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OVERSIGHT MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Appropriations	On the FY 2020 national expenditures and the status of utilization of the FY 2019 national budget	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair, Malabon City Rep. Federico "Ricky" Sandoval II, conducted an oversight meeting to discuss the proposed national expenditures for FY 2020 and the status of utilization of the FY 2019 Budget.</p> <p>Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Assistant Secretary Rolando Toledo presented the budget priorities framework (BPF) for the preparation of the FY 2020 agency budget proposals. He also explained that out of the P4.1 trillion proposed budget for FY 2020, P1.84 trillion or 44 percent is allotted to priority projects, activities, and programs (P/A/Ps) and about P1.35 trillion or 32 percent will be used to fund automatic appropriations (such as those for debt servicing, retirement and insurance premiums, and other expenditures authorized by law). Hence, the available fiscal space for programs and projects under Tier 2 amounts to only P911 billion, Toledo added.</p> <p>Under the 2-tier budget process being implemented by the DBM, existing or ongoing projects are categorized under Tier 1, while proposals for new and expanded expenditures are evaluated in Tier 2.</p> <p>DBM OIC-Undersecretary Janet Abuel added that of the P911 billion available for fiscal space, about P811 billion will be allocated for the implementation of programs pursuant to new laws such as the Bangsamoro Organic Law, Rice Tariffication Act, and Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development Act; other priority programs such as the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education, Unconditional Cash Transfer, and Coastal Resource Management; and various infrastructure development programs. The remaining P100 billion has already been committed to fund certain programs and projects of various government agencies.</p> <p>House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga) sought an explanation for the increase in the FY 2019 budget of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to P555 billion, as reflected in the final printed copy of the 2019 National Expenditures Program (NEP), contrary to the Congress-approved budget ceiling of only P480 billion.</p> <p>DBM Undersecretary Tina Rose Marie Canda explained that the increase in the budget of the DPWH was considered during a Cabinet meeting held in June 2018, wherein the funds for the purpose will be drawn from the "fiscal space left-out balances" under Tier 2.</p> <p>The House Speaker stressed that such budgetary increase, which has become controversial, should not be allowed without the approval of Congress.</p>