



# Committee Daily Bulletin

18<sup>th</sup> Congress  
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BUDGET BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Appropriations	<p>Briefing on the proposed FY 2022 budget, plans and programs, and major accomplishments of the following agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)</li></ul>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Eric Go Yap (Party-List, ACT-CIS), listened to the presentations of the CHR, NCIP, and DPWH on their proposed FY 2022 budget, plans and programs, and major accomplishments .</p> <p>The Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Francisco Jose "Bingo" Matugas II (1<sup>st</sup> District, Surigao del Norte), sat as the presiding officer during the deliberations on the FY 2022 proposed budget of the DPWH.</p> <p>DPWH Undersecretary Maria Catalina Cabral presented first the accomplishments of the Department under the Duterte administration which include the generation of 6.5 million jobs from 2016 to 2020; completion of highways, by-pass roads and other roads totaling 29,264 kilometers; and completion of 11,340 flood control projects, 5,950 bridges, 150,149 classrooms, and 222 evacuation centers. She also reported that the disbursement of the DPWH has increased from P820.4 billion covering the years 2011 to 2015, to P2.54 trillion for the period 2016 to 2020 which translates to 210% increase in fund utilization.</p> <p>Cabral also gave a status update on the major programs of the DPWH for the period 2016 to 2021, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>Tatag ng Imprastruktura para sa Kapayapaan at Seguridad</i> (TIKAS) – completed 133 out of 616 projects for the improvement/construction of facilities in the camps/bases of the military and the police (This program started in 2019);</li><li>Tourism Road Infrastructure Program (TRIP) – completed 2,436 km out of 4,268 km of roads leading to tourism destinations;</li><li>Roads Leveraging Linkages for Industry and Trade (ROLL-IT) Program – completed 704 km out of 1,519 km of access roads leading to industries and trade corridors across the country;</li><li><i>Kalsada Tungo sa Paliparan, Riles at Daungan</i> (KATUPARAN) Program – completed 443 km out of 906 km of access roads leading to airports, seaports, and railway stations; and</li><li>Agri-Infrastructure Support Program – completed 2,025 km out of 3,859 km of farm-to-market roads and 95 km out of 149.83 km of farm-to-mill roads.</li></ul> <p>On the FY 2022 proposed budget of the DPWH, Cabral informed the Committee that under the FY 2022 National Expenditure Program (NEP), the DPWH is set to receive a budget of P686.11 billion which is 1.37% lower than the current year's appropriation of P695.67 billion. By expense class, Cabral said the 2022 budget of the DPWH will be distributed as follows: capital outlay (CO), P661.53 billion; maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE), P14.02 billion; personnel service (PS), P9.69 billion; and retirement and life insurance premium (RLIP), P875 million.</p>

Continuation...  
Appropriations

According to Cabral, out of the P661.53 billion CO of the DPWH for 2022, P116.01 will be spent for inter-regional or nationwide projects and the rest will be distributed to the following areas: Mindanao, P182.02 billion; Southern Luzon, P116.56 billion; Norther Luzon, P114.32 billion; Visayas, P82.64 billion; and National Capital Region, P49.98 billion.

Deputy Speaker Rufus Rodriguez (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Cagayan de Oro City) and Reps. Sharee Ann Tan (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Samar) and Julienne "Jam" Baronda (Iloilo City) commended the DPWH for its numerous accomplishments and expressed their gratitude for the smooth and efficient implementation of DPWH programs and projects in their respective districts.

Reps. Datu Roonie Sinsuat Sr. (1<sup>st</sup> District, Maguindanao), Junie Cua (Quirino), Tyrone Agabas (6<sup>th</sup> District, Pangasinan), Sabiniano Canama (Party-List, COOP-NATCCO), Hector Sanchez (Catanduanes), and Vicente "Ching" Veloso III (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Leyte) expressed support for the FY 2022 proposed budget of the DPWH. They were also open to the suggestion that the DPWH's budget be increased.

