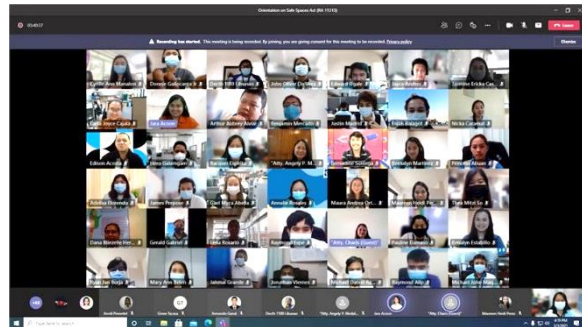


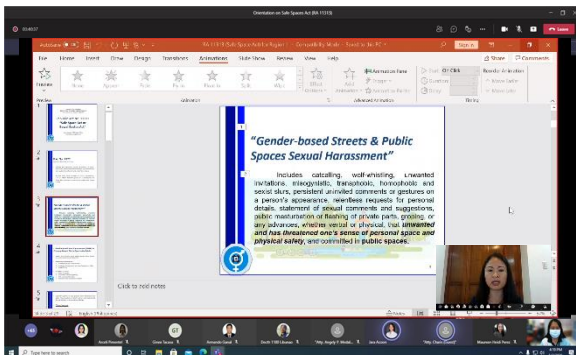
PRESS RELEASE



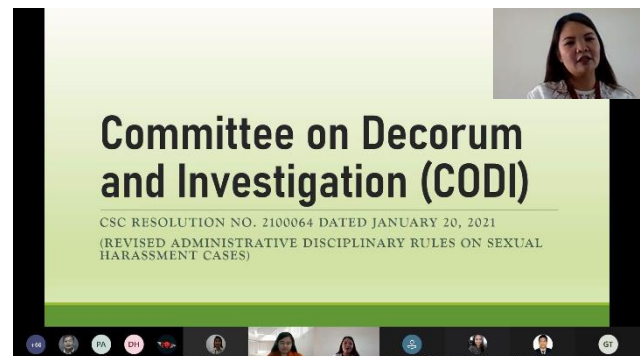
DOST 1 RD Armando Q. Ganal while delivering his Opening and Welcome Remarks



Participants during the Orientation on Safe Spaces Act (R.A. 11313)



Atty. Angely P. Medalle-Alviar, Attorney V of the Legal Division and Officer-in-Charge of the Administrative and Legal Services of the DOST, during her discussion on the salient features of the Safe Spaces Act.



Atty. Charisma M. Agbayani, Attorney V of the Legal Services Division of Civil Service Commission Region 1 during her sharing of CSC's implementation of Committee on Decorum and Investigation or the CODI.

DOST 1 conducts Orientation on Safe Spaces Act

The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST 1), through its Gender and Development Program conducted an Orientation on Safe Spaces Act for its 80 personnel on May 3, 2021 via Microsoft Teams platform.

The Safe Spaces Act or the Republic Act 11313, dubbed as “Bawal Bastos Law” is the policy of the State to value the dignity of every human person and guarantee full respect for human rights. It is likewise the policy of the State to recognize the role of women in nation-building and ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men. The State also recognizes that both men and women must have equality, security and safety not only in private, but also on the streets, public spaces, online, workplaces and educational and training institutions.

DOST 1 GAD Focal Point System (GFPS) organized this webinar to provide measures in the prevention of any gender-based sexual harassment that may occur in the workplace. This also intends to strengthen the internal mechanism through the Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI) to investigate/address sexual harassment complaints.

PRESS RELEASE

Atty. Angely P. Medalle-Alviar, Attorney V of the Legal Division and Officer-in-Charge of the Administrative and Legal Services of the DOST, discussed the salient features of the Safe Spaces Act. Atty. Alviar reiterated that “Everyone, both men and women, young and adult, are protected by this law. RA 11313 has a more comprehensive coverage than the Anti-Sexual Harassment Law. Any act, sexual in nature, that has the tendency to offend the feelings of the recipient can be held punishable under this law.”

She also added that “The law is primarily created to equalize the disparity in the social norms and culture of our country.”

Moreover, Atty. Charisma M. Agbayani, Attorney V of the Legal Services Division of Civil Service Commission (CSC) Region 1 shared CSC’s implementation of CODI.

CODI is the investigating body of all sexual harassment cases or complaints against public officials and employees of an agency. On the investigation of the complaint, CODI shall observe closely pertinent provisions of the CSC’s 2017 Rules on Administrative Cases in the Civil Service (RACCS).

The activity served as an information and warning to all since this law is already in place, and a reminder the acts, however innocent it may be to you, can already be offensive to others.

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