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# Committee Daily Bulletin

## ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Agrarian Reform	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Ifugao Rep. Solomon Chungalao, held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Under the Committee's Rules, the Committee has general jurisdiction over "all matters directly and principally relating to agrarian reform, the resettlement of and other support services for agrarian reform beneficiaries, and the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (RA 6657) and the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) Extension with Reforms Law (RA 9700)."</p>
Dangerous Drugs	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Internal Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Robert Ace Barbers (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Surigao del Norte), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Internal Rules of Procedure for the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee has jurisdiction over "all matters directly and principally relating to illegal or prohibited drugs, controlled precursors and essential chemicals, the production, manufacture, use and trafficking thereof, as well as the rehabilitation and treatment of drug dependents."</p>

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Transportation	HBs 237, 342, 548, 1101, 2217, 2273, 2947, 3565 & 3813	Reps. Vargas, Romualdo, Biazon, Salo, Barba, Guico, Fariñas (R.C.), Sarmiento, and Rodriguez	Establishing the Philippine Transportation Safety Board, defining its powers and functions, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Joint Committee, co-versed by Rep. Mario Vittorio "Marvey" Mariño (5<sup>th</sup> District, Batangas), Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1<sup>st</sup> District, Western Samar), Chair of the Committee on Transportation, approved HBs 1101 and 3565 subject to style and amendment, incorporating therein the relevant provisions of HBs 237, 342, 548, 2217, 2273, 2947 and 3813, as well as the recommendations of the resource persons.</p> <p>The corresponding Committee Report was also approved.</p> <p>The proposed law seeks to create the Philippine Transportation Safety Board which shall conduct a thorough and impartial investigation of accidents relating to transportation for purposes of creating improved safety standards that will minimize, if not prevent, occurrences of such accidents in the future.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the proposed law were representatives from the Philippine National Police (PNP), Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA), Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Public</p>

Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ Transportation				Works and Highways (DPWH), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Philippine National Railways (PNR), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Land Transportation Office (LTO), Cebu Pacific Airlines, and Bloomberg Philanthropies. (Bloomberg Philanthropies is an international foundation advocating global road safety through appropriate legislations.)
Labor and Employment	HR 66	Rep. Zarate	Commending ACT Teachers Party-List Representative France Castro for being awarded the 2019 Arthur Svensson International Prize for Trade Union Rights	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN), approved the Committee Report on HR 66.
	HB 278	Rep. Aglipay	Expanding the prohibited acts of discrimination against women on account of sex, amending for the purpose Articles 135 and 137 of PD 442, as amended	The Committee approved HB 278.  The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.
	HB 2378	Rep. Robes	Declaring the City of San Jose del Monte in the Province of Bulacan as human resource capital	The Committee approved HB 2378.  The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.
	HBs 852, 2123 & 4847	Reps. Aglipay, Chipeco, and Tambunting	Regulating the practice of employers in posting notices of termination of employment of former employees in newspapers, social media and other public information venues	The Committee directed the Secretariat to prepare a substitute bill and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HBs 1338 & 3463	Rep. Go (M.) and Deputy Speaker Villafuerte	Increasing the service incentive leave of employees, amending for the purpose Article 95 of PD 442, as amended	The Committee directed the Secretariat to prepare a substitute bill and the corresponding Committee Report.
	HB 1018	Rep. Castelo	Effectively authorizing the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to ban and avert the practice of private companies of contractualization of employment and any form of flexibilization of labor thereby assisting said companies toward a shift to regularization of employment and security of tenure for contractual workers, laborers, and employees	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to draft a substitute bill seeking to strengthen the security of tenure of workers in the private sector.  DOLE Assistant Secretary Benjo Santos Benavidez presented DOLE's version of the Security of Tenure Bill which adopted the provisions of a similar bill that was passed during the 17 <sup>th</sup> Congress. Benavidez added that the definition of "labor-only contracting" in the bill filed during the previous Congress was replaced with a provision defining what jobs can be contracted out in trilateral and sub-contracting arrangements. DOLE's bill was already transmitted to the Office of the President (OP) for consideration, Benavidez added.
	HB 3032	Rep. Belmonte	Strengthening the security of tenure of workers in the private sector, amending for the purpose Articles 248, 279, 280, 281, and 288, and introducing new articles 106-A, 106-B, 106-C, 106-D, 106-E, 280-A and 280-B to PD 442, as amended	Responding to the query of Rep. Pineda, Benavidez admitted that "fixed-term employment" can be categorized as labor-only contracting. Benavidez explained that while fixed-term employment is allowed in the DOLE's bill, there are certain conditions before this labor arrangement can be resorted to.
	HBs 3367 & 4845	Deputy Speaker Villanueva and Rep. Tambunting	Strengthening the security of tenure of workers, amending for the purpose PD 442, as amended, otherwise known as the Labor Code of the Philippines	Under the DOLE's version of the Security of Tenure Bill, "fixed-term employment shall only be allowed where a fixed period of employment was agreed
	HB 4892	Rep. Mendoza	Strengthening workers right to security of tenure and criminalizing	