For his part, Rep. Ferdinand Gaité (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA) asked about the P10.34 billion contingency fund that was transferred to the 2020 budget of the DPWH and where the funds went.

DPWH Secretary Mark Villar replied that the amount came from the contingency fund of the Office of the President and released by the Department of Budget and Management to the DPWH. Villar said that the funds were used for specific projects, adding that the DPWH will furnish the Committee with a list of these projects.

Rep. France Castro (Party-List, ACT-TEACHERS) asked the DPWH to shed light on the observations or findings of the Commission on Audit (COA) in its 2020 Annual Audit Report on the DPWH. She said among the transactions questioned in the audit report were the following: P4.2 billion disbursements for various infrastructure projects which lack supporting documents and proper documentation; unrecovered advance payments to contractors amounting to P681.9 million; and 3,283 infrastructure projects that were put on hold because of lack of proper coordination with local government units and other government agencies. She also asked about reports on certain contractors not fulfilling their contracts and what the DPWH has done or is doing about it.

DPWH Assistant Secretary for Support Services Marichu Palafox explained that all the required documents pertinent to the questioned projects with an aggregate cost of P4.2 billion have already been submitted to the COA to date. As for the advance payments made to contractors, she said P241 million of the P681.9 million was already recovered by the DPWH. With regard to the other audit findings/observations contained in the 2020 COA Audit Report, Palafox promised to submit to the Committee a copy of the comments/response of the DPWH on these findings which the latter has also submitted to COA.

Villar assured the body that the DPWH is working with other agencies in order to recover the remaining balance of the advance payments made to contractors amounting to around P440 million. On the issue of non-compliant contractors, he said the DPWH is addressing the matter and has already blacklisted 30 contractors thus far.

