

# Committee Daily Bulletin

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## TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
People's Participation (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 8405 & 8773	Reps. Alejano and Villafuerte	Establishing a framework for citizens participation in legislation and rule-making through the use of information and communication technology platforms	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Committee Secretary Rolando Cronico, terminated its deliberations on the substitute bill.</p> <p>The Secretariat will finalize the substitute bill, incorporating therein the pertinent suggestions of the resource persons.</p> <p>Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO) Undersecretary Ryan Estevez presented PLLO's proposed platform which will allow the people to submit their comments and participate in rule-making via the internet or mobile platforms.</p> <p>Section 5 (Crowdsourcing in Rule-Making through the Legislative Liaison System) of the substitute bill provides that the homepage of the PLLO shall serve as the portal for crowdsourcing for the executive department and agencies. Through the PLLO portal, the public is given the chance to comment on laws signed by the President prior to the preparation of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) and on issuances of Departments and other government agencies.</p> <p>The staff of Rep. Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Camarines Sur), Ara Aguilar, maintained that her principal's original proposal under HB 8773 was to allow the direct participation of the public in drafting laws by providing a portal where people can air their views and make recommendations and not just comment on a law after it has been enacted.</p> <p>Under Section 4 (Crowdsourcing in Legislation) of the substitute bill, the public is allowed to participate in the legislative process also through the internet or mobile platforms.</p>

FORUM		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Science and Technology	Legislative Scientific Forum for Policy Development entitled “Greening Mined-Out Areas in the Philippines (GMAP)”	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Erico Aristotle Aumentado (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Bohol), conducted a forum in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) entitled “Greening Mined-Out Areas in the Philippines (GMAP)” at the House of Representatives.</p> <p>Rep. Alberto Ungab (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Davao City) emphasized the need for evidence-based information in the legislative process in order to effectively respond to the social ills of the country. He thanked the NRCP for remaining true to its mandate of helping bridge the gaps in policy making and legislation through the use of scientific researches.</p> <p>NRCP Executive Director Marieta Bañez Sumagaysay gave a brief overview of the NRCP which functions as a research institute that provides advice to government on national concerns anchored on science. It also serves as the government repository of scientific and technical information.</p> <p>DOST Undersecretary Rowena Cristina Guevara informed the body of the DOST’s Niche Centers in the Regions for R&amp;D (NICER), which provides institutional grant to higher education institutions (HEIs) in the regions to improve their research and development (R&amp;D) capacity.</p> <p>The main speaker, Dr. Nelly Aggangan of the National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (BIOTECH) at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) and an NRCP regular member, presented her research work funded by the NRCP, entitled: “Bioremediation Strategies for Rehabilitation of Mine-tailing Areas in Mogpog, Marinduque.”</p> <p>According to Aggangan, bioremediation is a branch of environmental biotechnology that treats contaminated soil, air and water by using microbes and plants to clean up stressed environment such as mined-out or mine tailing areas wherein the soil is contaminated with toxic heavy metals. It is recognized as a fast, risk-free and cost-effective measure in restoring mined-out areas such as in Mogpog, Marinduque, and thus is highly recommended to be adopted in similar mined-out areas in the country.</p> <p>A panel discussion and an open forum followed after the presentation.</p> <p>In his closing remarks, NRCP President Ramon Razal thanked the guests and resource speakers for participating in the forum, underscoring that the objective of the forum is to promote the importance of science and research in crafting better and more responsive laws.</p>