Continuation... Labor and Employment			labor-only contracting, amending for the purpose Articles 106 to 109 of Book III, Articles 294 [279] to 296 [281] of Book VI, and Articles 303 [288] of Book VII of PD 442, as amended	<p>upon knowingly and voluntarily by the parties, without any force, duress or improper pressure being brought to bear upon the employee and absent any other circumstances vitiating his consent, or where it satisfactorily appears that the employer and employee dealt with each other on more or less equal terms with no moral dominance whatever being exercised by the former over the latter.”</p> <p>Several Members of the Committee opposed the inclusion of this provision, arguing that fixed-term employment may perpetrate “endo” (end of contract) and allow employers to use this provision to go around the law whose goal is to provide security of tenure to workers.</p> <p>Likewise strongly objecting to DOLE’s version of the Security of Tenure Bill were resource persons from the labor sector, namely, Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL), Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP), Federation of Free Workers (FFW), Partido ng Manggagawa (PM), Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), Formal Labor and Migrant Workers, Sentro ng Alternatibong Lingap Panligal (SALIGAN), Center for Trade Union and Human Rights (CTUHR), and Ecumenical Institute for Labor Education and Research (EILER).</p> <p>On the other hand, those who support DOLE’s bill were resource persons from the employers sector, namely, Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII), Philippine Association of Legitimate Service Contractors Inc. (PALSCON), Philippine Hotel Owners Association Inc. (PHOAI), American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (AmCham), Philippine Retailers Association (PRA), and Philippine Society of Management Services, Inc. (PSMS).</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers to the TWG.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Health (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 170, 296, 4011, 4264 and 5021	Reps. Tan (A.), Yap (V.), Villarica, Roman, and Deputy Speaker Romero	Modernizing the regulation of health facilities and services, and appropriating funds therefor, repealing for the purpose RA 4226, otherwise known as the Hospital Licensure Act	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by the Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Kristine Alexie Tutor (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Bohol), will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>The TWG thoroughly discussed Sections 1 to 5 of the draft bill.</p> <p>Resource persons present during the meeting expressed their support for HBs 170, 296 and 4011 which to them contain favorable provisions except for some amendments.</p> <p>The three bills aim to modernize the regulation of health facilities in the country. The Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau (HFSRB) of the</p>

Continuation... Health (Technical Working Group)				<p>Department of Health (DOH), which shall be renamed as Bureau of Health Facilities and Services (BHFS), shall be the regulatory body, as provided for in the bill.</p> <p>With regard to HB 4264, HFSRB's Standards Development Division head Mary Jane Paez commented that the bill should include other health facilities and not just hospitals. The bill seeks to standardize the classification of hospitals in the country.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Philippine Hospital Association (PHA) Legal Counsel Kristienne Apostol said that the penalties and sanctions proposed in HB 5021 are too stiff.</p>
Justice (Technical Working Group)	HBs 339 & 1838	Reps. Romualdo and Rodriguez	Creating the Commission on Immigration, defining its powers and functions, expanding, rationalizing, and further professionalizing its organization, upgrading the compensation and benefits of its officials and employees, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Rufus Rodriguez (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Cagayan de Oro City), will deliberate further on the five bills in its next meeting. The TWG used HB 4103, authored by Rep. Rodriguez, as its working draft.</p> <p>The TWG members agreed, among others, on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That only 50% of the fees collected from the express lane system under the jurisdiction of the BI will be used for the payment of allowances of immigration personnel, while the other half will be remitted to the National Treasury; and</li> <li>• That the decisions of the BI's Board of Commissioners on deportation cases may be appealed to the Secretary of the Department of Justice (DOJ) within 15 days from receipt thereof by the concerned parties. The decision of the Justice Secretary may henceforth be appealed to the Office of the President (OP).</li> </ul> <p>The TWG also discussed the bill's provisions creating new positions, reclassifying existing positions, and upgrading salary levels in the BI. The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) stated that the DBM and Civil Service Commission's (CSC) new standards on organizational structure and staffing pattern should be followed. The BI was requested to submit its current, as well as its proposed, organizational structure.</p> <p>Also during the meeting, the members of the TWG agreed on the definition of the following terms: "monitor order," "immigrant," "non-immigrant," and "non-refoulement."</p>
	HB 1666	Rep. Cabochan	Strengthening, professionalizing, and modernizing the Philippine immigration system, repealing for the purpose Commonwealth Act 613, otherwise known as the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940, and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 4103	Rep. Rodriguez	Modernizing the Bureau of Immigration (BI), defining its powers and functions, expanding, rationalizing, and further professionalizing its organization, upgrading the compensation and benefits of its officials and employees, and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 4178	Rep. Haresco	Reorganizing the BI, creating the Immigration Act of the Philippines, appropriating funds therefor	

AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Agrarian Reform	Briefing by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) on the accomplishments relative to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP)	The Committee, chaired by Ifugao Rep. Solomon Chungalao, listened to the briefing conducted by the DAR on the accomplishments relative to the CARP.

<p>Continuation... Agrarian Reform</p>		<p>DAR Undersecretary Virginia Orogo discussed the following major support programs of the DAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Tenure Security Program (LTSP) - secures the tenurial status of the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs);</li> <li>• Agrarian Justice Delivery Program (AJDP) – safeguards the rights of the farmers and provides them with adequate legal services for free; and</li> <li>• Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Development and Sustainability Program (ARBDSP) – enhances the capabilities of the ARBs and their access to support services in order to optimize the productivity of the awarded lands.</li> </ul> <p>Orogo informed the body that the Department's land acquisition and distribution (LAD) program yielded a "net accomplishment" of 4,806,862 hectares, while the "non-CARP area" accounted for 87,621 hectares.</p> <p>Net Accomplishment pertains to the actual number of hectares covered by Emancipation Patents (EPs) or Certificate of Land Ownership Awards (CLOAs) registered under the names of the ARBs. On the other hand, non-CARP areas refer to portions of landholdings covered under the CARP which were found to be "non-CARPable" during the early stages of land acquisition and are utilized for road network, irrigation, and ARBs' retention areas.</p> <p>She also disclosed that as of June 2019, the DAR was able to resolve 567,656 agrarian reform cases (ARC) or 98.73% of the 574,953 ARC caseload, and has resolved 850,653 agrarian law implementation (ALI) cases or 99.18% of the 857,674 ALI caseload.</p> <p>Other major accomplishments of the DAR pertain to the provision of credit, farm machineries and equipment, and agricultural extension services to agrarian reform beneficiaries.</p> <p>Rep. Lawrence "Law" Fortun (1<sup>st</sup> District, Agusan del Norte) inquired if the awarded lands are still in the possession of the ARBs, expressing his concern over reports that several of these agricultural lands were already transferred to businessmen who in turn converted the lands to either commercial or residential use. Rep. Fortun stressed that Congress cannot enact a law reconverting the aforesaid lands to agricultural classification.</p> <p>DAR Assistant Secretary Elmer Distor replied that the Department is still in the process of conducting inventory, profiling, and validation of the awarded landholdings to ARBs.</p> <p>Rep. Chungalao urged the DAR and other concerned agencies to come up with measures to thwart the transfer and conversion of the agricultural lands covered by CARP.</p> <p>On the other hand, Rep. Noel Villanueva (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Tarlac) recommended that the DAR should give priority to the adjudication of agrarian cases in favor of the ARBs.</p>
<p>Dangerous Drugs</p>	<p>Briefing on status of the anti-drug operations by the following agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Philippine National Police (PNP)</li> </ul>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Robert Ace Barbers (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Surigao del Norte), listened to the presentation conducted by the PNP and PDEA on the status of their anti-drug operations in the country.</p> <p>PNP Director for Law Enforcement Division Franco Simborio reported that between the period July 1, 2016 to August 31, 2019, more than 142,000 anti-drug operations have been conducted by the PNP. He said that these operations have yielded about 1.5 million drug personalities, out of whom more than 1.28 million were drug surrenderies, 208,000 were arrested, and 5,779 were killed.</p> <p>According to Simborio, under the PNP's barangay drug-clearing operations, 34.6% of the 42,045 barangays in the country have already</p>