<p>Continuation... Appropriations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commission on Human Rights (CHR)</li> </ul>	<p>After due deliberations, the Committee terminated the hearing on the 2022 proposed budget of the DPWH.</p> <p>The Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Romeo Jalosjos Jr. (1<sup>st</sup> District, Zamboanga del Norte), sat as the presiding officer during the hearing on the 2022 budget of the CHR and NCIP.</p> <p>CHR Executive Director Jacqueline Ann de Guia said that under the FY 2022 NEP, the CHR is set to receive an amount of P867.25 million which is higher by less than 1% (0.76%) compared to its current year's budget of P860.68 million. The CHR's proposed budget will be distributed as follows: PS, P525.73 million; MOOE, P297.97 million; and automatic appropriations of P43.55 million. No fund was allocated to CHR's capital outlay.</p> <p>De Guia said that the CHR's 2022 proposed budget is way below its original budget proposal of P1.61 billion that was submitted to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). To effectively and efficiently undertake its mandate, CHR asked for an additional P153.52 million which will provide funding for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional P8.63 million to restore CHR's FY 2022 MOOE budget to the same level as its 2021 MOOE budget allocation;</li> <li>Five-year lump sum payment for the retirement gratuity pay of the members of the CHR's 5<sup>th</sup> Commission (with term of office from 2015-2022);</li> <li>Implementation of CHR's office productivity activities under the Information Systems Strategic Plan - Medium-Term Information and Communications Technology Harmonization Initiative (MITHI);</li> <li>Procurement of transportation equipment (service vehicle) of the incoming members of the 6<sup>th</sup> Commission (with term of office from 2022-2028); and</li> <li>Payment for rental of lot where the new five-story building of CHR stands.</li> </ul> <p>De Guia also apprised the Committee of the various programs, thrusts, and accomplishments of the CHR from 2020 to 2021 all geared towards the protection and promotion of human rights. These include investigation of human rights violations and case management; provision of independent forensic services; provision of legal aid and counselling to victims or complainants of human rights violations; and issuance of human rights policy advisories.</p> <p>Reps. Castro and Sarah Jane Elago (Party-List, KABATAAN) asked about the CHR's role with regard to the International Criminal Court's (ICC) decision to launch an investigation into the Philippine government's war on drugs.</p> <p>The ICC investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression. Governed by an international treaty called the Rome Statute, the ICC is the world's first permanent international criminal court. <i>(Source: ICC website)</i></p> <p>CHR Chairperson Jose Luis "Chito" Gascon replied that the CHR will have no direct participation in such undertaking unless the ICC will request from CHR copies of the documentations of its own investigations related to the Philippine war on drugs. Nevertheless, he informed the</p>
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<p>Continuation... Appropriations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)</li> </ul>	<p>Committee that the CHR has a role in the UN joint programme (UNJP) on human rights in the Philippines, which the Philippine government and the United Nations signed in July this year. The UNJP, which will be implemented in a span of three years, lays down a set of commitments made by the Philippine government to improve measures aimed at protecting and promoting human rights in the country. The commitments made include addressing the alleged extrajudicial killings related to the government's campaign against illegal drugs, Gascon further said.</p> <p>Rep. Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN) brought up several concerns which he said the CHR needs to look into, namely: strengthening the capability of the CHR to prosecute cases to ensure that erring parties are held accountable; ensuring that detention cells are covered by the programs under Republic Act 11036 or the Mental Health Act, which Rep. Salo co-authored; and undertaking a COVID-19 vaccination program for persons deprived of liberty (PDL). Rep. Salo also inquired about the status and condition of detention cells in the country.</p> <p>Gascon said that although the CHR has a team of lawyers and a legal office, the scope of its mandate is investigative, and the results of its investigations and recommendations are referred to either the Department of Justice or the Office of the Ombudsman, which will prosecute the cases. Unfortunately, he said that on the average, out of every three recommendations submitted by the CHR, only one proceeds to the prosecution of the case, and not all reached conviction. Gascon hopes that with the UNJP, witnesses and victims will have the confidence to come forward to help in the prosecution of cases to the fullest extent possible.</p> <p>On the implementation of the Mental Health Act, Gascon said that the CHR is working closely with the Philippine Council for Mental Health to monitor the implementation of this law even in detention facilities in order to afford PDLs proper treatment or intervention for their mental health concerns.</p> <p>On the status of detention cells, Gascon said that the Philippines continues to be one of the countries in the world with the highest congestion rate in places of detention. He disclosed that at present, detention facilities in the country have a congestion rate of about 400%. He welcomes the suggestion of Rep. Salo to include PDLs in the government's vaccination program to prevent the transmission of the COVID-19 disease in these facilities.</p> <p>Reps. Castro, Elago, Salo, and Allan Benedict Reyes (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Quezon City) manifested their support for an increase in CHR's proposed budget for FY 2022.</p> <p>After the deliberation, the Committee terminated the hearing on the 2022 proposed budget of the CHR.</p> <p>The Committee decided to terminate the hearing on the FY 2022 proposed budget of the NCIP, considering that there were no Members who signified their intention to interpellate the NCIP officials on the budget.</p> <p>The NCIP's proposed budget under the FY 2022 NEP is P1.51 billion, which is 24.79% higher than the current year's budget of P1.21 billion.</p>
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**COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES**

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
<b>Basic Education and Culture</b>	HB 9597	Rep. Dalog	Changing the name of Salin Elementary School in Barangay Sadsadan, Municipality of Bauko in Mountain Province to Talban P. Bitayan Elementary School (formerly Salin Elementary School)	The Committee, chaired by Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo, approved House Bill 9597 subject to style and amendment.
	HB 2693	Rep. Gasataya	Integrating local history in the teaching of Philippine history/social science into the curriculum of public and private elementary and high school education,	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group to consolidate the four bills and come up with a substitute bill.
	HB 4841	Deputy Speaker Savellano	Including a subject in local history in the curricula of all public and private high schools	
	HB 5123	Rep. Belmonte	Mandating the instruction of readings in Philippine History II: World War II in the Philippines in senior high school	
	HB 8621	Rep. Castro (F.L.)	Mandating the inclusion of Philippine history as a subject in the high school curriculum	
<b>Basic Education and Culture jt. w/ Higher and Technical Education</b>	HJRs 26 & 27	Reps. Angara and Benitez	Creating a congressional oversight committee on education to review, assess, and harmonize the policies and programs of Philippine basic, technical-vocational, and higher education and appropriating funds therefor	
	<b>Creative Industry and Performing Arts</b> (Special Committee)	HR 2137	Rep. De Venecia	Inquiry into the state of the Philippine publishing industry and other related industries

