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## PRE-PLenary CONFERENCE ON THE FY 2018 BUDGET

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Appropriations	Pre-plenary conference on the proposed FY 2018 budget and programs of the State Universities and Colleges (SUCs)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles (1st District, Davao City), held a pre-plenary conference with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and SUCs to thresh out issues and concerns raised by House Members relative to the SUCs' proposed FY 2018 budget prior to the deliberations on their budget at the plenary.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair and Antique Rep. Paolo Javier presided over this pre-plenary conference.</p> <p>CHED Chair Patricia Licuanan said that under the 2018 National Expenditure Program (NEP), the SUCs will receive an aggregate amount of P61.43 billion, which is 5% higher than their 2017 budget of P58.71 billion.</p> <p>Licuanan discussed the role of CHED in SUCs pursuant to RA 7722 or the Higher Education Act of 1994. She likewise informed the Committee that SUCs have consistently performed higher than the national average in licensure examinations. She added that about 31% of students enrolled in SUCs receive from the government some forms of financial assistance.</p> <p>Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) President Ricardo Rotoras presented the distribution of the 2018 budget of the SUCs by region. According to Rotoras, the University of the Philippines (UP) System will be getting 23% of the P61.43 billion budget of the SUCs.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Javier on the reason for the decrease in the capital outlay (CO) allocation of many SUCs, Licuanan said that it was the decision of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), which was based on SUCs' budget utilization during the previous year.</p> <p>Rep. Ansaruddin A.M.A. Adiong (1st District, Lanao del Sur) questioned the decrease in the allocation for maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE) for Mindanao State University (MSU). Citing the incident in Marawi City, Rep. Adiong told CHED to ensure the continued education of the youth in the area which is a way of keeping them from being recruited by the extremists. Licuanan promised to address the concern raised by Rep. Adiong.</p> <p>With the passage of the Universal Access to Tertiary Education Act (RA 10931) which provides tuition-free education in SUCs, Deputy Speaker Romero "Miro" Quimbo (2nd District, Marikina City), AKO-BICOL Party-List Rep. Rodel Batocabe, and other Members of the Committee expressed concern that the expected migration of students from the private schools to SUCs might result in the disenfranchisement of poor students. Licuanan said she will look into this concern as she acknowledged the need to give priority to poor students.</p>



<p>Continuation... Ways and Means</p>		<p>unify the different ID systems of the government.</p> <p>Tayag said that the BSP proposes a foundational ID system distinct from the country's current functional ID system, which only covers well-defined services or transactions or is tied to a specific use without allowing data exchange and interoperability.</p> <p>The foundational ID system, Tayag explained, is intended for multi-purpose transactions. It will have a central electronic registry containing the most basic information about an individual such as the name, date of birth, sex, and contact details. It will also include biometric data (fingerprint, iris scan, and photo) and system-generated ID numbers. With this kind of ID system, both government offices and commercial establishments can easily authenticate a person's identity.</p> <p>Tayag added that the BSP-proposed ID system is similar to India's Aadhaar biometric ID system which is now tagged as the largest ID database in the world.</p> <p>BSP Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr. emphasized that the proposed foundational ID system will enhance electronic banking and will enable more Filipinos to have easier access to financial services.</p> <p>Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, co-author of HB 6221 which seeks the establishment of the Filipino ID (FillID) system, clarified that the use of biometric data is already incorporated in the bill. He said that in case a person fails to present his FillID when transacting business with the government, his biometrics may be used as a form of identification.</p> <p>However, Espenilla explained that BSP contemplates a digital ID system that will allow a person to transact with the government and commercial establishments using only his or her biometric data.</p> <p>The House Members present expressed their support for the proposed foundational ID system. They intend to study how the foundational ID system can relate or complement HB 6221, which was approved on second reading by the House of Representatives just last August 30.</p>
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