Western Visayas
Regional Development Plan
2017-2022

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Western Visayas Regional Development Plan, 2017-2022

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Foreword

Earlier this year, we launched the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 through the initiative of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). The PDP serves as our medium-term blueprint towards attaining a better and more secure life for our people in the next 25 years.

To complement the PDP, we are now launching the Regional Development Plans (RDPs) 2017-2022. This will provide direction in policy formulation for the next six years as we steer public and private investments to the regions.

We intend to place regional development at the center of our socioeconomic development strategy. By creating more jobs, improving social services, encouraging innovation and connecting the countryside to growth centers, we will reduce poverty and accelerate development in rural areas.

The RDPs will also prioritize accelerating infrastructure development, protecting our natural resources, addressing criminality and illegal drugs, and ensuring peace and security in the regions.

I commend the Regional Development Councils for aligning their respective regional plans to our PDP through fruitful collaboration with local government units and the private sector. I am confident that through the RDPs, we can realize our goal of laying a solid foundation for a stronger and more resilient nation for future generations.

RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
President
Republic of the Philippines

MANILA
May 2017

Message

With regional and local development being one of the main thrusts of President Rodrigo R. Duterte's socioeconomic development agenda, the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022, the first medium-term plan anchored on a long-term vision (AmBisyon Natin 2040), was specifically designed to cultivate growth and reduce inequality between the regions. This can be achieved by directing development to key areas throughout the country and connecting these growth centers to rural areas.

As such, the Regional Development Plans (RDPs), as accompanying documents to the PDP, will be an important tool in guiding both public and private investments that will catalyze growth in the regions. It will also serve as our blueprint in laying down the three main pillars of Malasakit, Pagbabago, at Patuloy na Pag-unlad that will help us build a secure, comfortable, and strongly rooted life for all Filipinos by 2040.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Regional Development Councils (RDCs) for their leadership in the crafting of the RDPs, and in coordinating various development efforts in the regions. Finally, we seek the support of our local government units, regional institutions, and private institutions to support the realization of our plans as we venture towards the creation of prosperous, peaceful and resilient communities.

ERNESTO M. PERNIA
Secretary of Socioeconomic Planning

Message

The Regional Development Plan (RDP), 2017-2022 is the blueprint of socio-economic development in Western Visayas in the medium term. It spells out the region's contribution towards the achievement of the goals and targets of the Philippine Development Plan, the 0 to 10 point socio-economic agenda of the Duterte administration, as well as, the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations. It contains the strategies, policies, programs and activities for the period 2017-2022 that will lay down the foundation for a more inclusive growth, a high trust society and a globally competitive knowledge economy.

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 5 issued by President Rodrigo Duterte, this is the first medium-term regional development plan of the region anchored on Ambisyon Natin 2040, the collective long-term vision of the Filipino people for themselves and the country for the next 25 years, which is matatag, maginhawa at panatag na buhay.

In line with this, we also envision our region to have a society where people are progressive, secure, healthy, and happy, as manifested by an empowered people and a progressive economy. This may be ambitious, but we can move closer to its realization if all the stakeholders in the region contribute their share towards that direction.

As Chairperson of the Regional Development Council of Western Visayas, I earnestly ask the unqualified support of every sector of our society – from the local government units, private sector groups, the non-government organizations, the academe and the general public - in our journey towards the realization of our dreams and aspirations for our region. I call especially on our representatives in Congress to give their absolute backing in steering our legislative agenda that will support the RDP.

Beyond the formulation of this Plan lies the more difficult task of ensuring its successful implementation. Thus, as your RDC Chairperson, I vow to provide this Council the kind of leadership you need that will successfully steer the effective and efficient implementation of the Plan for the next six years.

RHODORA J. CADIAO
Governor, Province of Antique
Chairperson, RDC VI

Preface

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), pursuant to Memorandum Circular No. 12, spearheaded and coordinated the preparation of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP), 2017-2022 and the Regional Development Plans (RDPs). These plans are the first of four medium-term development plans to be crafted and implemented to achieve the country's long-term vision or the Ambisyon Natin 2040.

Ambisyon Natin 2040 is a result of a long-term visioning exercise initiated by NEDA to capture the aspirations, values and principles of the Filipino people in the next 25 years or until 2040. As adopted by the Duterte administration by virtue of Executive Order No. 5, the long-term vision for the Philippines is to be "a prosperous, predominantly middle-class society where no one is poor. People enjoy long and healthy lives and are smart and innovative. The country is a high-trust society where families thrive in vibrant, culturally diverse, and resilient communities".

The RDP of Western Visayas for 2017-2022 was formulated from various consultations, dialogues and enhancement meetings with various public and private stakeholders. The plan formulation process started with the assessment of the RDP, 2013-2016 to determine whether there were still issues and concerns that needed to be addressed by the successor plan. Challenges were identified, taking into account the factors that constrained the accomplishment of some targets of the previous Plan and possible scenarios over the Plan period that will likely affect the achievement of the development goals and objectives of the region's major sectors. After the assessment, the Regional Strategic Framework, which took into consideration the Visayas Strategic Development Framework along concentration, connectivity and vulnerability, was drafted.

The RDP chapters mirror the PDP chapters for easy tracking of Western Visayas' contribution in realizing the country's goals and targets. Each chapter analyses the situation and challenges of the sector and is followed by a discussion of the sector development framework which also graphically presents how the goals will be achieved in the coming years. Then, the sector targets are presented, the strategies are listed in detail, policy/legislative agenda are discussed. The Plan implementation, monitoring and reporting mechanisms are laid out in the final chapter.

As the roadmap for the socio-economic development of Western Visayas in the medium-term, the RDP lays down the foundation for a more inclusive growth, a high trust society, and a globally competitive economy with emphasis on "matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay para sa lahat." It takes into consideration the 0 to 10 socio-economic agenda of the President, the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and tackles region-specific issues and concerns along gender and development, migration and development, and disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

Very significant in the formulation of the RDP was the active involvement of the sector committees of the Regional Development Council (RDC). The Development Administration, Economic, Social and Infrastructure Development Committees were organized into Planning Committees (PCs) which tackled chapters relevant to their sector. Chapter technical working groups with lead agencies were created to take charge in consolidating inputs from concerned agencies concerned and in drafting the accompanying Results Matrices. The chairpersons of the sector committees, as PC Chairpersons, served as facilitators during focus-group discussions, consultation meetings and other activities to generate insights from participating representatives of national government agencies, local government units, business groups, non-government and civil society organizations, local media, religious associations and the academe. This ensures that the concerns and interests of the region's stakeholders are captured and addressed accordingly.

The realization of the development outcomes contained in the Plan entails funding and implementation across sectors and at various levels: by the national government, using national funds and official development assistance, and by the local government units using local funds. The RDC will work closely with all development partners to make sure that the goals and development targets are achieved. It will secure the support of Legislators in both Houses of Congress to push for the enactment of laws that will resolve development issues and secure fiscal support for the region's priority programs/projects.

The NEDA VI extends its deepest gratitude and appreciation to those who actively participated in the formulation of this document, particularly the Chairpersons of the RDC-VI Sector and Special Committees who, as convenors of the PCs, ably steered the discussions particularly on what had to be included in the various chapters of the Plan.

I am confident that, given the enthusiasm and commitment of our development partners from government and private sectors, the RDP 2017-2022 will achieve its purpose of serving as the development blueprint for Western Visayas, bringing about growth, progress, and greater benefits to its communities and its people in the years to come.

Now, let's buckle down to work!

RO-ANN A. BACAL, CESO III
Regional Director, NEDA-VI
Vice-Chairperson, RDC-VI

PART I

INTRODUCTION

01 The Vision and Guiding Principles

Chapter 1

The Vision and Guiding Principles

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Executive Order No. 5, series of 2016 adopting the Ambisyon Natin 2040 as the long-term vision for the country. The executive order provides that the four Philippine Development Plans to be crafted and implemented until 2040 shall be anchored on the country's long-term vision in response to the stakeholders' clamour for a forward-looking approach that goes beyond a single political administration.

Memorandum Circular No. 12, s. 2016 directing the formulation of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022, provides that the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) shall coordinate the preparation of the PDP, Public Investment Program, and Regional Development Plans/ Investment Programs for the period 2017-2022.

Prior to the drafting of the development plans for the period 2017-2022, the NEDA embarked on a long-term visioning exercise to capture the aspirations, values and principles of the Filipino people in the next 25 years or until 2040. Based on the survey and focus group discussions, Filipinos want for themselves a life that is "matatag, maginhawa, at panatag." "Matatag" means that they have an option to live with their families and have time with family and friends; "maginhawa" means to be free from hunger and poverty, have guaranteed mobility, secured home ownership, and travel and vacation opportunities; and, "panatag" means security of place, and have resources adequate for daily needs, unexpected expenses and for retirement.

For the country, the survey showed that Filipinos consider hunger, local employment, poverty, and eradication of corruption as the most pressing issues. In short, the Filipinos vision for the country is:

> **"By 2040, the Philippines shall be a prosperous, predominantly middle-class society where no one is poor. Our peoples will enjoy long and healthy lives, are smart and innovative, and will live in a high-trust society."**

For Western Visayas, the long-term vision places people as the subject and object of development. Attaining a progressive economy involves the development of the region's productive base – agriculture and fishery, industry and services sectors, tourism, and renewable energy. As the regional economy progresses, the people's standard of living will improve making them prosperous, secure, healthy and happy. The people of Western Visayas are proud of their culture and heritage as manifested by the various festivals and related-activities celebrated throughout the year in all parts of the region. The place is also endowed with rich natural resources that supply and sustain the needs of communities. The people recognize the importance of preserving and enhancing their culture and heritage as well as protecting and preserving their environment and natural resources. Thus, in the long-term, the vision for the region is:

"Western Visayas is a progressive region where people are prosperous, secure, healthy, happy and conscientious stewards of culture, heritage and natural resources."

The Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2017-2022 of Western Visayas is anchored on the PDP's goal of laying down the foundation for a more inclusive growth, a high trust society, and a globally competitive economy with emphasis on "Malasakit, Pagbabago para sa Patuloy na Pag-unlad." The RDP translates the President's 0 to 10 socioeconomic agenda into strategies, policies, programs, and activities for the next six years. Moreover, it takes into account the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, issues and concerns on gender and development, migration and development, and disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies.

Organizational Set-up

The Regional Development Council, through its technical secretariat, the NEDA-VI, spearheaded the formulation and approval of the RDP. This was closely coordinated with the various Local Development Councils in Western Visayas at the provincial, city, and municipal levels.

By virtue of RDC-VI Resolution No. 55, series of 2016, the existing sector committees of RDC-VI, namely: Economic Development Committee, Social Development Committee, Infrastructure Development Committee, and Development Administration Committee served as the planning committees that took charge of the different thematic chapters of the RDP.

The same resolution also created the Plan Technical Working Groups which finalized the components of each plan chapter, including the Results Matrix that contains indicators and annual targets.

The set-up at the regional level is consistent with that at the national level which was responsible for the formulation of the Philippine Development Plan. This consistency is also maintained in the chapters to ensure that the regional development strategies contribute to the overall strategies that will be pursued by national agencies.

Table 1.1 RDP Planning Committees

RDC SECTOR COMMITTEE/ PLANNING COMMITTEE	ASSIGNED CHAPTER/S OF THE RDP	CHAIR AND MEMBERS
Development Administration Committee Chairperson: DILG VI (Dir. Anthony C. Nuyda)	• Ensuring people-centered, clean and efficient governance • Pursuing swift and fair administration of justice • Attaining just and lasting peace • Ensuring security, public order and safety	Chair: DILG BJMP, BLGF, CSC, DOJ-PPA, PNP, PDEA, HUDCC, OMB
Economic Development Committee Chairperson : DOST VI (Dir. Rowen R. Gelonga)	• Expanding and diversifying opportunities in agriculture and fisheries	Chair: DA BFAR, DAR, DENR, NIA, FIDA, PCS
	• Expanding and developing opportunities in industry and services	Chair: DTI DILG, DOST, SEC
	• Expanding and developing opportunities in tourism	Chair: DOT DENR, DILG, DPWH
	• Managing the region's environment and natural resources	Chair: DENR EMB, MGB, NCIP

RDC SECTOR COMMITTEE/ PLANNING COMMITTEE	ASSIGNED CHAPTER/S OF THE RDP	CHAIR AND MEMBERS
Infrastructure Development Committee Chairperson: Iloilo Business Club (Ms. Ma. Luisa C. Segovia)	• Accelerating infrastructure development	Chair: DPWH CAAP, DICT, DOE, LTO, LWUA, NEA, NIA, NGCP, NTC, PPA
Social Development Committee Chairperson: DSWD VI (Dir. Rebecca P. Geamala)	• Preserving traditional values, culture and heritage • Enhancing human capital and access to social services • Reducing vulnerabilities, and building safe and secure communities • Taking advantage of the demographic dividend	Chair: DSWD DepEd, DOH, PHIC, POPCOM, NNC, CHED, TESDA, DOLE, DOST, DTI, NAPC, NCIP,NHA, HUDCC, DILG, NEDA
Special Committee on Research and Development Chairperson: DOST VI (Dir: Rowen R. Gelonga)	• Advancing science, technology and innovation	Chair: DOST WESVARRDEC, WESVIARC, SUCs, DA

Formulation Process for RDP 2017-2022

The formulation of the RDP 2017-2022 started with the preparation of the Plan Assessment Report (PAR) for the RDP 2013-2016 and culminated with its adoption and approval by the RDC-VI.

From September 30, 2016 to November 10, 2016, a series of focus group discussions (FGD) were conducted to generate from various regional line agencies and their local counterparts the persistent issues and concerns as well as to identify priority target groups for the next plan period, 2017-2022. Development strategies, policy reforms, and legislative agenda to address the issues were also proposed. Each FGD session was moderated by the sector committee chairperson and facilitated by the NEDA technical staffs.

Table 1.2 Focus Group Discussions Conducted

AREAS OF CONCERN	PARTICIPATING AGENCIES/ENTITIES	DATE CONDUCTED
Poverty Alleviation and Human Resource Development	DSWD, NNC, DedEd, DOLE, NHA, DOH, NCIP, PhilHealth, TESDA, PopCom, PASUC, NAPC, HUDCC, NEDA	September 30, 2016
Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries Development	DA, DAR, DENR, BFAR, PCA, FIDA, NIA, CDA, NFA, DOST, NEDA, PAOs of provinces and CAOs of cities	October 4, 2016
Investment Promotion, Entrepreneurship and Trade Development	DTI, DOST, BOI, SEC, DILG, TESDA, DOE, NEA, NEDA, LEIPO of provinces and cities	October 4, 2016
Tourism Development	DOT, DPWH, DILG, DENR, NEDA, Provincial and City Tourism Officers	October 6, 2016
Infrastructure Support and Connectivity	DPWH, PPA, CAAP, DAR, DA, DILG, NEA, NTC/DICT, DOE, LWUA, DepEd, NEDA, PEOs of provinces and CEOs of cities	October 6, 2016
Good Governance, Public Order and Safety	DILG, OCD, AFP, PNP, PDEA, BJMP, PPA-DOJ, CSC, COA, DBM, CHR, NICA, NBI, NEDA, PPDCs and CPDCs	October 18, 2016
Environment and Natural Resources	DENR Planning, DENR Operations, DENR PENROs, EMB, MGB, OCD, NCIP, BFAR, DOST, HLURB, NEDA	October 18, 2016
Migration and Development	OWWA, POEA, DOLE, DSWD, DILG, NRCO, NEDA, TESDA, POPCOM, migrant groups	November 10, 2016
Science, Technology and Innovation	DOST, NEDA, WESVARRDEC, WESVIARC, SUCs, DA	March 20, 2017

A consultation meeting was conducted with the private sector, the academe, and planning officers from the provinces and cities on November 9, 2016 to get their perspective on the priority issues and areas of concern that must be addressed by the RDP 2017-2022.