<p>Continuation... Creative Industry and Performing Arts (Special Committee)</p>				<p>of schools, decrease in local publications, and limited operations of brick and mortar bookstores. Hence, he said this inquiry seeks to know how the PPM industry is coping with the adverse effects of the pandemic and to provide it with a roadmap for development.</p> <p>The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), National Book Development Board (NBDB), Book Development Association of the Philippines (BDAP), Creative Content Creators Association of the Philippines, Inc. (SIKAP), and Komiket (The Filipino Komiks and Art Market) gave their respective presentations on the ecosystem and value chain of the PPM industry including the issues and concerns, emerging trends, and opportunities in the said industry.</p> <p>DTI Competitiveness and Innovation Group Consultant Ser Percival Peña-Reyes discussed the printing value chain under the PPM industry which covers manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, information and communication, and administrative and support services. He reported that in 2017, the PPM had a total gross value added (output minus intermediate consumption) of P49.2 billion and that PPM establishments grew to 22,476 by 2019 where most are located in the National Capital Region, followed by CALABARZON and Central Luzon. It has also generated 574,000 jobs in 2020. In terms of trade, Peña-Reyes said the country imports more books, newspapers and other printed materials than the number it exports.</p> <p>Peña-Reyes also informed the body on the issues confronting the PPM industry which include the flat growth of readership in the country since 2012; high cost of imported raw materials for book publishing; and the lack of technological capital for the industry players which can be addressed by providing access to credit.</p> <p>NBDB Chair Dante Francis Ang II concurred with Peña-Reyes on the high cost of imported raw materials for book production and publishing which is affecting the book industry. He recommended that the government grant a tax break on the importation of raw materials and to also consider excluding book publishing from the scope of mass media so that foreign equity can be allowed in the book publishing industry.</p> <p>Under Article XVI, Section 11 of the Constitution, the ownership and management of mass media shall be limited to citizens of the Philippines, or to corporations, cooperatives or associations, wholly-owned and managed by such citizens.</p> <p>NBDB Executive Director Charise Aquino-Tugade explained the publishing ecosystem</p>
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<p>Continuation... Creative Industry and Performing Arts (Special Committee)</p>				<p>covering academic books, textbooks, and trade books such as fiction, non-fiction, comics, graphic novel and art, and children and young adult literature. She said the Department of Education (DepEd) is the NBDB's largest institutional buyer which has obligated P1.86 billion for textbooks and other instructional materials in 2020.</p> <p>Aquino-Tugade also affirmed the wide gap in the imported and exported books with a 24 to one disparity. For 2020 alone, she reported that \$27.74 million worth of books were imported as compared to the \$1.5 million worth of books that were exported. She also mentioned that the top export destinations of locally published books are Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar in that order.</p> <p>On the impact of the pandemic, Aquino-Tugade disclosed that the revenue of the publishing industry decreased by 50% in 2020, and out of the 1,546 libraries affiliated with the National Library of the Philippines (NLP), 378 had closed down while 663 are inactive as of December 2020. She also said that the big challenge now is the absence of registered literary agents in the country who are supposed to represent the works of local literary talents in order to get a book deal with international publishers.</p> <p>As a way forward, Aquino-Tugade said the NBDB shall continue to strengthen its synergy with the DepEd and libraries while maintaining close collaboration with creative agencies in the book publishing industry. She added that the NBDB is planning to create a national book database that will streamline the application process for the International Standard Book Number (ISBN).</p> <p>An ISBN is essentially a product identifier used by publishers, booksellers, libraries, internet retailers and other supply chain participants for ordering, listing, sales records, and stock control purposes. The ISBN identifies the registrant as well as the specific title, edition, and format. (Source: ISBN International website)</p> <p>SIKAP President Miguel Matthew Del Mundo discussed the new strategies in selling trade books which primarily use digital or e-commerce platforms to intensify direct selling to consumers especially in this time of the pandemic. According to Aquino-Tugade and Peña-Reyes, because of this shift to digital global publishing, the production of audiobooks and podcasts continues to increase.</p> <p>For her part, BDAP President Ani Rosa Almario said the conduct of distance learning has decreased the demand for textbooks, but</p>
