

Committee Daily Bulletin

17th Congress
Third Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. III No. 83
February 18, 2019

PUBLIC HEARING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Housing and Urban Development	Review of the status of implementation of Proclamation No. 409, series of 2003, entitled "Declaring certain parcels of land situated in Barangay Apas, Cebu City as socialized housing sites under RA 7279, otherwise known as the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992"	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental), held a public hearing at the Central Command (CenCom) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in Cebu City to review the status of implementation of Proclamation No. 409, in line with the oversight function of the Committee.</p> <p>Even before the hearing started, the Committee was able to hammer out a compromise agreement among the agencies concerned, which prompted House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga) to instruct these agencies to implement the proclamation as soon as possible.</p> <p>As a backgrounder, Rep. Benitez narrated during the hearing that Proclamation No. 409 was issued in 2003 by then President Macapagal-Arroyo declaring 18 lots in Brgy. Apas in Cebu City, with an aggregate area of 32.27 hectares, as socialized housing sites for disposition to qualified beneficiaries. The housing site was part of the property donated in 1959 by the Province of Cebu to the Department of National Defense (DND) for military purposes.</p> <p>Despite the issuance of the Proclamation, the DND and the Provincial Government of Cebu signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) in 2007 reverting the ownership of the property to the Provincial Government of Cebu. The MOA prompted the affected beneficiaries to seek clarification from the court as to the validity of the MOA vis-à-vis the Proclamation.</p> <p>In 2018, Rep. Benitez continued, the Cebu City Government and the Cebu Provincial Government entered into a compromise agreement recognizing Proclamation No. 409. However, the Solicitor General, serving as DND's counsel, argued that the compromise agreement is not complete and effective without the participation of the DND.</p> <p>All issues involving the socialized housing site were settled when, just before the public hearing was called to order, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana finally signed the compromise agreement.</p> <p>The House Speaker acknowledged Lorenzana's quick response to the issue, which will pave the way for the occupants of the subject property, composed mostly of soldiers and their families, to own the land and build their own houses.</p> <p>Other House Members present in the hearing were Reps. Raul del Mar (1st District, Cebu City), Cesar Sarmiento (Catanduanes), Rodrigo Abellanosa (2nd District, Cebu City), and Joseph Stephen Paduano (Party-List, ABANG LINGKOD).</p>