A series of technical meetings and FGDs by the different Planning Committees followed the sector FGDs.

Plan Legitimization

The draft RDP was presented to the RDC sector committees and endorsed to the Council proper in 2017:

Infrastructure Development Committee	February 24
Social Development Committee	February 28
Economic Development Committee	February 28
Development Administration Committee	March 07

The RDP was presented and approved by RDC during its First Quarter Regular Meeting held on March 30, 2017 through RDC Resolution No. 04, series of 2017, "Resolution Approving, Adopting, and Advocating for the Regional Development Plan, 2017-2022 of Western Visayas".

With inputs coming from the different sectors, and various levels of governance, the RDP now serves as the main reference for all stakeholders in the pursuit of the socio-economic development of Western Visayas in the next six years.

02 Brief Assessment of the Western Visayas RDP, 2011-2016

Chapter 2

Brief Assessment of the Western Visayas RDP, 2011-2016

The predecessor plan or the Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2011-2016 identified two major drivers of the region's socio-economic growth - agriculture and tourism. Other thematic concerns that were given attention in the RDP were poverty alleviation, competitive industry and services, infrastructure support, human resource development, research and development, biofuels and renewable energy, good governance and the rule of law, peace and security, and environment and natural resources.

Macroeconomy

- Economy bounced back from Typhoon Yolanda. The region's economy suffered in the aftermath of Typhoon Yolanda: GRDP growth fell from 7.7 percent in 2011-2012 to only 4.1 percent in 2012-2013. However, the region bounced back with an impressive growth from 5.2 percent in 2013-2014 to 8.3 percent in 2014-2015 making Western Visayas the second best performing region in the country. The impressive overall economic performance of the region in the recent years was largely contributed by the industry and services sectors.

- Improving food security and reducing agricultural losses in the region remained elusive. Production and productivity of most crops and livestock were below plan targets. Commercial and municipal fishery production kept on declining except aquaculture which surpassed production targets in 2014 and 2015. Sufficiency targets were achieved for chicken meat but not for pork and beef. Low farm gate prices coupled with high input costs of commercial feeds, veterinary medicines, herbicides and pesticides greatly affected local production.

- The gross value added (GVA) in agriculture and fishery registered negative growths of 3.3 percent in 2013 and 0.6 percent in 2015. Generally, production was affected by adverse weather conditions and lingering effects of typhoon Yolanda and more recently, El Niño phenomenon. In addition, the expected expansion of irrigation areas was not achieved mainly due to delays in project implementation, particularly of the Jalaur River Multi-Purpose Project Phase II.

Table 2.1 GDP and Western Visayas GRDP Growth of Agriculture and Fishery, 2011-2015 (at 2000 Constant Prices)

SECTORS/ SUBSECTORS	GDP GROWTH				WESTERN VISAYAS GRDP GROWTH			
	2011-12	2012-13	2013- 14	2014-15	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
GDP and GRDP	6.8	7.2	6.2	5.9	7.7	4.1	5.2	8.3
AHFF	2.8	1.1	1.7	0.1	-0.1	-3.3	-2.3	-0.6
Agriculture and Forestry	3.6	1.2	2.1	0.6	0.7	-3.1	-1.5	-0.1
Fishery	-0.4	0.7	-0.2	-1.8	-2.6	-4.0	-5.0	-3.4

Source: PSA-VI

- Inflation rate was contained within the target of 3.5-4.8 percent over the plan period (Table 2.2). Compared to the other two Visayas regions, Western Visayas registered the lowest inflation rate in 2014 - Region VII at 5 percent, and Region VIII at 6.5 percent.

Table 2.2 Inflation Rates, 2011-2015

COMMODITY GROUP	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
All Items	4.6	4.0	3.8	4.7	2.3
I. Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	4.4	3.8	3.1	7.0	3.3
A. Food	4.4	3.9	3.1	7.5	3.4
B. Beverage	3.5	3.0	2.8	1.6	1.0
II. Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	8.3	5.0	30.3	5.7	3.0
A. Alcoholic Beverages	8.8	3.1	10.2	3.1	1.5
B. Tobacco	7.4	8.1	60.3	8.5	4.5
III. Non-Food	4.6	4.2	2.9	2.5	1.3

Source: PSA-VI

- Employment rate steadily increased from 93.6 in 2011 to 94.6 percent in 2015. More jobs were created in the construction, IT-BPM, cyber services,Business Process Outsourcing (BPOs), hotels and restaurants, health and wellness, wholesale and retail, and tourism-related establishments which are considered the major employment drivers of the region. Both unemployment and underemployment rates declined. Unemployment rate fell from 6.9 percent in 2013 to 5.4 percent in 2015; while underemployment rate steadily declined from 24.6 percent in 2010 to 21.3 percent in 2015, also exceeding plan targets.

- The Industry and Services Sectors led the high growth. The gross value added of the industry sector grew steadily from 9.4 percent in 2013 to 13.5 percent in 2014 and further accelerated to 22.0 percent in 2015. Among the industry subsectors, construction was the biggest contributor in 2015: from 14.4 percent growth in 2013-2014, construction GVA growth surged up to 46.9 percent in 2014-2015. The exceptional performance of construction made up for the deceleration in the other subsectors: electricity, gas and water supply down from 14.4 percent to 6.0 percent, manufacturing from 10.3 percent to 3.4 percent and mining and quarrying from 22.0 to 1.9 percent.

On the other hand, growth rate of the services sector slightly decreased from 5.7 percent in 2012-2013 to 5.5 in 2013-2014, but bounced back to 6.9 percent in 2014-2015.

Majority of the businesses established in the region are in the services sector: construction, real estate development, financing, hotel/resort operations, and trading. Table 2.3 shows the top 10 new business, their capitalization and nature of business in the past three years.

Table 2.3 Top 10 New Businesses 2013, 2014, and 2015

NAME OF ESTABLISHMENT	PAID-UP CAPITAL/CONTRIBUTION (IN PHP MILLION)	NATURE OF BUSINESS
CY 2013		
1. RJU88 Holdings Co. Inc.	100.00	Holding
2. Toyota Puerto Princesa City, Inc.	100.00	Manufacturing
3. Construction De Oro Corporation	68.06	Construction
4. Medicus Cancer Institute, Inc.	22.50	Institute
5. 9 8 5 7 Realty Corporation	21.56	Real Estate
6. Tubigan Systems, Inc.	13.80	Water Refill Station
7. Dibutonay Island Resort Inc.	12.50	Hotel
8. Golden Boracay Regent Resort	12.50	Hotel/Resort
9. Xing Kong Hotel Ventures, Inc.	12. 50	Hotel
10. Future Trust Finance Corporation	10.00	Financing
CY 2014		
1. Henann Holdings Inc.	271.05	Financial Holding Company
2. Greenscape Holding PH, Inc.	28.00	Holding
4. Medicus Medical Center Corporation	23.14	Hospital
5. Rhi Builders And Contractors Depot Corp.	20.00	Trading/Hardware
6. Stella Maris Real Estate & Dev. Corp.	20.00	Real Estate
Great Harvest Commodities Ph, Inc.	20.00	Trading
7. Perbac Sugar Equities Corporation	15.59	Holding
8. Ngb 314 Finance Corporation	10.00	Financing
Shak Construction Corporation	10.00	Construction
9. JD Agro Projects Incorporated	9.28	Agro-Industrial
10. Greenland Builders 2013 Corporation	9.10	Construction
CY 2015		
1. A.D. Pendon Construction Supply, Inc.	75.00	General Construction
2. Topbrands International Corp.	50.00	Trading
3. Bacolod AGT Land Corporation	30.00	Real Estate
Aurelia Hotel and Resorts, Phil., Inc	30.00	Hotel/Resort Operation
4. Imanuello Corporation	25.00	Trading
5. Goodlife Lending Investors, Inc.	20.00	Lending
Asenso Negros Devt. Corp.	20.00	Real Estate
J.E. Tico Realty Corp.	20.00	Real Estate
6. Alsis Agro Industrial Corp.	12.50	Manufacturing
Boracay Regus Holdings, Inc.	12.50	Holding Company

NAME OF ESTABLISHMENT	PAID-UP CAPITAL/CONTRIBUTION (IN PHP MILLION)	NATURE OF BUSINESS
7. Zashi Hog Farm Inc.	10.00	Agricultural/ Piggery Farm
VLand Corp.	10.00	Real Estate
Happy & Lucky Ventures Gaming Corp.	10.00	Small Town Lottery
Iloilo 21 Avenue, Inc.	10.00	Hotel
Amazon Property & Devt. Corp.	10.00	Real Estate
G. Heavy Duty Equipment Services Co.	10.00	Common Carrier
Sterida, Inc.	10.00	Restaurants
888 Blue Energy Corp.	10.00	Renewable Energy
GQ5 Prime Property & Devt. Corp.	10.00	Real Estate
Alijis Devt. Corp.	10.00	Real Estate
Unli Finance Corp.	10.00	Financing
8. Topbrass Construction & Trading Corp.	9.00	Construction
A.C. Tajanlangit Construction Corp.	9.00	General Construction
Funatix Private Limited Co., Inc.	9.00	Fun and Entertainment
9. AGBS Realty of Bacolod, Inc.	8.00	Real Estate
10. Seven Silver Stars Tubig Corp.	6.25	Trading

Source: SEC-VI

Industry and services labor productivity, although much improved over 2010-2015, could not reach the levels achieved by the other Visayas regions. Agriculture labor productivity in the last three year period even declined by almost 9 percent (see Chapter 10- Industry and Services).

- Exports value surpassed plan targets. The region's total value of exports from 2013 to 2015 surpassed the plan's combined targets for the three-year period by 12 percent. Export values for coal, the region's major export commodity, have been fluctuating because of world market prices. Other important export items of the region are raw cane sugar and assorted marine products which made up 12.4 and 1.1 percent respectively, of total export value in 2015. Cane molasses and steel scrap are also among the region's top five export commodities.

Western Visayas continues to be a net importer. Imported commodities included construction materials and equipment, petro products, fertilizers, wheat, and rice.

- Tourism targets exceeded. The region's tourism industry has remained highly competitive. Tourist arrivals and tourism revenue targets were attained over the plan period. Likewise, employment and investments generated surpassed the plan targets. The vibrant regional tourism industry is attributed to the formulation of various tour packages, providing more options and value-for-money for tourists, hosting of forums for travel media and agents, aggressive campaigning among the operators of cruise ships to include Western Visayas in their itineraries, marketing and promotional activities under "Experience Western Visayas First," and hosting of many national and international events and conferences, such as the APEC and ASEAN meetings.

Table 2.4 Selected Statistics on Tourism, 2013-2015

INDICATORS	BASELINE		2013		2014		2015	
	YEAR	VALUE	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL
Number of tourist arrivals increased (in million)	2009	2.03	3.19	3.56	3.67	3.95	4.22	4.63
Tourist revenues increased (in billion pesos)	2009	37.42	73.01	78.94	83.96	87.72	89.25	102.27
Number of employment from tourism-oriented establishments generated								
• Direct employment	2012	10,592	12,500	14,875	12,500	22,313	12,500	33,469
• Indirect employment	2012	106,250	125,000	147,500	125,000	169,625	125,000	195,068
Government and private sector investments in tourism generated* (in billion pesos)	2012	21.25	25	25.08	28.75	33.92	33.06	39.01

Source: DOT-VI

Poverty Alleviation

Poverty reduction remains a challenge in Region VI despite poverty incidence improving in the past three years, from 29.1 percent in 2012 to 22.4 percent in 2015 of its total population. The income index indicates that there is still poor access to resources to obtain better living conditions. Excluding Negros Occidental which was then part of the Negros Island Region, Table 2.5 shows that the region's poor population is predominantly found in the provinces of Antique (26.0%) and Iloilo (20%).

Table 2.5 Poverty Incidence and Magnitude of Poor Families, by Province, Western Visayas and Philippines, 2012 and 2015

REGION/PROVINCE	POVERTY INCIDENCE AMONG POPULATION (%)		MAGNITUDE OF POOR POPULATION	
	2012	2015	2012	2015
PHILIPPINES	25.2	21.6	23,745,895	21,927,009
Region VI	29.1	22.4	2,088,471	1,728,397
Aklan	25.0	14.9	136,917	67,199
Antique	30.9	26.0	160,625	126,943
Capiz	27.8	12.9	208,208	118,678
Guimaras	25.2	5.2	40,090	8,435
Iloilo	26.2	20.0	580,937	540,001
Negros Occidental	32.3	29.0	961,694	867,141

Source: PSA-VI

However, if considered in the total poor population, Negros Occidental has the greatest number and incidence of poor population. Guimaras province has the lowest poverty incidence with only 5.2 percent of its population considered poor. Compared with the national, Western Visayas had a higher poverty incidence in both periods.

Infrastructure Support

Power

The expansion of the 2x82MW coal-fired power plant of Panay Energy Development Corporation in Lapaz, Iloilo City by 150MW started in 2014 and its 3rd generating unit was commissioned in August 2016. Also, the expansion of the 135MW coal-fired power plant of Palm Concepcion Power Corporation in Concepcion, Iloilo started in 2014 and the new power plant started commissioning in June 2016. Moreover, new power generators were established in the region. These include wind power in Guimaras and Aklan, and hydropower in Antique. The renewable energy projects completed and commissioned in 2013 to 2015, gave the region an additional 148.49MW installed energy capacity.

In the Household Electrification Project, a total of 1,683 households in off-grid area were beneficiaries of the solar home systems, more than the plan target of only 1,000 households. On the other hand, the total number of sitios energized increased from the 2,509 sitios in 2011 to 3,772 in June 2016 under the Sitio Electrification Program of the National Electrification Administration. The average cost of electricity in the region as of 2017 is PHP11.6270 per kilowatt- hour, much higher compared to the NCR - MERALCO rate of PHP7.4176 per kilowatt-hour (kuryente.org.ph).

Water rates are higher compared to other regions in the country. The average minimum charge in the region is PHP194.06 per 10 cubic meters in 2015, PHP183.98 in Region XI, and only PHP144.98 in Region VII. For commercial use, the minimum charge per 30 cubic meters is PHP666.62 while it is only PHP610.82 in Region XI and PHP509.05 in Region VII (Source: LWUA Website).

The Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI) 2016 rankings show that selected cities outside NCR that ranked higher than Iloilo City may have achieved lower cost of doing business due to cheaper charges for basic utilities and land in the central business district.

Table 2.6 Comparative Cost of Electricity, Water and Land in Selected Cities

CITY	COST OF ELECTRICITY (PHP/ KILOWATT)		COST OF WATER (PHP/ CUBIC METER)		COST OF LAND IN CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICTS (CBD) (PHP/ SQ. M.)
	COMMERCIAL USERS	INDUSTRIAL FIRMS/ CUSTOMERS	COMMERCIAL USERS	INDUSTRIAL FIRMS/ CUSTOMERS	
Iloilo	8.25	8.29	35.00	35.00	21,000.00
CDO	6.66	5.94	61.10	61.10	12,500.00
Cebu	10.52	8.02	44.65	26.38	20,000.00
Davao	8.88	7.66	35.98	64.40	10,000.00

Source: CMCI 2016

Water

A total of 1,348,160 out of the targeted 1,315,279 households for CY 2013-2015 was provided access to safe water. This accomplishment was realized because priority was given to the development of new water supply sources and to increasing of coverage area.

The proportion of households with access to Levels I and II water supply increased from 23.77 percent in 2013 to 57.48 percent in 2015, which exceeded the 40 percent end-of-plan target. Similarly, the percentage of households with Level III connection increased from 29.39 percent in 2013 to 42.53 percent in 2015, also exceeding the end-of-plan target.