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<p>Continuation... Creative Industry and Performing Arts (Special Committee)</p>				<p>increased the demand for instructional materials such as the self-learning modules being used now in schools.</p> <p>On the other hand, Komiket President and Co-Founder Paolo Alessandro Herras gave a brief background of Komiket, which is one of the few intellectual property (IP) developers and retailers in the country with a background in comics, film, and advertising. He said the Komiket community started in 2005 with 765 members producing 1,000 self-published titles. He added that one of the successes of the Philippine comics industry is the Netflix adaptation of <i>Trese</i>, a Filipino komik series. To penetrate the international market, Herras said the members of the Komiket community continues to join or participate in world comic festivals.</p> <p>Herras suggested coming up with strategies to increase or improve readership in local print media, considering that Filipinos are the second biggest readers of foreign literatures in Southeast Asia. He also called on the agencies to help improve the local production of quality books to be at par with international standards.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) gave their reports on the curriculum on the Arts and trainings on printing operations, respectively.</p> <p>DepEd's Bureau of Curriculum Development Senior Education Program Specialist Christine Graza-Magboo said a Special Program in the Arts (SPA) is being offered for high school students with potential or talents in the arts, namely, music, visual arts, theater arts, media arts, creative writing, and dance. She said the program aims to prepare students who wish to pursue art-related courses in higher education.</p> <p>TESDA's Policy and Planning Division Acting Chief Ma. Linda Andrade apprised the body of its training programs and short courses on printing operations. She said the TESDA will submit a more detailed report on this to the Committee.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Francisco "Kiko" Benitez (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Negros Occidental) regarding the qualification requirements for literary agents, Herras replied that literary agents should be well-versed with the country's Intellectual Property Rights Law and international standards on copyrights. However, Herras added that some authors would need financial support to be able to hire literary agents as the services of the latter are quite costly.</p> <p>NBDB former Executive Director Andrea Pasion-Flores mentioned that the NBDB could</p>
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<p>Continuation... Creative Industry and Performing Arts (Special Committee)</p>				<p>represent talents in the international market to get the best deal. However, she emphasized that the manuscript should be very competitive and must meet international standards to be qualified by the publishers.</p> <p>Rep. De Venecia inquired if the Commission on Higher Education also gets its textbooks and instructional materials from the NBDB. He also asked why Malaysia is the highest export market of books produced in the Philippines.</p> <p>Aquino-Tugade said the NBDB only works with DepEd. As to why most exported books go to Malaysia, she explained that this is due to the presence of Philippine schools in that country, such as the Alternative Learning Center for Filipino children in Sabah, Malaysia, where these books are being supplied.</p> <p>Asked where the heavy readers are located in the country, NBDB Senior Trade-Industry Business Development Specialist Kyra Ballesteros replied that most are in the urban areas, explaining that readership data are only captured in these areas.</p> <p>In response to this, Rep. De Venecia requested that statistics on readership must be collected nationwide. He also underscored the need to increase the production of books or reading materials that are translated in regional dialects. This is in reference to the comment of the NBDB that its existing program on book translation needs to be strengthened through the provision of additional funding in order to hire highly competent translators.</p> <p>For the next meeting of the Committee, the NBDB and DepEd were requested to give a report on the type of modules being used for online learning or self-learning amidst the pandemic and what issues have cropped up in relation to these modules, and how the DepEd is addressing these issues.</p>
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