

# Committee Daily Bulletin

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OVERSIGHT MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
House panel of the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Public Expenditures jt. w/ Transportation	Assessment on the performance and expenditures of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) for FY 2017-2019 and its budget proposal for FY 2020	<p>The House panel of the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Public Expenditures, presided by Malabon City Rep. Federico “Ricky” Sandoval II, also the Vice Chair of the Committee on Appropriations, conducted an oversight meeting joint with the Committee on Transportation to discuss the DOTr’s performance and expenditures for fiscal years 2017 to 2019 and its budget proposal for FY 2020.</p> <p>Former President and now House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Pampanga) was present during the meeting.</p> <p>Top government officials from the transport sector led by DOTr Secretary Arthur Tugade served as resource persons.</p> <p>DOTr Undersecretary for Finance Garry de Guzman presented the Department’s financial performance from FY 2017-2019. He said that for years 2017-2018, DOTr’s obligation rate increased from 83% to 90%; and the disbursement rate also increased from 39% to 40%. As of the first quarter of 2019, DOTr’s obligation rate so far is 74% or P16.05 billion of the P21.62 billion target. The total budget for 2019 is P67.67 billion which is significantly lower than the previous year due to the government’s transition to cash-based budgeting.</p> <p>De Guzman also presented the funds for infrastructure projects under the 2019 General Appropriations Act (GAA), consisting of P13.57 billion for locally-funded projects and P19.58 billion for foreign-funded projects.</p> <p>For FY 2020, De Guzman said that the DOTr is proposing a total budget of P393.21 billion, of which P9.29 billion is allotted for locally-funded infrastructure projects.</p> <p>DOTr Undersecretary for Railways Timothy John Batan presented the railway projects of the Department, while Secretary Tugade highlighted the DOTr’s accomplishments pertaining to the development, construction and upgrading of domestic and international airports in the country.</p> <p>Replying to Rep. Sandoval’s query on the recent flight cancellations of Cebu Pacific, Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) Executive Director Carmelo Arcilla said that CAB has already started conducting hearings on the issue, adding that the cancellations were due to problems internal to the airline.</p> <p>Tugade assured the Committee that the DOTr will be able to provide answers to queries regarding the flight cancellations once the hearings on the matter are concluded.</p>