Social Infrastructure

The RDP targets to reduce the housing backlog by 13 percent through different modes of housing program including the socialized ones. The housing backlog estimate was 211,006 units in 2012 and was targeted to be reduced to only 183,575 by 2016, or the construction of 27,431 units during the period. HUDCC Region VI reported that 27,550 housing units, a combined mix of socialized, economic, medium-cost, open market, and residential condominium housing, were built as of 2015.

In addition, there were 15,363 units built by the National Housing Authority and 3,177 units by Social Housing Finance Corporation SHFC. In sum, there were 46,090 housing units produced between 2012 and 2015 compared to the plan target of only 27,431 units. This figure trimmed down the housing backlog to 164,916 units and reflects a 21.84 percent accomplishment on the planned target in housing backlog reduction.

Among the major factors that contributed to the good performance of the housing sector were construction activities in the resettlement projects for the victims of typhoon Yolanda, and aggressive efforts of private property developers to cater to the growing demand of households living in urban and urbanizing areas.

Hospital upgrading and rehabilitation activities were aggressively undertaken in all DOH-retained hospitals in the region as well provincial hospitals devolved to and managed by the concerned provincial governments.

The continuous classroom construction activities undertaken in the past three years resulted in the classroom to student ratio of 1:31 in the elementary and 1:41 in the secondary level in 2015, which is better than the standard 1:45 classroom to student ratio set in Republic Act 7880, s. 1995.

Human Resource Development

The net enrolment rate in elementary level in SY 2014-15 is 95.92 percent, surpassing the plan target of 94.72 percent, and improving from 89.44 percent covering SY 2011-12. On the other hand, in the secondary level, the 63.29 percent net enrolment rate is below the 72.0 percent target. Lack of financial resources, local migration, early marriages as well as the displacement of students due to the lingering effects of devastation wrought by Typhoon Yolanda were among the reasons for the low enrolment rate at secondary level.

Considerable improvements were achieved in cohort survival rate from SY 2011-12 to SY 2014-15 in elementary level from 75.41 percent to 93 percent, and in secondary level from 77.67 percent to 85.87 percent. Completion rates in elementary and secondary levels also significantly improved from 73.09 percent to 92.04 percent and from 70.88 percent to 84.88 percent, respectively. Dropout rates also improved, decreasing from 1.31 percent (SY 2011-12) to 0.50 percent (SY2015-16) in elementary level and from 4.04 percent to 1.79 percent in secondary level.

The achievement rates, measured through the

National Achievement Test (NAT) improved (73.77 in elementary level and 52.98 in secondary level) but were still below the beginning mastery level of 75 mean percentage scores (MPS) for SY 2014-15. All targets set to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) on universal primary education were met except for the drop-out rate in elementary level and net enrolment and achievement rates in secondary level.

Child mortality was reduced while malaria was totally eradicated. However, the challenge remains to improve maternal health and management of HIV/AIDS in the region. Maternal mortality was estimated at 71.33 per 100,000 live births in 2012; this increased to 87.57 per 100,000 live births in 2015. HIV/AIDS positive individuals increased from 23 in 2009 to 377 in 2015.

Access to and participation in basic social security and protection increased with provision of services under the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). From 296,324 in 2012 the number of vulnerable/disadvantaged individuals served increased to 318,840; cash transferred amounted to PHP2,503,762,980.00 in 2015.

Biofuels and Renewable Energy Development

Western Visayas largely benefited from the passage of laws supporting renewable energy, such as, the Bio-Fuels Act of 2006, Renewable Energy (RE) Act of 2008 and Climate Change Act of 2009. With the support of LGUs, more private investments were poured in the development or establishment of renewable energy (i.e. hydro, solar, wind, and biomass). Five biomass power projects were realized, four of which started commercial operations in 2014 and 2015, while one is scheduled to be completed in 2016. Two wind power projects started commercial operations in 2014 and 2015 while one hydroelectric project is on the construction stage.

Unfortunately, the Northern Negros Geothermal Plant was downsized because of its failure to generate the target capacity due to low steamfield yield at the Mt. Kanlaon Natural Park. Table 2.7 presents the awarded RE projects in Western Visayas

Table 2.7 Awarded Renewable Energy Projects (as of CY 2015)

LOCATION	PROJECT NAME	COMPANY NAME	POTENTIAL CAPACITY (MW)
Hydroelectric			
Libacao, Aklan	Main Aklan River Hydroelectric Power Project	Sunwest Water & Electric Company, Inc	15.00
Nabaoy, Aklan	Aklan Pumped-Storage Hydroelectric Power Project	Strategic Power Development Corp.	200.00
Bugasong, Antique	Villasiga Hydroelectric Power Project 2	Sunwest Water & Electric Company, Inc	9.40
San Remegio, Antique	Maninila Hydroelectric Power Project (Lower Cascade)	Century Peak Energy Corporation	4.50
San Remegio, Antique	Maninila Hydroelectric Power Project (Upper Cascade)	Century Peak Energy Corporation	3.10
San Remegio, Antique	Sibalom Hydroelectric Power Project (Upper Cascade)	Century Peak Energy Corporation	4.20

LOCATION	PROJECT NAME	COMPANY NAME	POTENTIAL CAPACITY (MW)
San Remegio, Antique	Sibalom Hydroelectric Power Project (Middle Cascade)	Century Peak Energy Corporation	4.00
San Remegio, Antique	Sibalom Hydroelectric Power Project (Lower Cascade	Century Peak Energy Corporation	3.30
Sebaste, Antique	Caro-an Hydroelectric Power Project	Antique Electric Cooperative, Inc.	0.84
Sebaste, Antique	Ipayo Hydroelectric Power Project	Antique Electric Cooperative, Inc.	1.30
Bago & Murcia	Bago 4 Hydroelectric Power Project	Alsons Energy Development Corporation	11.00
Don Salvador Benedicto	Bago 2 Hydroelectric Power Project	Alsons Energy Development Corporation	10.00
Kabankalan City	Hilabangan (Upper Cascade) Hydroelectric Power Project	Century Peak Energy Corporation	4.80
Kabankalan City	Hilabangan (Lower Cascade) Hydroelectric Power Project	Century Peak Energy Corporation	3.00
Sagay City	Lower Himogaan Hydroelectric Power Project	LGU of Sagay	4.00
San Carlos City	Bago 1 Hydroelectric Power Project	Alsons Energy Development Corporation	4.00
	Initihan Hydroelectric Power Project	Bago River Hydro Power Corporation	3.00
	Bago-Prosperidad 2 Hydroelectric Power Project	Bago River Hydro Power Corporation	2.00
Silay City	Malugo Hydroelectric Power Project	Vivant-Malogo Hydropower, Inc.	6.00
Silay City & E.B. Magalona	Malogo Phase 3 Hydroelectric Power Project	Vivant-Malogo Hydropower, Inc.	2.00
Victorias & Cadiz Cities	Malogo Phase 2 Hydroelectric Power Project	Vivant-Malogo Hydropower, Inc.	5.00
Wind			
Nabas, Malay	Aklan 1 Wind Power Project Phase 1	Tri-Conti Elements Corp	
Malay, Aklan	Boracay Island Wind Power Project	Green Earth Energy Ventures, Inc.	1.00
Nueva Valencia, Guimaras	Nueva Valencia Wind Power Project	Trans-Asia Renewable Energy Corp	10.00
Sibunag, Guimaras	Sibunag Wind Power Project	Trans-Asia Renewable Energy Corp	16.00
Dumangas, Iloilo	Dumangas Wind Power Project	Trans-Asia Renewable Energy Corp	12.00
Batad & San Dionisio, Iloilo	Iloilo 1 Wind Power Project	Energy Devt Corp	
Concepcion, Iloilo	Iloilo 2 Wind Power Project	Energy Devt Corp	
Malay	Boracay Island Wind Power Project	Green Earth Energy Ventures, Inc.	1.00
San Carlos City	San Carlos North East Wind Power Project	BronzeOak Philippines, Inc.	
Manapla & Cadiz	Negros Occidental Wind Power Project	Energy Development Corporation	
Valladolid, San Enrique, Pulupandan & Bago City	Valladolid Wind Power Project	First Maxpower International Corporation	
Bago City	Bago City Wind Power Project	First Manpower International Corporation	1.00

LOCATION	PROJECT NAME	COMPANY NAME	POTENTIAL CAPACITY (MW)
Solar			
Tigbauan, Iloilo	Tigbauan Solar Power Project	Solexar Energy International, Inc.	34.30
Roxas City, Capiz	Roxas City Solar Power Project	Solar Philippines Commercial Rooftop Projects, Inc.	0.70
Tigbauan	Tigbauan Solar Power Project	Solexar Energy International, Inc.	34.30
Roxas City	Roxas City Solar Power Project	Solar Philippines Commercial Rooftop Projects, Inc.	0.70
Murcia	Murcia Solar Power Project	Energy Development Corporation	
Victorias City	Victorias Solar Power Project	Victorias Solar Energy Corp.	60.00
La Carlota City	La Carlota Solar Power Project	Megawatt Clean Energy, Inc.	
Bacolod City	Bacolod City Solar Power Project	Negros PH Solar, Inc.	200.00
	Bacolod Solar Power Project	Amatera Renewable Energy Corporation	50.00
Bacolod City & Murcia	Murcia Solar Power Project	PH Solar Advance Corp.	120.00
Manapla	Manapla Solar Power Project	Oxy Solar Manapla Corporation	5.00
Biomass			
Himamaylan City	12MW Multi-Feedstock Biomass Power Plant	Megawatt Clean Energy, Inc.	12.00
Geothermal			
Mandalagan	Mandalagan Geothermal Prospect	Energy Development Corporation	20.00

Source: DOE Visayas Field Office

Good Governance and the Rule of Law

Improvement in the delivery of public services by government agencies is manifested by the increasing number of government offices that received "very satisfactory" ratings in the Anti-Red Tape Act-Report Card Survey issued by the Civil Service Commission (CSC). The plan envisioned at least 50 percent of the agencies monitored by the CSC achieving very satisfactory ratings every year from 2013 to 2015. The CSC report shows that the number of agencies that were rated very satisfactory was 60 out of 71 (84.5%) in 2013, 67 out of 75 (89.33%) in 2014, and 78 out of 82 (95.12%) in 2015.

The LGUs, especially the barangays, were capacitated on government procedures to strengthen their capability to deliver basic services effectively. Also, many LGUs were able to formulate their respective local codes as specified in the Local Government Code, among them were the Revenue Code, Local Investment and Incentive Code, Health and Sanitation Code, Gender and Development Code, and Environmental Code.

The number of LGUs in the region getting the seal of good local government (SGLG), signifying excellence in transparency, accountability, participation and service delivery increased from 16 in 2015 to 24 in 2016. The Performance Challenge Fund (PCF), a financial grant incentive for local development projects based on their Annual Investment Program (AIP) add to LGUs' motivation to aim for the seal. However, achieving local autonomy and devolution of power remains a concern because many LGUs are still highly dependent on the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) from the national government.

Peace and Security

Western Visayas continued to experience low crime rates and decreasing number of insurgent-affected barangays. The average monthly crime rate (AMCR) for every 100,000 people was reduced from 21.74 in 2010 to 8.44 in 2012 and from 181.20 in 2013 to only 111.86 in 2015. Crime solution efficiency (CSE) improved from 9.54 percent in 2013 to 50.16 percent in 2015. Recorded crime insidents was reduced from 163,408 in 2013 to only 104,747 in 2015.

The relatively safe and secure environment of the region was made possible through upgrading of law enforcement skills and equipment, adoption of information and communication technology for crime data system, and increased fire prevention manpower and facilities.

The relatively peaceful conditions expedited the construction of more roads in the geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, thus enhancing the mobility of people, goods, and services. The challenge remains, however, on how to sustain a stable peace and order situation, including the battle against illegal drugs and criminality.

Environment and Natural Resources

The forest resources of Western Visayas were protected and augmented with the establishment of additional forest plantations. This was made possible through the initiatives of the LGUs and support from the national government through the National Greening Program. Four out of six (6) rivers in the region met the water quality standards in terms of dissolved oxygen and biochemical oxygen demands.

Geohazard assessment was completed for all of 133 cities and municipalities in Western Visayas (including Negros Occidental) with maps on a scale of 1:10,000. Also, a Synoptic and Doppler Radar Station, which is used for monitoring or tracking typhoons and other weather-related concerns, was established in Iloilo City. It is considered as one of the most modern and advanced radar stations in the country.

Thirty-three out of the targeted 39 LGUs were able to formulate their Forest Land Use Plans; the rest were unable to do so because of budget constraints.

In terms of determining the water quality of major river systems in the region, six rivers were subjected to regular monitoring for dissolved oxygen (DO) and biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) content. These are:

1. Iloilo River located in the city of Iloilo having a length of around 10 km;
2. Batiano River, also in Iloilo City, with an approximate length 17.5 km;
3. Jaro-Tigum-Aganan River in the province of Iloilo with an approximate length of about 35-kilometers from its source;
4. Jalaur River, a major river basin of the province of Iloilo with a basin area of 1,742 km2 and the 17th largest river system in the Philippines;
5. Panay River that encompasses almost the entire province of Capiz with a basin that drains an area of approximately 2,181 km2 and a length of about 152 km. along its mainstream;
6. Malihao River with an approximate length of 14.5 km which is located in the Municipality of Victorias in the northern part of Negros Occidental Province.

The following are the results of the assessment:

- Iloilo River - overall DO and BOD concentration of Iloilo River is non-compliant with the water quality standard criteria;
- Batiano River - consistently improving within the five-year period while annual BOD average maintains its compliance with the water quality standard criteria;
- Jaro-Tigum-Aganan - annual DO and BOD averages remain in compliance with the water quality standard criteria within the five-year period;
- Jalaur River - overall water quality is compliant with all the water quality standard criteria for a Class C water body;
- Panay River - compliant with all water quality standards for Class C waters;
- Malihao River - annual DO average consistent from 2013 - 2015 with values of 4.4 and 4.5 mg/L. No significant change was observed when comparing BOD concentration last 2014 and 2015. However, the overall water quality of Malihao River is non-compliant with the water quality standard criteria for a Class B and Class C water body.

Table 2.8 Water Quality of Major Rivers, 2013, 2014, 2015

INDICATORS/ UNITS	BASELINE		2013		2014		2015	
	YEAR	VALUE	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL
• Dissolved Oxygen (DO)								
1. Iloilo River	2009	≥3.90	≥4.0	4.2	≥4.0	4.2	≥5.0	4.4
2. Batiano River	2009	≥4.30	≥4.0	4.9	≥4.0	5.8	≥5.0	6.1
3. Jaro-Tigum-Aganan Rivers	2009	≥7.50	≥7.0	7.3	≥7.0	7.5	≥7.0	7.2
4. Panay River	2009	≥6.30	≥6.0	6.5	≥6.0	6.1	≥6.0	7.1
5. Jalaur River	2009	≥7.10	≥7.0	7.0	≥7.0	7.4	≥7.0	7.9
6. Malihao River	2009	≥4.60	≥6.0	4.0	≥6.0	4.5	≥6.0	4.4
• Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)								
1. Iloilo River	2009	≤ 4.00	≤12.0	9.8	≤11.0	19.8	≤10.0	13.1
2. Batiano River	2009	≤3.80	≤5.0	5.1	≤5.0	4.2	≤5.0	5.3
3. Jaro-Tigum-Aganan Rivers	2009	≤1.60	≤2.0	1.8	≤2.0	3.0	≤2.0	2.2
4. Panay River	2009	≤1.80	≤1.80	1.7	≤2.0	2.9	≤2.0	1.8
5. Jalaur River	2009	≤1.80	≤3.0	3.1	≤3.0	3.0	≤3.0	2.0
6. Malihao River	2009	≤38.00	≤30.0	71.8	≤20.0	42.8	≤15.0	43.8

Source: DENR-VI

In compliance with RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, 95 LGUs have prepared their 10-year solid waste management plans, five of which were already approved while 90 with conditional approval or subject to inclusion of the recommendations made by the EMB.