<p>Continuation...</p> <p>Dangerous Drugs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA)</li> </ul>	<p>been cleared of the drug menace while 18,356 barangays or 43.66% of the total barangays have yet to be subjected to drug clearing operations led by the PDEA. He likewise reported that more than 2,500 children, aged 4 to 17, were found to be involved in drugs either as drug pushers, users, and possessors, or visitors, employees or maintainers of drug dens.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Simborio said that drug surrenderies who underwent the reform programs of the PNP are as follows: 211,000 individuals completing their community-based rehabilitation; 234,000 individuals presently undergoing recovery and wellness program; and 906 individuals committed to the Balay Silangan Reformation Centers (BSRC).</p> <p>PDEA Deputy Director General for Operations Gregorio Pimentel presented the Agency's drug control strategies which include supply reduction, demand reduction, and harm reduction.</p> <p>Under PDEA's supply reduction strategy, Pimentel reported the number of anti-drug operations conducted and the number of drug personalities arrested from 2016 to 2019, as follows: In 2016, 54,340 anti-drug operations conducted and 53,674 drug personalities arrested; in 2017, 38,830 operations conducted and 75,008 persons arrested; and in 2018, 36,643 operations conducted and 48,077 persons arrested. As of September 2019, anti-drug operations and drug personalities arrested were 25,310 and 38,048, respectively. He likewise presented the number of drug substances seized from 2015 to 2019, with shabu, ecstasy and marijuana as the leading substances seized in 2016, while cocaine was the most dominant substance seized this September 2019.</p> <p>For PDEA's demand reduction strategy, it is continuously conducting lectures, seminars, and symposia regarding the harmful effects of drugs. PDEA also runs youth camps and distributes advocacy materials to promote a drug-free environment.</p> <p>With regard to PDEA's harm reduction efforts, it conducts random drug-testing on drivers and implements the <i>Sagip Batang Solvent</i>, which provides a rehabilitative, reformatory and reintegrative facility for these street children. Pimentel also mentioned that there are 69 BSRCs operating nationwide which already produced 948 graduates to date.</p>
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DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p>Metro Manila Development</p>	<p>Discussion on the rotational water interruptions in Metro Manila</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Manuel Luis Lopez (1<sup>st</sup> District, Manila), discussed with concerned government agencies and water concessioners their plans and mitigation programs on the rotational water interruptions still happening in Metro Manila.</p> <p>Rep. Lopez said that according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), the water crisis in Metro Manila is due to the low or critical level of water in Angat Dam.</p> <p>National Water Resources Board (NWRB) Executive Director Seville David Jr. added that 96% of the water supply requirement of Metro Manila comes from Angat Dam, which mostly relies on rainfall for its water reservoir. If the water level continues to drop, David said, it will affect not just Metro Manila but also the 27 hectares of farmlands in Bulacan and Pampanga which rely on irrigation.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Lopez if cloud seeding will be an effective solution and how much it will cost, Maynilad Chief Operating Officer Randolph</p>

