part of their corporate social responsibility (CSR).</p> <p>The DDB was requested to submit reports and documents pertinent to the proposed 2018 budget as requested by the Members of the Committee before the plenary deliberation of its budget.</p>

PRE-PLENARY CONFERENCE ON THE FY 2018 BUDGET

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Appropriations	Pre-plenary conference on the proposed FY 2018 budget, and plans and programs of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles (1st District, Davao City), held a pre-plenary conference with the OPAPP to thresh out issues and concerns raised by House Members relative to its proposed FY 2018 budget prior to the budget deliberations in the plenary.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte) presided over this pre-plenary conference.</p> <p>OPAPP Undersecretary for Support Services Ronald Flores said that under the FY 2018 National Expenditure Program (NEP), the OPAPP is set to receive P7.68 billion, which is 4.78% lower than its current budget of P8.06 billion.</p> <p>OPAPP Undersecretary for Peacebuilding and Development Diosita Andot gave an update on the government's peace negotiations with various rebel groups and on the OPAPP's programs in response to the Marawi crisis.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Renato "Kuya Jojo" Unico Jr. (1st District, Camarines Norte) on the reason for the decrease in the OPAPP's budget, OPAPP Secretary Jesus Dureza explained that it is due to the non-inclusion in the 2018 budget of the amount of P3.77 billion intended for the implementation of the Normalization Program under the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB). Dureza added that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) will only allocate the amount once the new Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) is passed.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo (2nd District, Lanao del Norte) relative to the status of implementation of the PAsagang Pamayan (PAMANA) Program, Dureza said that the budget for this program is channeled to eight government agencies, namely, OPAPP, Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Departments of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Health (DOH), and Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), and the Philippine National Police (PNP).</p> <p>Explaining further, Dureza said that the program, which is a component of the peace process-closure agreement between the government and former armed groups, aims to promote peace in conflict-affected areas through socio-economic development interventions.</p> <p>Reps. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan (1st District, North Cotabato) and Leopoldo Bataoil (2nd District, Pangasinan) lauded the intent of the PAMANA program.</p> <p>With regard to the possibility of resuming the government's peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army/National Democratic Front (CPP/NPA/NDF) any time soon, Dureza said that at this point, President Rodrigo Duterte has made it clear that the rebel groups' attacks against government forces and installations and incessant collection of revolutionary tax should be stopped if they want to reopen the peace talks.</p> <p>Some House members expressed support for an increase in the OPAPP's proposed 2018 budget.</p>

COMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Justice	HB 3467	Rep. Herrera-Dy	Revising RA 8049 or the Anti-Hazing Law	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2nd District, Oriental Mindoro), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune HB 3467.</p> <p>Reps. Ruwel Peter Gonzaga (2nd District, Compostela Valley) and Bernadette Herrera-Dy (Party-List, BAGONG HENERASYON), author of HB 3467, will be co-chairing the TWG.</p> <p>Rep. Herrera-Dy said her bill makes all forms of hazing illegal considering the significant number of hazing-related deaths of students in recent years. The bill also provides that the penalties for violations thereof be raised from fines to life imprisonment.</p> <p>Deputy Court Administrator Raul Villanueva of the Supreme Court fully subscribed to the measure, saying that other forms of initiation rites, except hazing, are still allowed subject to certain conditions.</p> <p>Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary John Castricones lauded the intent of the bill, but recommended that the term "initiation rites" be defined in HB 3467 so that it will not lead to any circumvention of the law.</p> <p>Under the proposed law, initiation rites can be undertaken by an organization only if there is written notice to the school authorities or head of organization seven days before the conduct of such an initiation.</p> <p>Justice Mario Lopez of the Court of Appeals said that the mere presence of an individual during hazing should not be considered prima facie evidence of participation therein as principal unless the person is aware of the conduct of the hazing and did not prevent the commission of such act.</p> <p>Chief Superintendent Manolo Ozaeta of the Philippine National Police Legal Service (PNP-LS) also expressed support for HB 3467. He, however, informed the Committee that as part of its recruitment process, the PNP conducts screening and training of its recruits/cadets to test their physical and mental strength.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective comments or position papers on the bill.</p>
	HB 6204	Speaker Alvarez	Instituting the Philippine Code of Crimes to further strengthen the criminal justice system, repealing for the purpose Act 3815, as amended, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code of the Philippines	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 6204 in its next meeting.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Umali said that HB 6204, authored by Speaker Pantaleon "Bebot"</p>

Continuation... Justice			and other special penal laws	<p>Alvarez (1st District, Davao del Norte), seeks to update the penal laws in the country and repeals Book One of the Revised Penal Code (RPC), which contains antiquated provisions as it has not been amended since its enactment more than 85 years ago.</p> <p>Book One of the RPC covers the general provisions on the date of enforcement and application of the RPC, persons liable, the offenses, and the corresponding penalties.</p> <p>Justice Lopez discussed the salient provisions of HB 6204. Lopez heads the Committee on Code of Crimes which helped in the crafting of the bill. The University of the Philippines (UP) Law Center initiated the creation of the said committee which is composed of some House Members and several legal luminaries.</p> <p>KABAYAN Party-List Rep. Ron Salo sought clarification on whether the distinction between <i>mala in se</i> and <i>mala prohibita</i> offenses has been removed in the proposed Code of Crimes, to which Lopez replied in the negative.</p> <p>The term “mala in se” refers to crimes that are considered wrong in themselves; while “mala prohibita” refers to criminal acts that are wrong because they are prohibited by law. <i>(Source: https://legaldictionary.net/mala-in-se/)</i></p> <p>The UP Law Center was requested to submit a matrix comparing the provisions of HB 6204 and the RPC, including the rationale for amending the provisions.</p>
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