There are 305 junkshops, 199 junk shops, 29 vermicomposting, 48 controlled dumpsites, 24 eco-solid waste management centers, 12 closed dumpsites, six residual containment areas and eight sanitary landfills that are being operated by the LGUs.

03 Regional Spatial Strategy

Chapter 3

Regional Spatial Strategy

The spatial strategy of Western Visayas aims to influence the region's future growth in the direction of its long-term vision. The strategy seeks to incorporate key principles in spatial planning in the formulation of development plans and design of specific projects that will realize the region's overall, as well as the various settlement centers, social and economic objectives. It takes into consideration the region's geographic configuration, its population trends, and comparative advantages. It will adopt the following key principles in spatial planning relating to urban development, infrastructure development, disaster mitigation, environmental resource protection and conservation, sustainable human settlements, efficient production, and effective service delivery systems, as expressed in the national spatial strategy.

- connectivity between leading and lagging areas and urban-rural linkages through transportation networks,
- improvement of access to social services,
- identification of locations of major infrastructure to maximize their benefits,
- improvement of local, national and international connectivity, and
- promotion of sustainable development and resiliency.

The regional spatial strategy consists of the following components: concentration, connectivity, and reduction of vulnerability.

The Western Visayas Region

Location and Physical Profile

Western Visayas or Region VI is located in the central part of the Philippine archipelago. It consists of the major island of Panay, the smaller Guimaras, half of Negros Island, as well as several outlying islands. The region is bordered to the north by the Sibuyan Sea, northeast by the Visayan Sea, east by the Guimaras Strait, south by the Iloilo Strait and the Panay Gulf, and west by the Sulu Sea.

It is made up of 6 provinces, 118 municipalities, 15 cities and 4,039 barangays. It has two highly-urbanized cities - Iloilo City and Bacolod City, with Iloilo City as the regional capital. The region has 18 congressional districts. Negros Occidental has the biggest land area followed by Iloilo, Capiz and Antique. Guimaras has the smallest land area.

Table 3.1 Land Area and Composition

PROVINCE/HUC	LAND AREA (HA)	COMPOSITION (NUMBER)		
		CITY	MUNICIPALITY	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Aklan	181,789		17	1
Antique	152,201		18	1
Capiz	263,317	1	16	2
Guimaras	60,457		5	1
*Iloilo	471,940	2	43	6
*Negros Occidental	792,607	15	19	7

Sources: RSET 2015, PSA-VI
*Including HUCs

Figure 3.1 Administrative Map

Demographic and Economic Trends

From 6.2 million in 2000, the population of the region increased to 7.5 million in 2015, or an increase of about 1.3 million over a 15 year period. Annual population growth rate continues to decline and has been lower than the national average. Aklan has the highest growth rate followed by Iloilo province. Iloilo City's population growth also declined but Bacolod City managed to maintain its growth since 2000.

Among the provinces, Negros Occidental has the most number of people, followed by Iloilo, Capiz, Antique, Aklan, and Guimaras. Iloilo is the most densely populated province with 387 persons per square kilometer, and the highly urbanized city of Iloilo is the most densely populated area with 5,719 persons per square kilometer.

There is an increasing trend in densities among the municipalities surrounding the regional center and capital towns. Iloilo City has been attracting more people and has started to extend its influence to Pavia, Oton, Leganes, San Miguel, Tigbauan and Guimbal. Bacolod City as well, is extending its influence to the cities of Bago, Talisay, Silay, Victorias, and the municipalities of Murcia and EB Magalona.

In Aklan, people are starting to reside in neighboring municipalities around the capital town of Kalibo, extending to Numancia, Lezo, New Washington and Banga; in Antique, people are flocking to San Jose to Belison.

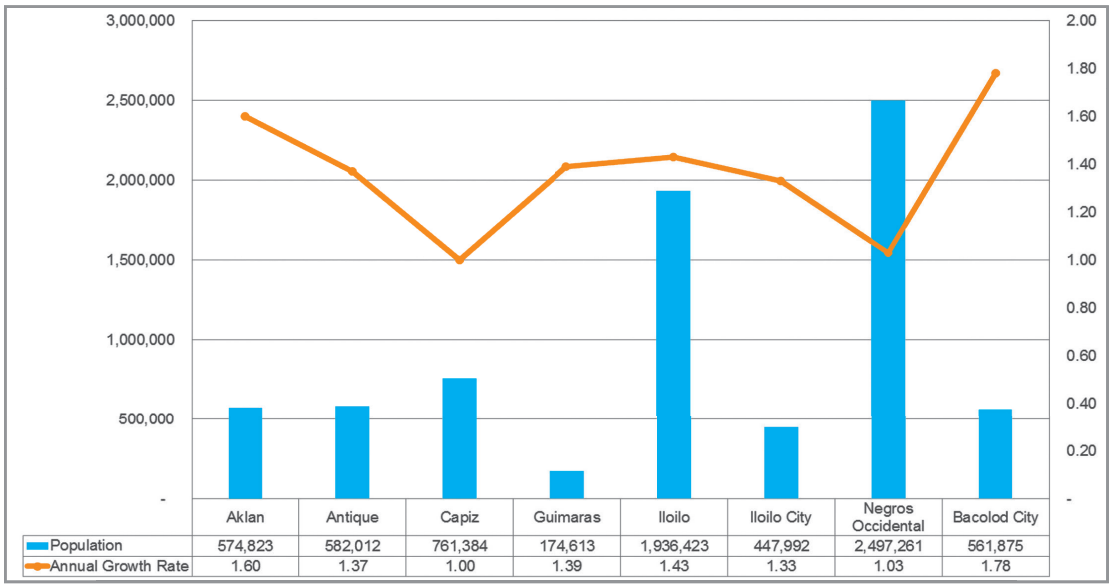
Other areas that are registering high densities are Roxas City in Capiz, Malay and Boracay Island in Aklan. Estancia in northern Iloilo extends its influence towards the municipalities of Carles, Balasan and the municipality of Pilar in Capiz.

Western Visayas will increase its population by 2,662,562 from 7,102,438 in 2010 to 9,765,000 in 2025. Its density will more than double at 794.1 persons per square kilometer. If the current growth rate of 1.36 percent remains constant, the population of the region is expected to double in 51.1 years.

Outside of Luzon, the region is one of the biggest contributors to the national economic output. Its average regional share in the GDP from 2010-2015 is 4 percent and contribution to GDP growth is 2 percent.

GRDP growth fell from 7.7 percent in 2011-2012 to only 4.1 percent in 2012-2013. It managed to bounce back with 5.2 percent growth in 2013-2014 and an impressive 8.3 percent in 2014-2015, making Western Visayas the second best performing region in the country for that year. The impressive overall economic performance of the region in recent years was largely contributed by the industry and services sectors.

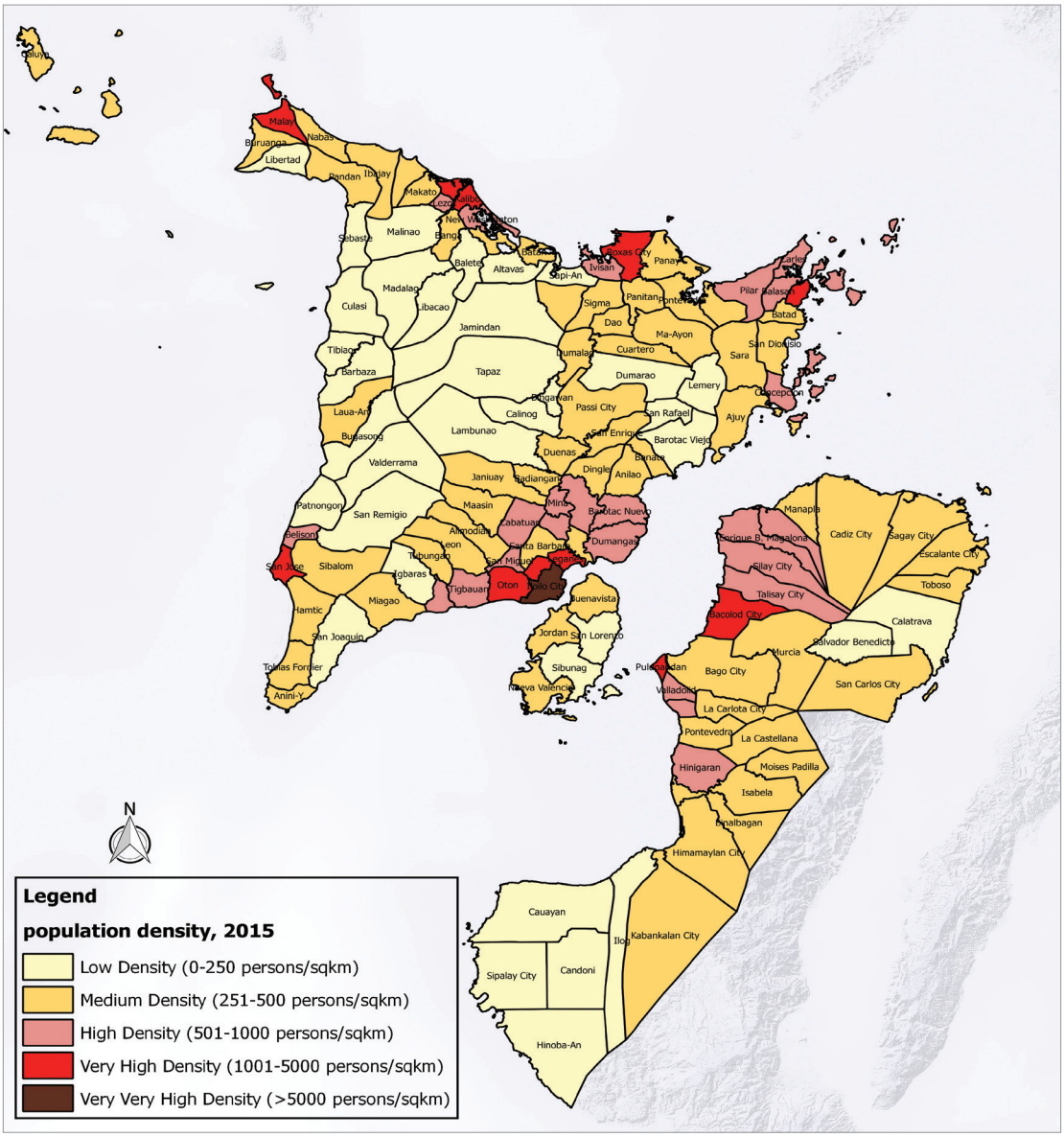
Figure 3.2 Population (2015) and Annual Growth Rate (2010-2015)



	Aklan	Antique	Capiz	Guimaras	Iloilo	Iloilo City	Negros Occidental	Bacolod City
Population	574,823	582,012	761,384	174,613	1,936,423	447,992	2,497,261	561,875
Annual Growth Rate	1.60	1.37	1.00	1.39	1.43	1.33	1.03	1.78

Source: RSET 2015, PSA-VI

Figure 3.3 Population Density, 2015



Source: RSET 2015, PSA-VI (population data)

Comparative Advantages and Opportunities

Western Visayas has comparative advantages in its natural resource endowments and rich historical and cultural heritage. Located at the heart of the Philippines, the region is strategically located. It links the established markets of Luzon, including Metro Manila, with the promising markets of Mindanao.

Its proximity to the Asia-Pacific Region and to the northern and southern parts of the country makes it a major player in the country's maritime commerce. Its network of 29 seaports and roll-on ports links it to major growth centers in the country. The port of Iloilo is an important transshipment point for domestic and international passengers and cargo. It has 6 airports, 3 of these (Caticlan, Kalibo, and Iloilo) have international flights to and from Hong Kong, Singapore, Beijing, Shanghai, Incheon, among other destinations.

The region has a stable power supply and varied energy supply mix which could sustain its economic growth. As of 2014, a total of 7 wind energy projects with a total potential capacity of 192 MW were approved for implementation by the Department of Energy for Region VI. Solar plants in Negros Occidental and Miagao, Iloilo are now operational.

Nature and adventure tourism are major tourist drawers of Western Visayas. The internationally-known beaches in the island of Boracay draw in millions of tourists every year, fueling the growth of communities and local economies.

The scenic view of Mount Kanlaon and the hot springs in Negros Occidental are also attracting visitors. Guimaras Island, Antique and Northern Iloilo are becoming favored tourist destinations due to various tourism activities they can offer.

Tourism in the region goes beyond white sandy beaches, pristine dive spots, waterfalls and mountain resorts, and cave formations. Also scattered throughout the region are places and buildings representative of the region's history and cultural heritage, such as centuries-old churches, watch towers, commercial buildings, residential buildings, and fortifications.

The cities of Bacolod and Iloilo, the region's key cities have been attracting investments, particularly in IT-BPM operations because of the quality of city life they offer to investors and expatriates such as peaceful surroundings, quality accommodations, vibrant entertainment, and proximity to beaches, golf courses, and shopping malls.

Given its comparative advantages, the region can maximize its economic potentials and experience higher level growth through technology advancement, expansion of the knowledge and creative industries, and global market integration.

Development Challenges

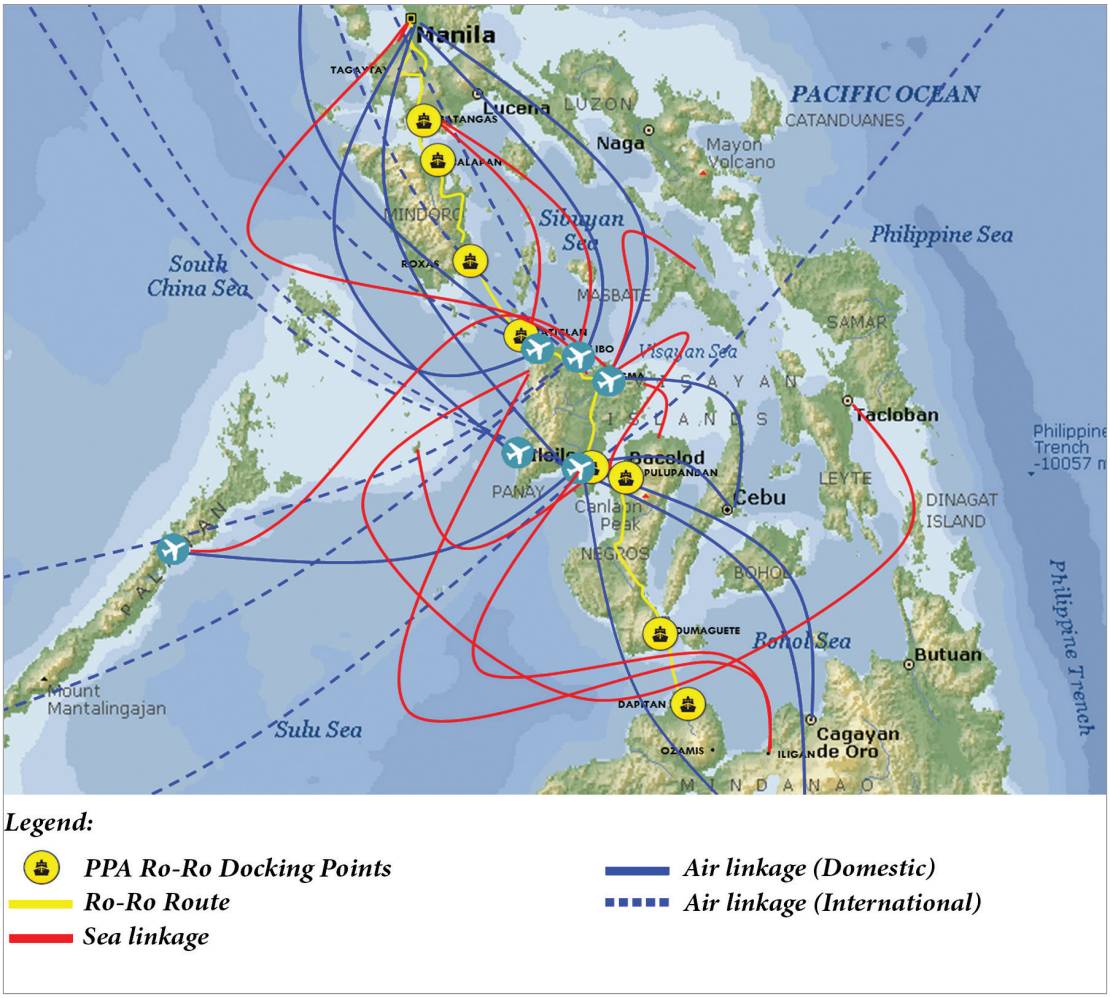
Being a multi-island region, Region VI is physically fragmented; this poses a challenge in moving goods and people within the region, as well as, to and from outside the region. Its physical and climatic features, moreover, makes the region's population vulnerable to disasters. It is visited by typhoons every year; some exposed coastal communities experience storm surges. With fault lines traversing the islands, earthquakes and tsunamis are expected to occur.

