

7th M&E NETWORK FORUM

The Role of the Senate in Monitoring and Evaluation

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Outline

- I. What is the mandate of the Senate?
- II. Is M&E important for the Senate? Why?
- III. Is there an M&E system in the Senate?
- IV. What specific M&E activities should Senate perform?



Mandate of the Senate

- The 1987 Constitution vested the legislative power in the Congress of the Philippines, which consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives;
- Aside from legislation, the Senate performs an oversight function that is inherent in its mandate as part of the check and balance in the implementation of policies;



The Legislative Process

- Origin of Legislative Proposals -
- First Reading of Proposed Bill
- Public Hearings conducted by the Committees-
- Committee Report
- Sponsorship of the Committee Report
- Interpellations and Amendments-
- Second Reading
- Third Reading
- Bicameral Conference-
- Conference Report
- Enrolled Bill
- Signing into law by the President

Types of Legislation

1. Bills
2. Joint Resolutions
3. Concurrent Resolutions
4. Simple Resolutions

Why is M&E important in the Senate?

- M&E can inform the legislators of the possible effects/results of a proposed policy;
- M&E can be a tool for maximizing resource allocation;
- M&E can help rationalize/improve the process of legislation in the Senate;
- It is a tool for promoting transparency and accountability among legislators and other stakeholders.



Is there an M&E System in the Senate?

- Some monitoring and evaluation activities are being done by the Senate committees and oversight committees such as conducting hearings/inquiries;
- Some evaluation studies are being conducted by some units in the Senate;
- But there is no cohesive M&E system in place



Technical Offices in the Senate with Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Activities

The Senate Economic Planning Office

- 1) It is tasked to provide the Senate President and the Members of the Senate with proper research and in-depth policy analysis on economic and social issues as well as data and statistics which would assist various committees in the discharge of all matters within their jurisdiction, including information with respect to economic plans and programs, domestic and foreign indebtedness, and the promotion, regulation and diversification of economic sectors and sub sectors.
- 2) It issues publications designed to inform the Senate members and the public of the implications of government policies and legislation



Technical Offices in the Senate with Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Activities

The Legislative Budget Research and Monitoring Office (LBRMO)- assists the Chairperson and the Members of the Committee on Finance in analyzing the proposed national budget of government every year. It is also tasked to monitor the implementation of the national budget.

The Senate Tax Study and Research Office (STSRO) renders technical assistance to the Chairperson and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means and the other Members of the Senate on tax proposals. It assesses and monitors the relative merits of the revenue-raising system and recommends alternative sources and forms of revenue. It also identifies weaknesses and/or irregularities in the system of revenue collection and recommends improvement thereon through the conduct of surveys on tax and other fiscal matters. It likewise undertakes research and studies on fiscal and budgetary issues as inputs to tax legislation as well as formulates reform proposals on tax-related issues and thereby assists in the drafting of legislative bills on taxation.

Technical Offices in the Senate with Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Activities

The Blue Ribbon Oversight Office Management (BROOM) provides technical and administrative assistance to the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations, otherwise known as the Blue Ribbon.

Committee Jurisdiction: All matters relating to, including investigation of, malfeasance, misfeasance and nonfeasance in office by officers and employees of the government, its branches, agencies, subdivisions and instrumentalities; implementation of the provision of the Constitution on nepotism; and investigation of any matter of public interest on its own initiative or brought to its attention by any member of the Senate. Rule X, Section 13 (36)



Why M&E should be established in the Senate

- There is a need to improve the present way of evaluating proposed legislations;
- There is a need to create a system where *ex-ante* evaluation is part of the process of evaluating major legislative proposals using technical and established methodologies; a system where *ex-post* evaluation is being done in order to determine the effectiveness of the policies legislated by the Senate and provide a space for policy revision in a timely and systematic manner;
- M&E can be part of the transparency and accountability mechanisms in policy-making;
- To complement and provide check and balance with what is being done in the Executive branch;



What M&E should be established in the Senate?

- An independent M&E unit attached to the Senate should do *ex-ante, mid-term, and ex-post evaluation* by itself or thru collaboration with the House of Representatives; it could also make use of the evaluation done by oversight agencies in the Executive branch;
- A *technical and systematic monitoring and evaluation* (not just thru public hearings) of the implementation of policies should be part of the work of the Senate in order to determine if there is a need to amend, revise or totally scrap a particular policy.

What M&E should be established in the Senate?

- Ex-ante evaluation
 - ✓ To determine the relevance of the proposed legislation.
 - ✓ To ensure that the right policy are the ones legislated.
e.g., expanded maternity leave; ecozones
- For mid-term evaluation
 - ✓ To further determine the relevance of the policy and efficiency of implementation.
e.g., K to 12; TRAIN
- For ex-post evaluation
 - ✓ To determine effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the policy; whether goals were achieved for which the policy was approved.



What M&E should be established in the Senate?

- A National Evaluation Framework that need to be legislated should involve the two houses of Congress;
- A National Evaluation Agenda should also be formulated involving the Senate consistent with the national evaluation framework and the development agenda of the country.



Yes, we want an M&E in the Senate!

-thank you!-