<p>Continuation... Metro Manila Development</p>	<p>Update on the flagship infrastructure projects in Metro Manila, particularly the subway network projects</p>	<p>Estrellado replied that a joint cloud seeding conducted by the Manila Water and Maynilad cost about P1 to P2 million, but he said it does not guarantee that the dam's water level will be elevated as desired because not all the rain will fall into the dam.</p> <p>PAGASA Climatologists Junie Ruiz presented its rain prediction for November 12-18, 2019. He said that water in Angat Dam might rise to its normal level with the onset of Typhoon Quiel but is expected to drop to critical level by December. Hence, he said, it is all the more imperative to prepare for the coming dry season, from March to April 2020.</p> <p>Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo stressed that such preparations, either for the short or long term, should be made soon and these should not depend on the occurrence of rain.</p> <p>Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) Acting Administrator Jeci Lapus said that the agency is willing to give 10-15% of the water it is producing to augment the water supply in Metro Manila.</p> <p>Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) Administrator Emmanuel Salamat said that the agency is looking at short and long-term projects to address water supply problems, including the construction of additional dams and water treatment plants. He added that the proposed <i>Sumag Diversion Project</i>, a diversion tunnel that will supplement water coming from the Umiray River to the Angat Reservoir, needs to be implemented as soon as possible in order to help address the water shortage problem.</p> <p>The project, which will be implemented and funded by the Common Purpose Facilities (CPF) of Manila Water Company Incorporated (MWCI) and Maynilad, could not push through because of the delay in the approval and release of permits. The project will release an estimated volume of 188 million liters of water per day (188 mld).</p> <p>MWCI President and CEO Jose Rene Almendras said that if the necessary permits will be released, the Sumag project can proceed this summer.</p> <p>Another project is the <i>Kaliwa Dam</i>, a China-funded project located in Rizal and Quezon Provinces which is projected to provide an additional 600 mld water for Metro Manila and nearby areas. The project is also delayed due to complaints from indigenous peoples who will be affected by the project.</p> <p>Rep. Lopez requested the resource persons to submit their short and long-term plans in addressing the water shortage in Metro Manila. Other concerned agencies will also be invited to attend the Committee's next meeting.</p> <p>The Committee listened to the presentation of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) on the status of the Metro Manila Subway Project (MMSP).</p> <p>DOTr Undersecretary Timothy John Batan apprised the Committee that the MMSP will be funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) through a loan agreement that was signed on March 16, 2018. The groundbreaking ceremony took place last February 27, 2019. Batan also discussed the technical parameters and construction methodology of the project, the route length (36 kilometers), speed (80-120 kph), and capacity (2,242 passengers).</p> <p>According to Batan, the MMSP Phase I, which will have a route passing through seven different cities namely, Valenzuela, Quezon, Makati, Taguig, Parañaque, Pasig, and Pasay, is targeted to be in full operation by 2025.</p> <p>On the status of right-of-way (ROW) acquisition of 460 lots at the Quirino Highway and Tandang Sora sections, offers to buy the lots have been</p>
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Continuation... Metro Manila Development		<p>served to 354 lots of which 171 were already accepted by the lot owners.</p> <p>With regard to the resettlement of affected informal settler families (ISFs), 58% of the ISFs (106 out of 183) were already relocated to Disiplina Village, Valenzuela City through the help of the City Government of Valenzuela.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Lopez relative to the safety measures and interoperability of underground projects, Batan assured that the subway projects are safe and will not disturb the existing road flow.</p>
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FORUM		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Science and Technology	NRCP-Legislative Scientific Forum for Policy Development (Day 1)	<p>The Committee, in partnership with the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP), held the first of its two-day legislative-scientific forum on November 6 at the House of Representatives in celebration of the 85<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary of the NRCP.</p> <p>Rep. Erico Aristotle Aumentado (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Bohol), Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology, welcomed the participants to the forum. He underscored the importance of research in the crafting of policies and laws to ensure they are responsive to the needs of the people and contribute to national development.</p> <p>The NRCP, a government corporation attached to the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), is mandated to promote and support fundamental or basic research for the continuing improvement of the research capability of individual or group of scientists, among others.</p> <p>Three regular members of the NRCP each presented their respective papers or research.</p> <p>Dr. Clarita Carlos gave an overview of the trends and challenges in Philippine legislation in relation to the use of research or evidence-based data. She explained the need to formulate policies that are scientifically-based yet applicable, helpful, and useful for all Filipinos. She also pointed out the importance of valid data gathering in order to conceptualize precise pieces of legislation.</p> <p>Dr. Segundo Joaquin Romero presented a study entitled "Shepherding the Greening Mined-Out Areas in the Philippines (GMAP) in Policy Development." Romero said that the study suggests potential policies that will revive mined-out areas.</p> <p>Romero also said that the study draws attention to the adverse effects of mining activities in the Province of Marinduque caused by an irresponsible mining company which was allowed to thrive due to inadequate or non-implementation of environmental laws and policies and lack of accountability.</p> <p>Dr. Edna Co presented her study entitled "Legislative Policy Research and Development for Congressional Agenda Setting for the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress." The study discusses the important role of science and technology in policy making that will help improve the lives of the people.</p> <p>An open forum followed after the presentations of the resource persons.</p>