Its aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems are continually affected by human activities, resulting in damage to the environment, adverse impacts to agriculture, marine and fishery production, and eventually to degradation of human settlements. For example, there is overcapacity in Boracay to accommodate the influx of domestic and international tourists and overfishing in Visayan Sea due to higher demands for consumption.

Although decreasing, poverty incidence in the region had modest improvements over the years, from 29.1 in 2012 to 22.4 percent in 2015. The magnitude of the poor is still high, estimated at 1,728,397 in 2015.

Although the region's tourism industry remains competitive, there is a need to develop more thematic tourism circuits around the region to provide visitors with alternative itineraries that include emerging tourism destinations. Moreover, while tourism has been providing employment, livelihood, and incomes to host LGUs, the development of tourism sites has been slow owing to limited support from local chief executives and tourism development skills of local officials.

Figure 3.4 Roll-On Roll-Off Route and Sea and Air Linkages



Source: PPA-VI

The Regional Spatial Stragegy

Western Visayas envisions a society where people are progressive, secure, healthy, and happy, manifested by an empowered people and a progressive economy. To attain this vision, the region's spatial strategy will adopt the main strategies of concentration, connectivity, and vulnerability reduction-the same strategies adopted nationwide under the National Spatial Strategy or NSS.

Strategy 1: Concentration

The strategy of concentration will maximize the potentials of urban areas to foster sustainable growth, generate jobs, and increase incomes. It seeks to absorb growth of population to achieve economies of scale and efficiency. It will ensure that encroachment into prime agricultural and environmentally-sensitive or protected areas will be minimized if not totally prevented. Identified areas and locations for industrial, agricultural, business, tourism and service-related activities will be developed with government partnering with private developers and investors to generate new jobs, attract foreign direct investments and create forward and backward linkages in the economy.

Sub-strategy 1.1: Defining the roles and functions of growth centers as catalysts for business and providers of immediate and advance support services.

In consonance with the Visayas Spatial Development Framework, the proposed network of settlements in Western Visayas will adopt four tiers: a) regional centers, 2) sub-regional centers, 3) provincial centers and 4) local centers. The first three settlement tiers are discussed in the RDP as they will have inter-regional, regional, and sub-regional linkages. The local centers will be further discussed in the Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plans.

Regional Centers

The RDP recognizes the dual primacy of Iloilo and Bacolod, with Iloilo City playing a key role in Panay and Guimaras Islands, and Bacolod City in Negros Occidental in the island of Negros. As such, two metropolitan areas will be considered as regional centers: 1) Metro Iloilo and 2) Metro Bacolod. Metro Iloilo encompasses the highly-urbanized city of Iloilo and the municipalities of Pavia, Oton, Leganes, Sta. Barbara, Cabatuan, and San Miguel. Iloilo City serves as the regional capital and administrative center of Western Visayas. It is the center of the Metro Iloilo Development Council, which later formally evolved into the Metro Iloilo-Guimaras Economic Development Council (MIGEDC) pursuant to EO No. 559 of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, to address the area's emerging problems brought about by rapid urbanization and spatial development challenges of tourism and economic development.

The presence of the international airport in Sta. Barbara-Cabatuan, and the seaport in Iloilo City, makes the city an international gateway in the region. Most tertiary schools and private educational institutions are located in Metro Iloilo. It is the center for meetings, incentives, conferencing and exhibitions (MICE) in the region. It is host to major health facilities and ICT-BPM companies. Its unique cuisine and popular annual festival, the Dinagyang, have enticed local and foreign visitors. Impressive centuries-old (since the time of colonization by Spain) residential and commercial buildings, schools and churches have been preserved in Iloilo City and neighboring municipalities. These are tangible testimonials to the proud heritage and culture of the area.

Metro Bacolod. Bacolod City and its neighboring cities, Bago, Silay and Talisay and the municipality of Murcia, are proposed to comprise the Metro Bacolod. It serves as an international gateway of Negros Island through the international airport in Silay City, which has links to major domestic destinations. It hosts major IT-BPM companies. It has international standard sports stadia and gymnasiums.

Dubbed as the country's "sugar bowl," Bacolod City is the most urbanized center in the province of Negros Occidental. It is also known as the "City of Smiles" as depicted by the masks usually worn during the annual Masskara festival where art-loving people come together for a taste of the city's unique cuisine and entertainment.

Sub-Regional Centers

The sub-regional centers are the more progressive and fast-growing centers, which serve as market catchments of regional centers. Many of these currently function as provincial administrative centers. They also connect to and act as service centers of smaller provincial and local centers. As they grow, they tend to merge with adjacent growth centers to form a larger metropolitan area. The following are the sub-regional centers of the region:

Figure 3.5 Metropolitan Arrangements (Existing and Proposed)

Source: VSDF 2015-2045

Roxas City, the capital of Capiz province, is connected to Metro Manila and Cebu by air and to Region 5 (Masbate) and Region 4A (Batangas) through the Culasi Port. It provides the economic link between the regional center, Iloilo City, and serves as conduit for goods and services within its own sphere of influence. Though one of the areas heavily devastated by Typhoon Yolanda, it continues to be a main producer of seafood products, maintaining its fame as the region's "seafood capital." It is host to various international arts convention and cultural festivals, the most popular of which are the Diwal, Capiztahan and Halaran Festivals.

Kalibo, the capital town of Aklan is the international gateway to the world-famous Boracay Island. The Kalibo International Airport has international air links with Taiwan, China and South Korea, and domestically, to Cebu and Manila. Its expansion and improvement will further enhance international connectivity and boost tourism activities. Aside from sun and sea tourism, it has various sites for inland and

eco-tourism. It also has strong potential for IT-BPM expansion with the presence of a big state university, the Aklan State University. It is proud of its heritage, arts and culture with its famous festival - Ati-Atihan.

San Jose, the capital town of Antique serves as the center for development in the province of Antique. It is along the "tuna highway" of the region, which has unique pebbly shorelines for sun, sea, and mountain adventure. Its neighboring towns are famous for hot springs. The municipality connects the province to Region 4B (Cuyo and Taytay ports in Palawan) and Mindanao (Lugait port). The establishment of a hydropower project will assure steady power supply in the area. The expansion and improvement of its airport will boost connectivity to other areas in the country.

Jordan, the capital town of Guimaras, is one of the gateways to the island province. Along with the other four municipalities of the province, it offers various options for tourists, especially for those who like the beach, or do hiking, biking, and other related activities. It is the administrative center of the province.

Passi City is a component city of the province of Iloilo located in the central part of the province. A fast emerging growth center, it has rich agriculture resources. A major producer of sugar and pineapple, it is host to three sugar centrals. It has good market facilities that can serve as a consolidating center for agriculture products either for household consumption or for product trading in bulk to nearby towns and provinces or for institutional customers. As the center of commerce and trade in central Iloilo, its influence radiates to neighboring towns of San Enrique, Duenas and Dingle as well as the adjacent municipalities of Dumarao and Cuartero in Capiz.

San Carlos City in Negros Occidental is an economic zone and is currently considered as the region's renewable energy capital. With its export processing zone and industrial park, it is attracting new industries. It has land connection to Bais City in Negros Oriental, as well as sea connections to Bantayan Island, and Toledo City in Cebu (Region 7). It has strong potential for IT-BPM expansion with the presence of Central Philippine State University extension campus and Northern Negros College of Science and Technology in neighboring city of Sagay.

Kabankalan City in Negros Occidental is the water adventure and summer capital of Negros Island with an economy supported by strong fishery, aquaculture, and small mining industries. It connects Western Visayas to Region 7 via Dumaguete City. Kabankalan City has big potential for manufacturing and IT-BPM expansion being host to the Central Philippines State University.

Provincial Centers

The provincial centers are typically the large municipalities in the provinces which take on the role of processing and trading centers. Like the sub-regional centers, they serve as market and service centers of the provinces although on a limited scale.

Generally, the service coverage of these centers extends to cities and municipalities within the confines of their respective provinces. However, some centers, like Malay in Aklan, Sta. Barbara, Estancia and Dumangas in Iloilo, which are hosts to airports and seaports, link Western Visayas to other regions and major growth centers in Luzon and other Visayas regions.

Table 3.2 Network of Growth Centers

METROPOLITAN REGION	REGIONAL CENTER	SUB-REGIONAL CENTERS	PROVINCIAL CENTERS
Metro Iloilo	Iloilo City	1. Kalibo, Aklan	1. Malay, Aklan
Metro Bacolod	Bacolod City	2. San Jose, Antique	2. Culasi, Antique
		3. Roxas City, Capiz	3. Mambusao, Capiz
		4. Jordan, Guimaras	4. Sta. Barbara, Iloilo
		5. Passi City, Iloilo	5. Dumangas, Iloilo
		6. Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental	6. Estancia, Iloilo
		7. San Carlos City, Negros Occidental	7. Buenavista, Guimaras
			8. Sagay City, Negros Occidental
			9. Sipalay City, Negros Occidental
			10. Victorias City, Negros Occidential

Source: VSDF, 2015-2045

Figure 3.6 Hierarchy of Settlements

Source: VSDF 2015-2045, DRR CCA-Enhanced PDPFPs

Sub-strategy 1.2: Identifying, promoting, supporting and rationalizing the location of investments in agribusiness, manufacturing, information and communications technology, tourism and service related ventures.

Specific areas and locations in the region have been identified for new economic activities. Existing ones are to be expanded whenever feasible. These locations will include areas for agribusiness development, fishery and aquaculture development, information technology-business process management, mineral and fossil development and tourism and eco-tourism development.

Agri-business Development Area

Western Visayas is one of the primary sources of agricultural and fishery products for the country. Majority of the areas of Western Visayas are still predominantly agricultural with people depending on agricultural production for livelihood. Low productivity and difficulty of access to markets keep most of the residents in the rural areas poor.

Table 3.3 Proposed Fishery and Aquaculture Development Areas

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
Northern Capiz Coastal Corridor (Roxas City, Panay, Ivisan and Sapian Corridor)	Adjoining coastal municipalities in the northern portion of the province are the production areas of oysters, green mussel, and angel wing shells which are sought after and marketed in other provinces. A local processor is producing oyster sauce. The establishment of depuration facilities for these shells in order to meet the international standards of the fishery products market is being proposed as well as the establishment of mariculture parks. The parks will include fish breeding stations, preservation, and protection of various species of fish and corals.
Panay and Sapian	Pilot areas for the implementation of aqua-silviculture, a multi-purpose production system that allows production of fish in a mangrove reforestation project.
Northern Iloilo Corridor	Banate Bay in northern Iloilo is considered as coastal management area with fishery and aquaculture production as dominant activities in the area. There is potential for locating fish processing activities along San Dionisio and Concepcion. The establishment of an international port in Dumangas will pave the way for opening of economic zones and nearby inland agri-industrial estates in Dumangas, Zarraga, Mina, Pototan, and Passi City.
Southern Panay Corridor	Considered as the "tuna highway" in the region, the area extends to the southern towns of Antique famous for hot springs. The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), an international research and development institution that also train people in the farming of fishes, crustaceans, mollusks, and seaweeds for food, livelihood, equity, and sustainable development, supports its fishing and aquaculture industry. It has sea connections to Palawan (Coron and Cagayancillo) and to southern Negros (Himamaylan City) through the Guimbal port.
Coastlines of Guimaras	Fishing activities take place in waters surrounding the island, especially along 54 coastal barangays. There are also a number of fishponds which can be improved, rehabilitated or expanded. There is big potential for expansion of fish production in Guimaras. Seaweed farming is also conducted along the shores of Sibunag, San Lorenzo, Buenavista and Nueva Valencia.
Coastlines southern, central and northern Negros Occidental	Consistent with the organic stand of the provinces, fisheries will also be cultured and grown under the organic standards in these areas. Alliances were formed along these coasts to preserve its resources. These are: • Southern Negros Coastal Development Management Council (SNCDMC) covers Cauayan, Sipalay City and Hinobaan. These coastal areas are expected to produce an increased yield in tuna production. Sulu Sea is one of the major migratory paths of yellow fin tunas and other economically important large pelagic species in the country. • Kabankalan, Himamaylan, Ilog Integrated Coastal Area Management Council (KAHIL-ICAMC) covers Kabankalan City, Himamaylan and Ilog. • Central Negros Council for Coastal Resources Development (CENECCORD) includes Hinigaran, Pontevedra, San Enrique, Valladolid. • Northern Negros Aquatic Resources Management Advisory Council (NNARMAC) includes Silay City, EB Magalona, Victorias City, Manapla, Sagay City and Escalante City. Sagay City will play an important role in fish production considering that there is a marine reserve protected area of 32,000 hectares -the largest in the country. EB Magalona is optimistic to become the seafood capital and a major seafood producer. The biggest produce of the locality is the blue crab meat with an export capacity of 10 tons per year.

Source: VSDF, 2015-2045

There is ample available space to produce high value commercial crops in many parts of the region. Efforts will be focused on the production of 15 priority high value commodities that will provide more revenues to farmers and growers. These are muscovado, mango, seaweeds, oyster, swine, abaca, native chicken, coconut, coffee, cacao, banana, pineapple, aqua-culture, cattle, and upland vegetables. Other commodities with high potential for value- adding, processing and export to be explored for further production are herbs and spices (e.g., laurel, parsley and pepper).

The private sector will be encouraged to invest in agri-business and government will provide the necessary infrastructure and utilities support. Agro-processing facilities will be established to add value and generate jobs in the countryside.

Fishery and Aquaculture Development

Western Visayas is the one of the biggest contributors to the country's fisheries output, ranking second in municipal marine fishery production, and fifth in commercial and aquaculture fishery production. With its strategic location, the region has greatly benefited from the Visayan Sea, a vast fishing area with rich aquatic and fishery resources. Fishery production, however, is on the decline. Key fishing grounds suffer from overfishing and destruction of habitat.

Efforts have been initiated to address these concerns; areas are identified where fishery and aquaculture development are to be focused.

Industrial Estate and Ecozone Development

The region has only one existing PEZA-accredited company which is into agro-industrial processing. The products of the ecozone in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental include bioethanol fuels and its by-products. More of this type of activity will be promoted in the rural areas, especially where raw materials are available.

