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FORUM/SEMINAR		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Women and Gender Equality	Seminar on breast cancer and screening	<p>The Committee on Women and Gender Equality, in partnership with the Association of Women Legislators Foundation, Inc. and the Philippine Foundation for Breast Care, Inc. (PFBCI), conducted a seminar on breast cancer awareness and screening at the House of Representatives as part of the celebration of the Breast Cancer Awareness Month.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Linabelle Ruth Villarica (4th District, Bulacan), who is also the president of the Association of Women Legislators Foundation, Inc., highlighted the importance of early screening and detection of breast cancer which is key to the successful treatment of patients afflicted with this illness.</p> <p>Committee on Women and Gender Equality Chairperson Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy (Party-List, Bagong Henerasyon), through Committee Secretary Joy Elena Piccio, conveyed the message that breast cancer is a cause for alarm, however, the lack of acknowledgment and awareness of it is a graver concern. Citing a World Health Organization (WHO) study which states that breast cancer is one of the most common health concerns of women worldwide, she said that it is therefore extremely important for men and women to develop a progressive mindset in understanding breast cancer issues.</p> <p>PFBCI Chairperson Ma. Lourdes Cortez welcomed the participants to the seminar as she mentioned that the seminar hopes to provide a venue for educating women about the symptoms and treatment of breast cancer.</p> <p>Likewise, PFBCI Trustee for Program Development Aileen Antolin gave a lecture on breast cancer awareness and how early detection of the illness can save one's life. She also discussed the PFBCI's "Boobie Programs" which facilitate access to different clinical services and even offer financial assistance, spiritual counseling, and supportive home and end-of-life care to patients, among others.</p> <p>An open forum followed after the lecture wherein participants had the opportunity to seek answers to their questions or share their experiences.</p> <p>Afterwards, a free breast cancer screening was offered to the participants wherein they were taught the proper way of breast self-examination, an early detection method for breast cancer.</p>