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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Public Accounts jt. w/ Games and Amusements	Briefing by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on the Small-Town Lottery (STL) operations and the procurement of the PCSO Lottery System (PLS)	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Minority Leader Danilo Suarez (3rd District, Quezon), Chair of the Committee on Public Accounts, and Rep. Gus Tambunting (2nd District, Parañaque City), Chair of the Committee on Games and Amusements, will continue its discussion on the operations of the STL and the procurement of the PCSO Lottery System (PLS).</p> <p>At the outset, Minority Leader Suarez denounced the issuance of STL franchises to unqualified entities and the loss of revenues due the government because of PCSO's poor accounting practices and its failure to collect the presumptive monthly retail receipts (PMRRs) from delinquent authorized STL agents (ASAs).</p> <p>PCSO Advisory Committee for STL (ACS) Chief Ted Quijano reported the initiatives of the agency to exact payment from the 33 non-compliant ASAs. He said that notices of termination of contract and authority to operate will be sent to the ASAs that failed to attend the conference with PCSO to discuss their non-compliance. Moreover, the PCSO already terminated the contracts of at least six STL operators for non-payment of their PMRRs.</p> <p>PCSO Chairperson and General Manager Anselmo Simeon Pinili explained the agency's soft payment scheme that he believes made it easier for ASAs to settle their PMRR shortfalls. The payment scheme allows ASAs to pay only 50% of their PMRRs in cash during the first month of operation and the 50% balance by 10 post-dated checks (PDCs). The PCSO is awaiting the clearing of the PDCs issued by some ASAs with PMMR shortfalls.</p> <p>However, Rep. Tambunting noted that questions pertaining to the settlement of PMRRs linger despite the soft payment scheme. He stressed that for every peso the PCSO fails to collect, the people are deprived of medical assistance. He recommended the outright contract termination and bond forfeiture of delinquent ASAs and urged the PCSO to withdraw its personnel deployed in the operations of ASA corporations that deliberately refuse to settle their PMRRs.</p> <p>On the accusation that a bundle of money was brought to the fourth floor of the PCSO building where the offices of the PCSO's Board of Directors are located, PCSO Chairman Pinili said that upon receipt of such information, he immediately directed Quijano to assist in the investigation. The Committee Members found this inappropriate as Quijano was also implicated in the controversy.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Minority Leader Suarez and Rep. Tambunting remarked that the strict Terms of Reference and timeline with regard to the procurement of the PLS could favor the existing providers of the lotto online system.</p>