Areas appropriate for industrial development will be identified by government in cooperation with the private sector. As of December 2015, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) has approved 11 manufacturing and two agri-industrial sites. Two of these are now in operation.

Table 3.4 Manufacturing and Agro-Industrial Economic Zones

NAME	LOCATION	AREA (HA)
1. Leganes Industrial Growth Center	Municipal Government of Leganes, Iloilo	177.58
2. Pavia Special Economic Zone	Brgys. Pa-agon and Mali- ao, Pavia, Iloilo	50
3. Barotac Nuevo Industry and Economic Park	Brgy. Tinurian, Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo	50
4. Bamboo Technology and Development Park	Brgy. Dumiles, San Enrique, Iloilo	63.7198
5. Guimaras Growth Center	Brgy. Maclain, Buenavista, Guimaras	216.49
6. Bacolod City Special Economic Zone	Bacolod City	250
7. Pulupandan Ecozone	Brgy. Patic, Pulupandan, Negros Occidental	57.03
8. Bacolod-Silay Economic Zone and Technopark	Brgy. Bagtic, Silay City, Negros Occidental	38.22
9. NUIVI IALT Ecozone I	Brgy. Bagtic, Silay City, Negros Occidental	90
10.NUIVI IALT Ecozone II	Brgy. Bagtic, Silay City, Negros Occidental	197.85
11.San Carlos Ecozone	Bgy. Palampas and Punao, San Carlos City, Negros Occidental	25.79
12.San Carlos Ecozone II	Brgy. Palampas, San Carlos City, Negros Occidental	39.36
13.North Negros Agro-Industrial Export Processing Zone	Brgy. Paraiso, Sagay City, Negros Occidental	26.18

Source: PEZA

Figure 3.7 Agro-Industrial and Fisheries Areas for Development

Source: DA-VI

New industrial estates and agri-industrial economic zones are identified and to be developed through public-private partnerships. Private sector identified sites will be supported by the government in terms of incentives and infrastructure support. Among these is the Northern Iloilo Corridor especially along San Dionisio and Concepcion, Iloilo where manufacturing activities will be promoted.

The establishment of the international port in Dumangas will not only strengthen the existing RORO port and facilities that connect the islands of Panay and Negros but will catalyze the development of economic zones in the Dumangas area and the nearby areas for inland agri-industrial estates especially in Zarraga, Mina, Pototan, and Passi City.

Other industrial estates can be developed in Sibalom and Pandan (Antique), Maclain in Buenavista (Guimaras), Sagay City and Silay City (Negros Occidental).

Information Technology- Business Process Management (IT-BPM)

Bacolod City and Iloilo City have established a reputation as prime locations for IT-BPM firms. They are recognized as among the best places to invest for outsourcing operations. Locating in these cities is deemed advantageous because of available skilled and English-proficient labor force, favorable business environment, strategic location, and good quality digital infrastructure. It is expected that more IT-BPM companies will set up outsourcing businesses in these areas. These companies operate call centers, human resource management, software development, animation and other creative services, data transcription, and other related operations.

ICT shall be widely employed to enhance agricultural productivity, attract more investments in manufacturing, mining, travel, tourism, hospitality. By providing adequate and appropriate infrastructure such as airports, strong broadband internet connections, and stable power supply, the region shall position itself to take advantage of the opportunities offered by emerging fields in ICT itself and as offshoots of ICT.

The PEZA lists 28 IT Centers (17 in Bacolod City, 10 in Iloilo City and 1 in Kalibo, Aklan), and 12 IT Parks (4 in Iloilo City, 1 in Roxas City, and 7 in Bacolod City) in Western Visayas. Operating are 11 IT Centers and 7 IT Parks. The rest are approved for operation, or not yet operating. (Also see Chapter 9 – Expanding and Developing Opportunities in Industry and Services).

Aside from call centers, the region's IT industry will accommodate back-office operations, knowledge process outsourcing, software design and engineering, animation, game development, as well as medical transcription.

To accommodate more IT-BPM locators outside these cities, more areas will be developed in Kalibo, Aklan and Roxas City, Capiz. These are along the Kalibo-Malay Corridor and the expansion area of Pueblo de Panay in Roxas City.

Tourism and Eco-tourism Development

The exciting mix of natural, historical, and manmade attractions has made Western Visayas a favorite tourist destination. It hosts Boracay Island in the Province of Aklan, world famous for its fine white sandy beaches, crystal blue waters, world class accommodation facilities, and a vibrant night life. It has also historical and cultural gems such as centuries-old residential and commercial buildings and churches.

Other than these, the region has several landscapes, seascapes, natural parks and other interesting sites to offer, details of which are discussed in Chapter 10 – Expanding and Developing Opportunities in Tourism.

There are six PEZA-approved tourism ecozones in the region, one of which is already operating in Aklan. Medical tourism will also be boosted with another proposed medical center in Iloilo City.

Figure 3.8 Information Technology-Business Process Management Areas

Source: PEZA

Table 3.5 PEZA-Approved Tourism Ecozones

NAME	LOCATION	AREA (HA)
1. Eco-Tourism in Cabatuan	Cabatuan, Iloilo	10.00
2. Sicogon Island Tourism Estate	Sicogon Island, Carles, Iloilo	809.8736
3. Boracay Eco Village Resort Tourism Ecozone	Yapak, Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan	72.29
4. New Coast Boracay Ecozone	Balabag and Yapak, Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan	93.23
5. Akean Resort	Barangay Union, Nabas, Aklan	17.37
6. New Washington Yacht Club Resorts	New Washington, Aklan	459.00
7. UP Medical Center-Iloilo	Donato Pison Ave., San Rafael, Mandurriao, Iloilo	0.6597

Source: PEZA

Strategy 2: Connectivity

The strategy on connectivity seeks to increase and improve mobility by land, air, or sea across settlements and key production and tourism areas. It will increase access to and improve efficiency of markets, and encourage growth and concentration through transportation alignments that would support the regional development objectives. Redundancy of transport links will be increased to reduce vulnerability during emergency situations.

The needed infrastructure facilities and their respective locations are identified in Chapter 19 – Accelerating Infrastructure Development. These infrastructure facilities when operational will support, expand, and stimulate economic and productive activities by connecting urban systems and settlements as well as improving mobility of cargo and people within and between the communities, islands, the provinces and with the rest of the country and beyond.

Improvement and expansion of existing roads and construction of new roads and bridges. To attract private sector investments in areas to be devoted to industrial and manufacturing activities, aquaculture and agribusiness, IT-BPM locations, and tourism development, the needed infrastructure support will be provided. Existing road links, particularly those that link roll-on/roll-off (RORO) ports, airports, and settlement centers will be expanded to four-lanes or wider.

Road improvement, maintenance, and safety for road users will be given attention. Weighbridge stations will be installed at strategic locations along major national roads to minimize overloading of trucks and trailers that cause accidents, congestion, and severe damage to highways. Drainage facilities at both sides of national roads will be provided. Measures against encroachment of road right of way will be strictly enforced. Street lighting and appropriate road safety devices shall be put in place. Moreover, clean restrooms with complete amenities as well as rest areas or stops will be constructed along major highways.

New roads and bridges, particularly those that lead to existing and proposed production areas and tourism development areas, will be constructed. These new roads will likewise connect to ports and airports to cater to the expected increase in the number of passengers and freight as aggressive development happens in other parts of the region. New roads and bridges will also ensure ease and safety in the mobility of population in urban and population centers. Priority will be given to links that increase access to basic social and other development services. Construction of alternate roads and bridges shall be pursued to allow timely rescue and relief operations in times of disasters. Bridges that will link the provinces in Panay, Guimaras and Negros Islands will be proposed.

Improvement of existing ports and facilities and construction of new ones. Facilities and terminals in major sea ports in the region will be upgraded and regularly maintained in order to enhance performance, extend their useful life, and increase efficiency in operations. Their improvement will promote convenience and safety of users, enhance their aesthetics, and support the needs of sectors considered as economic growth drivers.

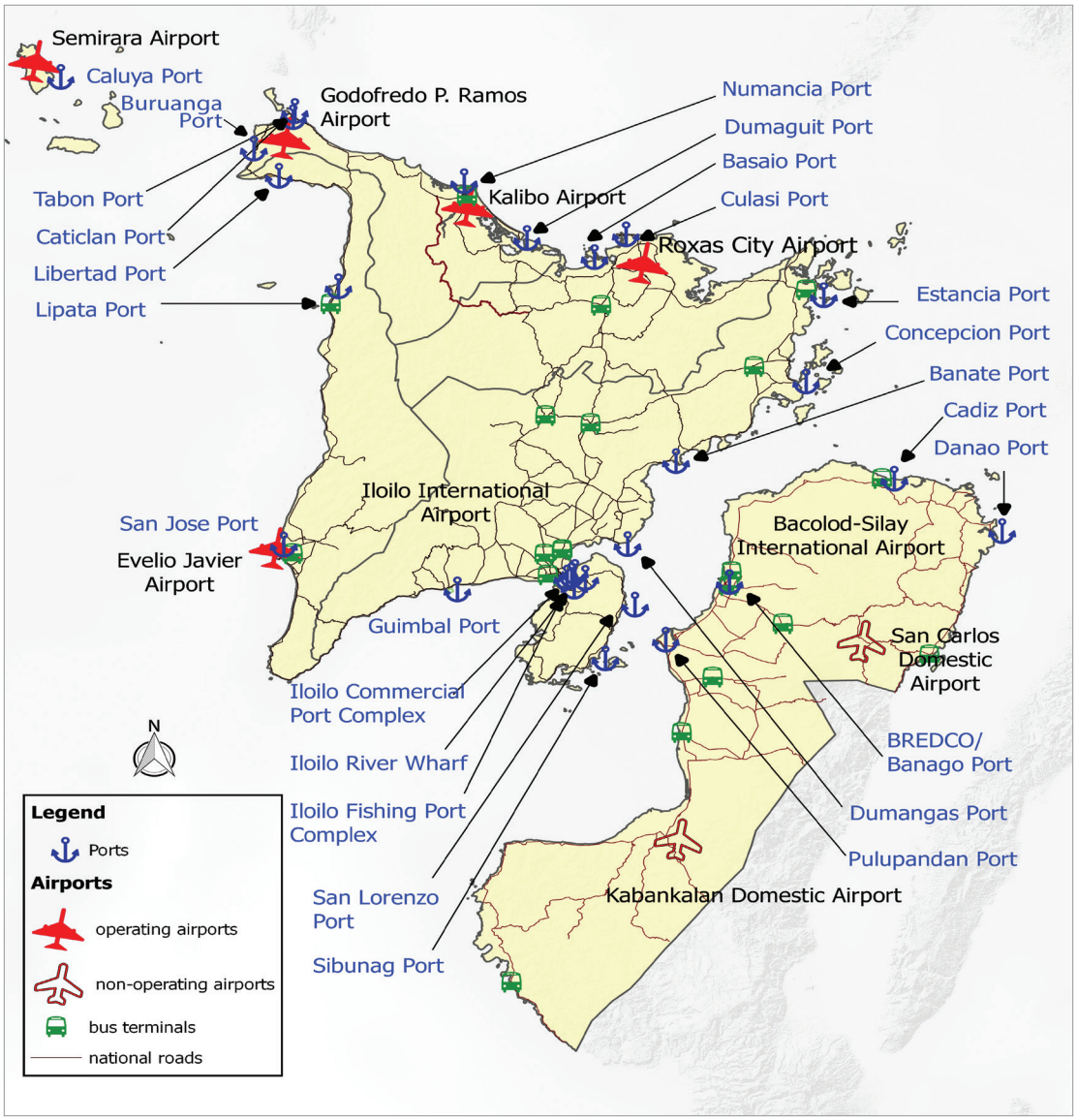
Traffic congestion in the port of Iloilo city will be addressed by transferring the operation of the Iloilo City Port Complex (ICPC) to Dumangas Port in Dumangas, Iloilo. Other ports to be developed and upgraded include Port of Culasi in Roxas City, Ports of Lipata and Libertad in Antique, and Port of Estancia in Iloilo. Construction of an alternate port in Buruanga, Aklan will be started to reduce the traffic in Caticlan. Development and upgrading of the Caticlan Port will provide

support to the tourism industry particularly in catering to international cruise vessels visiting Boracay.

Studies to determine feasible sites for construction of new and alternate seaports and airports shall be undertaken. Planning for new ports shall highlight environmental protection to consider features such as energy conservation, type of air conditioning system, natural light and ventilation, solar power generation system, solar hot water supply system, LED lights and daylight sensors for lounges and lobbies. New seaports with RORO facilities shall be given priority to create more business opportunities for tourism, commerce, and agriculture.

Improvement of Existing Airports and Facilities. The Iloilo International Airport and Kalibo International Airport in Panay Island will be upgraded in accordance with ICAO standards to eliminate airport congestion.

Figure 3.9 Major Transportation Facilities



Sources: CAAP (airports), DPWH (roads), PPA (ports)

The Boracay-Caticlan Airport complex in Aklan will be expanded to accommodate larger aircrafts and direct flights from cities throughout Asia. Around three million passengers use the airport each year. The Bacolod-Silay International Airport also needs upgrading to accommodate rising passenger and cargo traffic.

Modernizing the Provincial and City Bus Terminals. Most bus terminals are managed by the private sector, some of which are contracted by local government units. The improvement of physical facilities and operations, including enhancing the service orientation of personnel will be promoted and, if possible, specifically included in the contracts. Emphasis will be placed in the orderly deployment of public buses and jeepneys, on maintaining clean and sanitary comfort rooms, and in managing vendors and traffic in the vicinity of terminals.

Identifying Alternative Means of Transportation. Mass transportation options such as metro rail, rapid bus systems, and river taxis will be considered for Iloilo City, Roxas City, and other urbanized municipalities. For hilly and mountainous areas, cable cars may be appropriate for a quicker transport of goods and people.

Strategy 3: Vulnerability Reduction

Under this strategy, population, production areas, and protected zones that are at-risk to hazards will be identified. It includes appropriate measures to reduce or mitigate risks and vulnerabilities. Areas delineated for ecological and productive values shall be protected from destructive human and economic activities.

Protected Areas. Efforts will be exerted to make sure that the present as well as the future generations will continue to enjoy the region's natural endowments. The region's officially declared protected areas total to 183,248.71 hectares. These include 3 watersheds, 4 natural parks and 2 marine reserves. Nine critical and priority watersheds, which are the region's source of water supply, have been assessed in terms of vulnerability to natural or man-made hazards, like flooding and landslides. Such assessment will help guide the LGUs and planners in formulating appropriate strategies and interventions to be applied in protecting these areas. Strategies to protect these areas are discussed in Chapter 20 – Managing the Region's Environment and Natural Resources.

Areas Vulnerable to Hazards. The region's geographic and tectonic setting makes it prone to flooding and landslides during tropical cyclones, which disrupt its economic growth. It is visited by typhoons every year, the more destructive ones were Frank (2008), Quinta (2012), and Haiyan (2013).

