

SP Finance Committee: Barangay budgets found to be in order

The Sangguniang Panlungsod Committee on Finance found the proposed budgets of thirty-seven (37) barangays valid and operative in a committee hearing held last January 26, 2015. Submitted for committee review were a total of fifteen (15) Annual Budgets (AB) and thirty-two (32) Supplemental Budgets (SB).

Chaired by Councilor Joseph Bacay, the committee gave the representatives of the thirty-seven (37) barangays present an opportunity to discuss priority projects for their proposed 2015 Annual Budget and expenditures indicated in their 2014 Supplemental Budgets. Finding the barangay budgets in order and has substantially complied with applicable budgeting laws and rules as certified by the Local Finance Committee, the Committee on Finance ensured the barangay representatives that it will move for the adoption of a resolution declaring the proposed AB and SB valid and operative.

Also present during the hearing were Councilor Fatima Ann Sison-Isla, the committee's vice chairperson, along with its members, Councilor Rufina Gabriel and Councilor Rany De Leon. Some minor clarifications were discussed but the main part of the deliberations was priority projects to be funded by the barangay Annual Budget. Of the 15 ABs submitted, Barangay Poblacion has the biggest, where it proposed to use P5.405 million to finance maintenance of streetlights, improvement of the materials recovery facility (MRF) where a barangay nursery is going to be established for the Clean & Green program and health services, to name a few. The next biggest budget was Barangay Palamis' at P2.623 million, parts of which are earmarked for repair and maintenance of streetlights and multi-purpose hall, rehabilitation of roads, barangay nursery and declogging of canals.

Barangay Magsaysay has a proposed budget of P2.154 million for daycare services, health and nutrition services and peace and order services, while Barangay Bued proposed P2.120 million for the rehabilitation of the barangay multi-purpose hall, mangrove and nursery rehabilitation, construction of drainage system and declogging of canals. Most of the rest of the barangays have similarly allocated the bulk of their funding for renovation/ rehabilitation of multi-purpose halls, health centers, operation and maintenance of streetlights, barangay roads and barangay nurseries.

The Supplemental Budgets were mostly used for productivity enhancement incentives (PEI), personal services, office supplies, gas/oil and travelling expenses.

Councilor Gabriel enjoined the barangays, particularly those who have not given an allotment for nurseries, to give priority to barangay nurseries as a part of the implementation of the city's "Clean and Green Program."

Revenues of barangays come from the barangay's share from the internal revenue allotment (IRA) of the city, share from real property taxes, business taxes and licenses, share from natural resources, operating and miscellaneous revenue collected by barangay treasurers. As for expenditure, the LFC has ensured that barangay AB has not exceeded the total estimated income and that full provisions have been made for all statutory and contractual obligations, such as the 10% allocation for the Sangguniang Kabataan, the Annual Investment Plan (AIP) funded out of the development fund which is 20% of the IRA, 5% set aside for barangay disaster risk reduction and management fund, another 5% for projects, programs and activities pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act 7192 or the Women in Development and National Building Law, and an appropriation for personal services in accordance with Local Budget Circular No. 74.

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