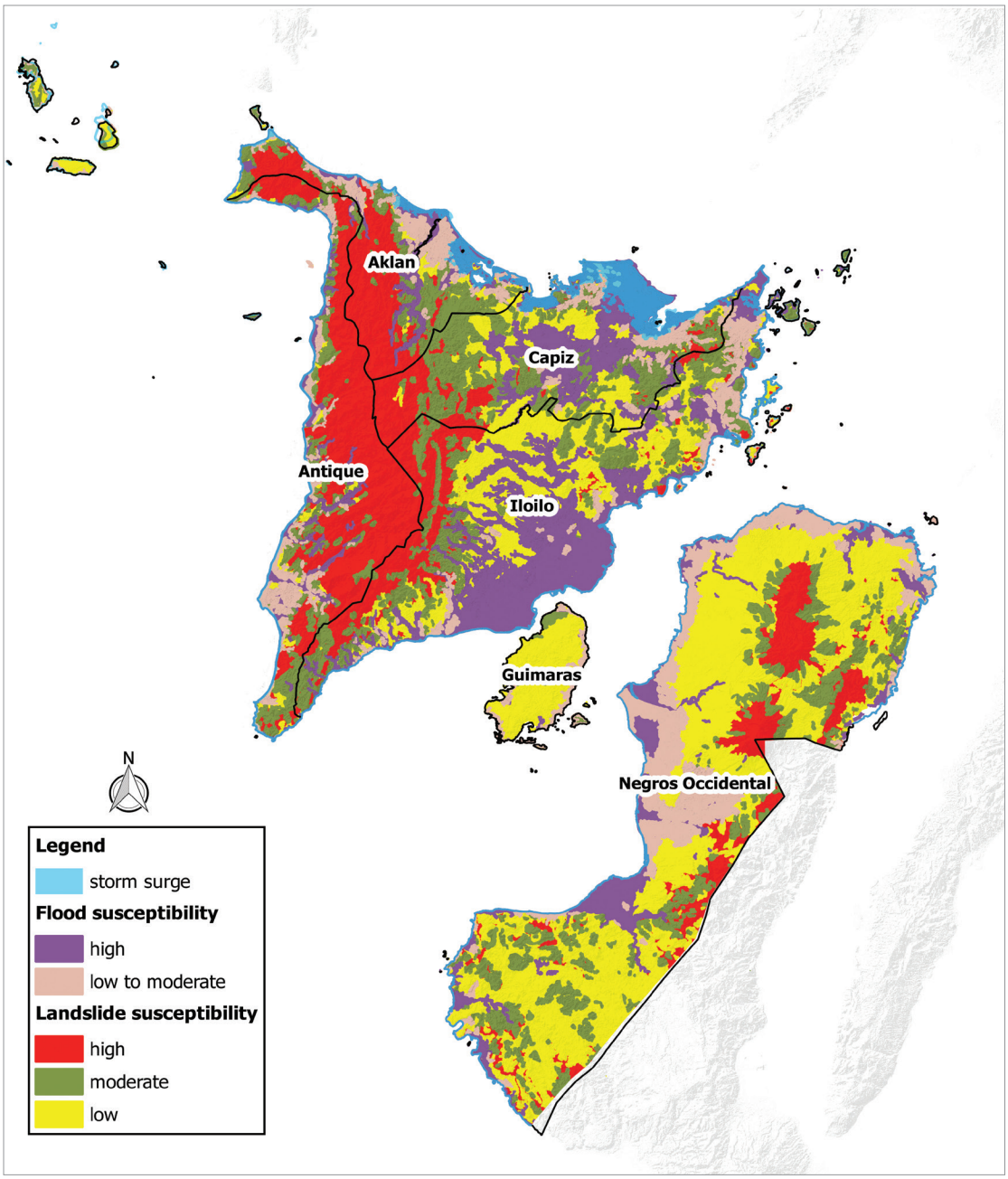
The region is susceptible to ground shaking, earthquake-induced landslides, tsunami, and liquefaction due to the presence of fault lines as earthquake generators. These are West Panay Fault, Negros Trench, Tablas Fault, Central Negros Fault and Masbate Fault. Mt. Kanlaon in Negros Occidental, the most active volcano in Central Philippines, also exposes the region to volcanic hazards.

Consequent to the recent disasters experienced by the region brought about by natural hazards, maps on a scale of 1:10,000 on detailed on detailed geohazard assessment were prepared for all of the 133 cities and municpalities in Western Visayas. These will be part of the hazard profiling and disaster risk and vulnerability assessment being undertaken by the local government units to facilitate integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in local planning, investment programming, and monitoring and evaluation.

The geohazard assessment of Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau (MGB), shows that there are areas in the region that are highly susceptible to landslides, flooding, tsunami and storm surges, and volcanic eruption.

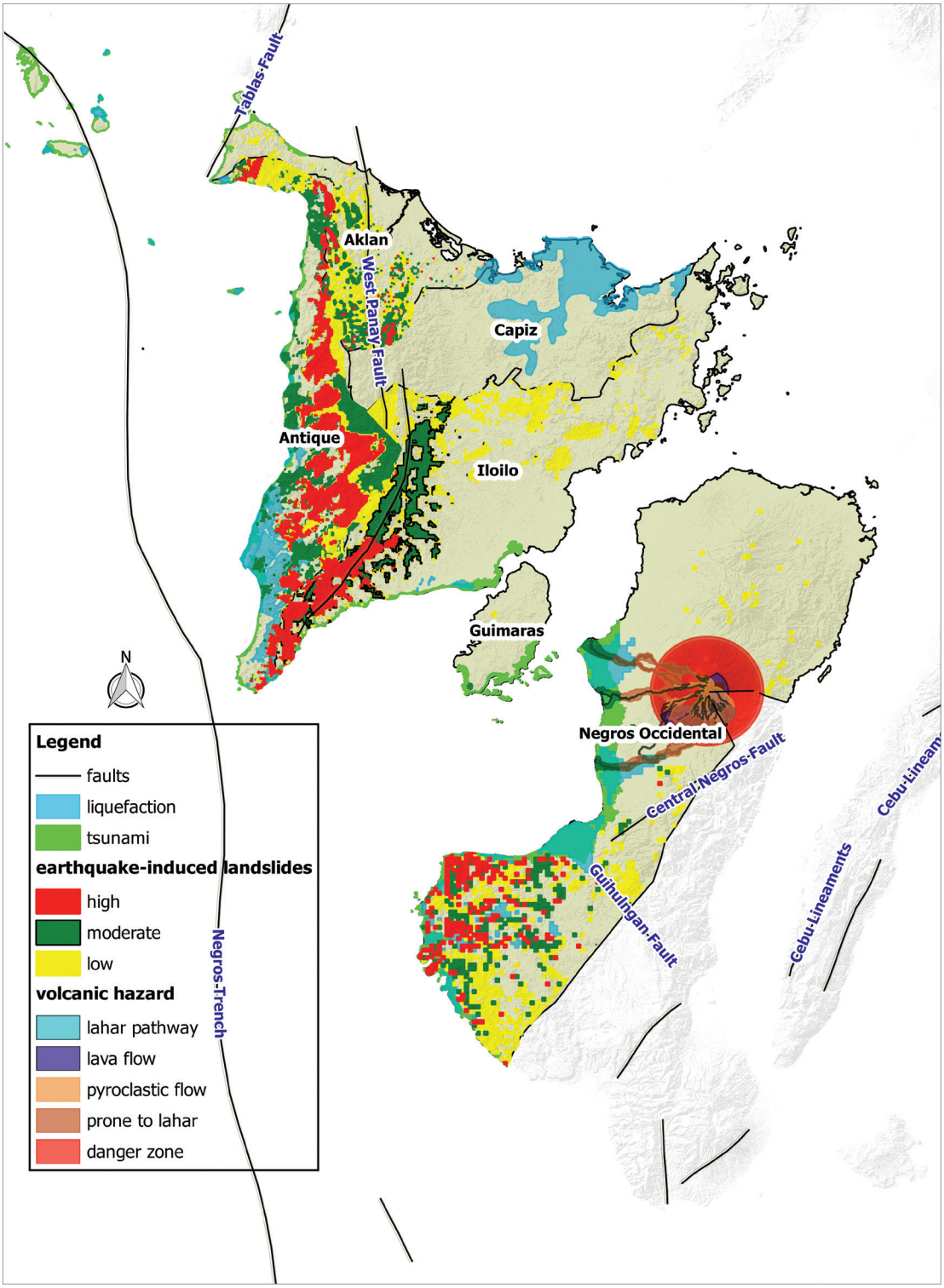
Also, the MGB conducted karst subsidence hazard assessment in Buenavista, Guimaras and Passi City, Iloilo. The assessment shows that there are at least 88 sinkholes and 85 caves in Buenavista and about 174 sinkholes and 101 caves in Passi City. These LGUs shall identify mitigating measures to address these vulnerabilities.

Figure 3.10 Hydrometeorological Hazards



Source: MGB-VI

Figure 3.11 Geologic and Volcanic Hazards



Source: DRR CCA-Enhanced PDPFPs

Table 3.6 Areas Highly Susceptible to Geologic and Hydrometeorological Hazards

PROVINCES	HIGHLY SUSCEPTIBLE AREAS TO HAZARDS				
	FLOODING	LANDSLIDES	STORM SURGE	TSUNAMI	VOLCANIC ERUPTION
Aklan	Ibajay, Nabas, Libacao, Madalag, Malinao	Ibajay, Nabas, Libacao, Madalag, Malinao	Tangalan, Malay, Numancia, New Washington, Batan	Boracay, Malay, Buruanga, Nabas	
Antique	Hamtic, San Jose, Sibalom, San Remegio, Belison, Patnongon, Bugasong, Valderrama, Laua-an, Barbaza, Tibiao, Culasi, Sebaste, Pandan, Libertad	San Remigio, Valderrama, Sebaste, Libertad, Anini-y, San Jose	San Jose, Culasi, Patnongon, Barbara, Tibiao	Anini-y, Tobias Fornier, Hamtic, San Jose, Sibalom, Belison, Patnongon, Bugasong, Laua-an, Barbaza, Tibiao, Culasi, Sebaste, Pandan, Libertad, Caluya	
Capiz	Panay, Maayon, Roxas City, Pontevedra, Panitan, Mambusao, Dumarao, Dao, Sigma, Sapian	Jamindan, Tapaz, Pres. Roxas, Pilar, Dumalag, Ivisan, Dumarao, Maayon, Sigma, Sapian	Roxas City, Panay, Pontevedra, Sapian, Pilar, Pres. Roxas, Ivisan	Ivisan, Panay, Panitan, Pilar, Pontevedra, Pres. Roxas, Sigma and Roxas City	
Guimaras	Areas in Jordan, Buenavista (Brgy. Tastasan), Nueva Valencia (Brgy. Dolores)	Buevavista, Sibunag	Nueva Valencia, Sibunag, San Lorenzo	Nueva Valencia, Sibunag, San Lorenzo	
Iloilo	Zarraga, Pavia, Leganes, Oton, Dumangas, Pototan, Barotac Nuevo	Calinog, Janiuay, Lambunao, Leon, Miag-ao, San Rafael	All coastal municipalities especially Carles, Estancia, Concepcion	Along the coast from San Joaquin to Carles	
Negros Occidental	San Enrique, Valladolid, EB Magalona	Salvador Benedicto, Binalbagan, San Carlos City		Pulupandan, San Enrique, Valladolid	Lava flow: La Castellana, La Carlota City, San Carlos City Pyroclastic flow: La Castellana, Bago City, La Carlota City, San Carlos City Lahar flow: San Enrique, Moises Padilla

Source: DRR-CCA-Enhanced PDPFPs, 2014-2020
Note: PHILVOCS assessed the volcanic hazards.

Climate Change Susceptibility

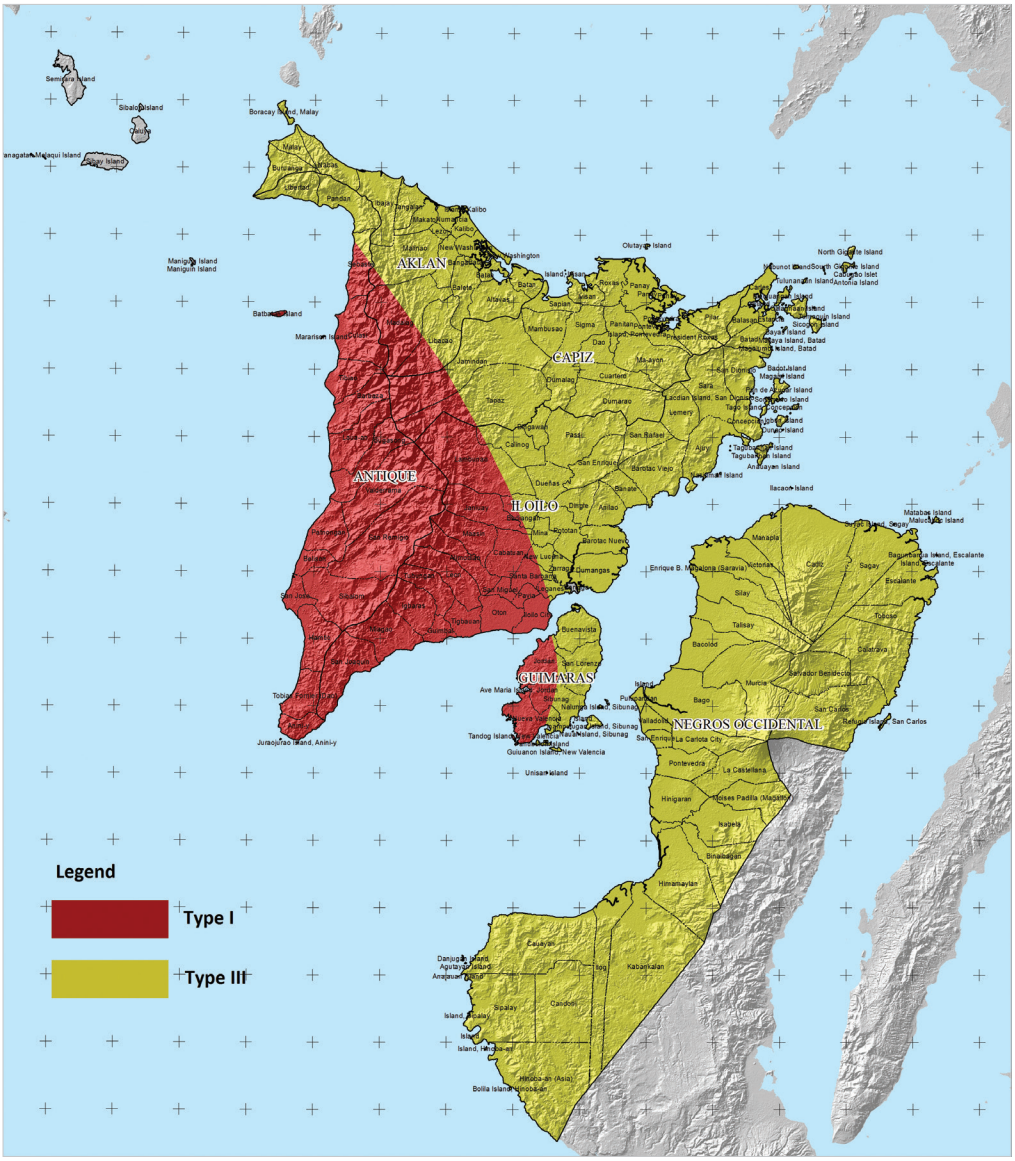
Over the past 140 years, the global mean temperature increased by 0.74 degrees centigrade compared with the 1961-1990 global average. This has caused worldwide concern because it has increased the vulnerability especially of poor developing countries like the Philippines to the adverse impacts of climate change. The International Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report or AR4 states that global warming brings rising surface temperatures, sea level rise, and decrease in snow cover in the Northern Hemisphere.

The Philippines has experienced an increase of 0.65 degree centigrade or an average of 0.0108 degree centigrade per year increase in temperature. In the last 60 years, the maximum (daytime) and minimum (night time) temperatures are seen to have increased by 0.36 and 1.0 degree centigrade, respectively. The PAGASA analysis showed that in the Visayas areas, the tropical cyclone passage increased slightly during the 1971 to 2000 period compared with the 1951 to 1980 and 1960 to 1990 periods. Likewise, analysis of extreme daily maximum and minimum temperatures show that there are increasing number of hot days but decreasing number of cool nights. Also, extreme daily rainfall intensity and frequency are significantly increasing.

The Modified Coronas Climate Classifications divides Western Visayas into two types. Type I means there are two pronounced seasons: dry from November to April, and wet for the rest of the year. Type III is where seasons are not very pronounced - relatively dry from November to April and wet for the rest of the year.

Based on the mid-range scenario used by PAGASA in projecting temperature, rainfall and extreme temperature events for 2020 and 2050, high increase in temperature is projected during the summer months of March, April, May (MAM); rainfall increase is during the southwest monsoon June, July, August (JJA) season until the transition September, October, November (SON). It was also projected that the maximum temperature exceeding 35 degrees centigrade will continue in 2020 and 2050. Heavy daily rainfall will continue to become more frequent; extreme rainfall or days with rainfall exceeding 300mm are projected to increase in the Visayas area. The projected seasonal temperature increase, seasonal rainfall change and frequency of extreme events in 2020 and 2050 under the medium range emission scenario in Western Visayas are presented in tables 3.6, 3.7, and 3.8 as well as increasing number of dry days or the number of days with rainfall less than 2.5mm.

Figure 3.12 Climate Map



Source: DOST-PAGASA
(Based on Modified Corona Classification, 1951-2003)

Climate change will have future impacts on the environment and society. As temperature increases, there will be more occurrences of extreme climatic events like El Niño and La Niña, which will bring in heat waves, wildfires, drought, storms, and typhoons. With rainfall changes, the region faces storms/typhoons, floods, and landslides. Sea level rise ushers in flood and storm surges. Sea surface temperature increase causes not just typhoons, storm surges but also massive algal blooms.

The local government units shall identify mitigating measures to respond to changes in the climate and to enhance their adaptive capacities in order to reduce their vulnerabilities. The impacts of climate change as well as recommended adaptive capacities in various sectors are presented in Table 3.10.

Table 3.7 Seasonal Temperature Increases (in degrees centigrade) in 2020 and 2050 under the Medium Range Emission Scenario

REGION VI	OBSERVED BASELINE (1971-2000)				CHANGE IN 2020 (2006-2035)				CHANGE IN 2050 (2036-2065)			
	DJF	MAM	JJA	SON	DJF	MAM	JJA	SON	DJF	MAM	JJA	SON
Aklan	26.1	27.9	27.8	27.4	27.1	29.1	28.8	28.3	28.0	30.3	29.9	29.2
Antique	26.6	28.4	27.9	27.7	27.6	29.6	28.8	28.6	28.5	30.6	29.8	29.5
Capiz	25.9	27.7	27.8	27.3	26.8	28.9	28.9	28.3	27.8	30.1	30.0	29.2
Iloilo	26.4	28.2	27.9	27.6	27.4	29.5	29.0	28.6	28.3	30.6	30.0	29.5
Negros Occidental	26.7	28.4	27.8	27.6	27.6	29.6	28.8	28.6	28.6	30.7	29.8	29.5

Source: PAGASA-DOST

Table 3.8 Seasonal Rainfall Change (in percentage) in 2020 and 2050 under the Medium Range Emission Scenario

REGION VI	OBSERVED BASELINE (1971-2000)				CHANGE IN 2020 (2006-2035)				CHANGE IN 2015 (2036-2065)			
	DJF	MAM	JJA	SON	DJF	MAM	JJA	SON	DJF	MAM	JJA	SON
Aklan	431.2	322.7	862.5	883.7	448.0	294.3	828.0	1033.0	512.3	279.5	815.1	981.8
Antique	297.9	288.0	995.3	841.4	246.7	251.1	1092.8	964.2	297.3	251.7	1211.3	941.5
Capiz	469.7	342.0	814.2	889.1	491.3	322.2	786.5	1050.9	573.5	297.9	771.0	1003.8
Iloilo	324.8	290.6	932.8	828.3	328.7	265.6	927.2	923.6	395.0	252.0	968.2	860.6
Negros Occidental	234.9	283.0	899.6	784.0	251.6	272.5	953.6	828.7	268.7	256.7	1005.8	896.1

Source: PAGASA-DOST

Table 3.9 Frequency of Extreme Events in 2020 and 2050 under the Medium Range Emission Scenario

PROVINCES	STATIONS	NUMBER OF DAYS WITH MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE > 35°C			NUMBER OF DRY DAYS			NUMBER OF DAYS WITH RAINFALL >200MM		
		OBSERVED BASELINE (1971-2000)	2020	2050	OBSERVED BASELINE (1971-2000)	2020	2050	OBSERVED BASELINE (1971-2000)	2020	2050
Capiz	Roxas	52	430	1327	7792	5574	5340	3	11	14
Iloilo	Iloilo	460	1431	3076	7839	5227	5226	4	5	4

Source: PAGASA-DOST
Note: Aklan used values of Roxas City; Antique and Negros Occidental used values of Iloilo City

Table 3.10 Sector Impact of Climate Change and Adaptive Capacity

SECTOR	IMPACT	ADAPTIVE CAPACITY
Water Resources	• Reduction in rainfall will cause water shortage which will adversely affect forestry, agriculture and livelihood, health and human settlement • Longer drier periods will affect the amount of water in watersheds and dams which affect irrigation services to farmers especially in those rain fed areas, thereby limiting agricultural production. • Where rainfall is intense during wet periods will cause flooding or rain-induced landslides that affect human settlements and impact infrastructure like roads and bridges, classrooms, hospitals.	• There should be an assessment of critical water shortage areas. Among others, it should consider rational water management, planning to avoid mismatch between water supply and demand, establish rainwater collection facilities. • Dams should be upgraded/ rehabilitated; change cropping patterns in agriculture areas. • Retrofit design of infrastructure especially dams. Early warning systems should be in place. • Improvement, creation of more public spaces/urban parks/green spaces as "nature-based solution to flooding."
Forestry	• Changes in rainfall patterns and temperature increases could lead to a change in forests ecosystem. Drier periods and warmer temperatures especially during El Nino events can cause forest fires. • Families dependent on ecological services by forests will need to change their livelihood and traditions.	• Indigenous communities need to plan for climate-resilient alternative livelihoods. Government should plan for rational forest management, particularly in protected areas and ancestral domains. • Livelihoods of affected communities should be safeguarded and should not further degrade lands by resorting to more extensive agricultural production in already degraded areas. • Early warning systems can protect forests by avoiding and/or control or containment of forest fires.
Agriculture	• Agricultural production will be affected by temperature changes and rainfall patterns which threaten food security. There will be incidence/ outbreaks of pests and diseases, both in plants and animals. Reduction of fish production caused by migration of fishes to cooler and deeper waters. Seaweed production will also be affected. • Inadequate job opportunities in the agriculture sector could shift population as those affected families would seek opportunities in urban areas.	• Management technologies should be in place to mitigate reduction of crop yield. Researches should be focused in finding ways to combat outbreaks of pests and diseases. • Careful assessment of impacts in agriculture sector should be undertaken to avoid threats of food security and livelihood. • Farmers can adopt horizontal and vertical diversification of crops, farmer field schools which incorporate use of weather/climate information, subsidies to climate-friendly agricultural technologies, weather insurance, etc. • A research agenda on resilient marine sector will form part of long-term planning.
Coastal resources	• Sea level rise poses a threat to low-lying islands, barangays or communities as they will face permanent inundation in the future. Storm surges expose coastal communities to higher levels of threat to life and properties. • Moreover, livelihood will be affected as they lose fishing opportunities, loss of productive agricultural lands and saltwater intrusion, among others.	• Adaptation measures may include construction of sea walls, revision of land use plans using risk maps, setting of early warning systems for severe weather including advisories on storm surge probabilities, planning for and developing resilient livelihoods where traditional fishing/ agriculture are no longer viable.
Health	• Temperature rise and rain regimes could trigger outbreak and spread of water-based and vector-borne diseases leading to higher morbidity and mortality; increased incidence of pulmonary illnesses, cardiovascular diseases among the elderly. Poor air quality in urban areas poses health risk. Heat waves will increase heat stroke especially among the elderly. Malnutrition will become more severe as extreme events could disrupt food supply and provision of health services.	• Periodic assessments of plausible impacts of climate change should be undertaken. The Department of Health should equip health facilities with necessary equipment and medicines.

Source: Climate Change in the Philippines, June 2011, PAGASA

04 Regional Development Framework

Chapter 4

Regional Development Framework

The thrust of the Duterte administration is to lay down a solid foundation for more inclusive growth, a high trust and resilient society, and a globally competitive economy towards the attainment of the country's long-term vision of a "matatag, maginhawa at panatag na buhay."

For Region VI, development efforts will be geared towards building a society that is PROGRESSIVE where people are SECURE, HEALTHY, AND HAPPY. This will be manifested by an EMPOWERED PEOPLE and a PROGRESSIVE ECONOMY. People are deemed empowered when they become conscientious stewards of culture, heritage, and natural resources while actively participating in development processes. The economy is said to be progressive if it generates more investments and jobs, and diversified, with high production outputs. Achieving these twin goals of empowered people and progressive economy will lay the foundation for inclusive growth and a high-trust society where the people are prosperous, predominantly in the middle-income class range, leading long and healthy lives, and are smart and innovative.

People are empowered when they are confident about what they want and how to attain them. Empowering the human resources of Western Visayas will entail the preservation of traditional values, culture and heritage, enhancement of human capital and access to social services, reduction of people's vulnerabilities, taking advantage of the demographic dividend, and building safe and secure communities.

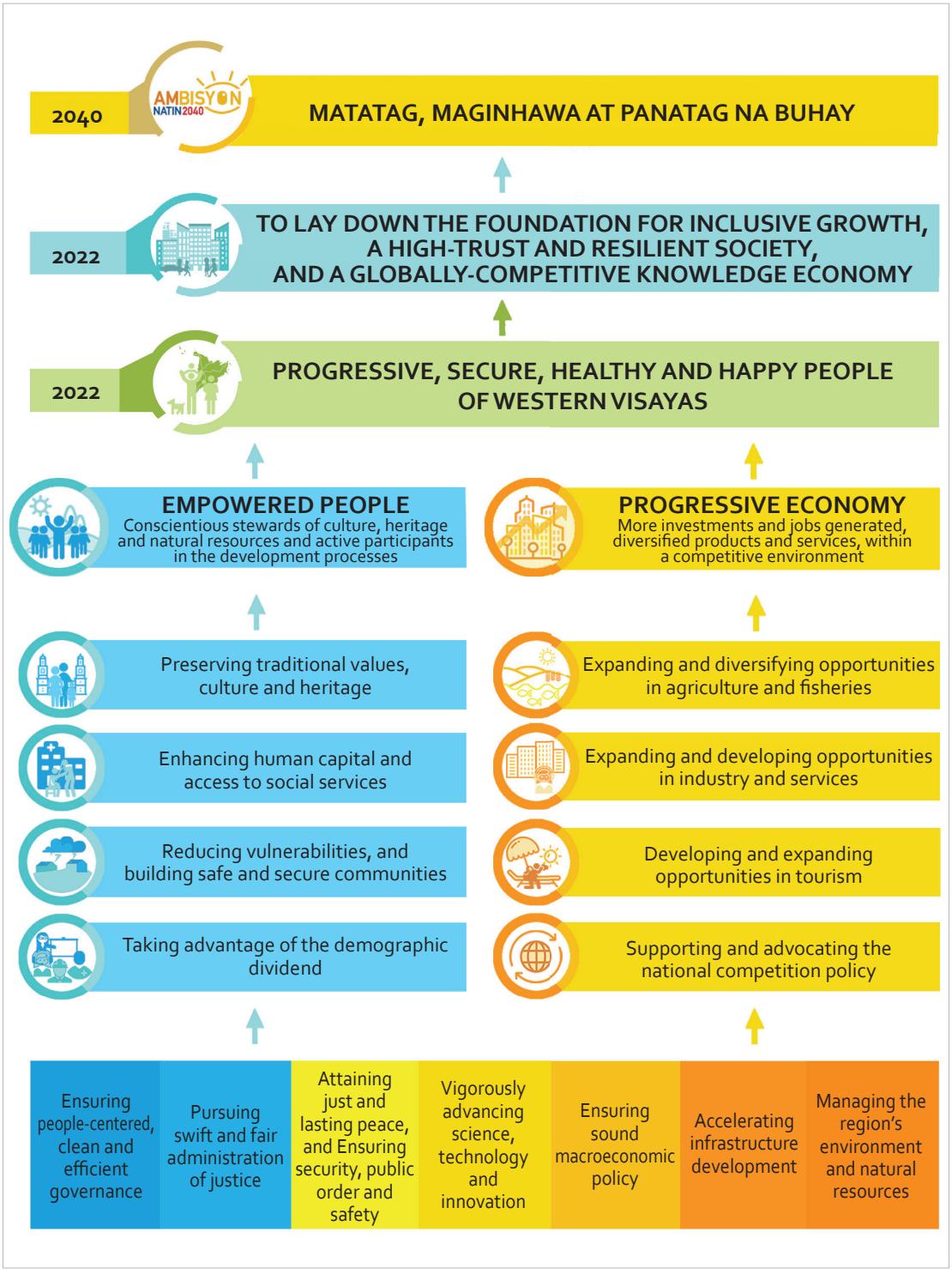
On the other hand, a progressive economy means more investments locating in the region because of its competitive and conducive environment, thus creating more employment and livelihood opportunities. Products and services are diversified with high production outputs that will satisfy domestic and foreign demand.

Several development strategies were identified to attain the ultimate goal of the Western Visayas region to build a society where people are progressive, secure, healthy and happy, as well as, in support of the current national socioeconomic agenda, Ambisyon2040, and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. These strategies are expressed under the three major pillars of Malasakit," "Pagbabago," and "Patuloy na Pag-unlad". There are also cross-cutting strategies identified to provide networks for all intervention to work in support of each other.

Under the pillar of "Malasakit" or enhancing the social fabric, the aim is to regain people's trust in public institutions and cultivate trust in fellow Filipinos. Public offices will be characterized as people-centered, clean and efficient (Chapter 5) while the administration of justice will be perceived as swift and fair (Chapter 6).The people of Region VI will have increased awareness and learn to value the country's cultural diversity and shared heritage by preserving traditional values, culture and heritage (Chapter 7).

Under the pillar of "Pagbabago" or inequality-reducing transformation, the ordinary Filipino will feel the "pagbabago" with more opportunities for growth of output and income in each of the economic sector (economic, social and services). Strategies will focus on expanding and diversifying economic opportunities for those who

Figure 4.1 Regional Development Framework, 2017-2022



are engaged in producing agriculture and fishery products and to increase access to economic opportunities for small farmers and fisherfolks (Chapter 8). The expansion and development of economic opportunities in industry and services will be pursued by increasing access to economic opportunities for micro, small and medium enterprises, cooperatives, and overseas Filipinos (Chapter 9). Tourism, as a major industry of Western Visayas, will continue to be a catalyst for improving the region's natural attractions, innovating on local products and souvenirs, and identifying other tourism-related enterprises and services that will bring about more revenues and jobs (Chapter 10).

Human capital development is an investment government must undertake in order to ensure better chances of achieving the Ambisyon and the regional vision. An empowered and smart population is a key ingredient to a progressive and productive economy. Strategies and interventions were identified to improve the quality and delivery of health, nutrition and basic education services for inclusive human development and improve competitiveness and productivity of human capital (Chapter 11). The region's vulnerabilities can slow the momentum of its growth and there are individuals and families who, by their poverty, are susceptible to infirmities and weaknesses. In addition, there are communities which, by their location and attributes are exposed to economic and natural risks. Strategies were identified to reduce these vulnerabilities, strengthen individual and family resilience, and build safe and secure communities (Chapter 12).

Through the pillar of "Patuloynapag-unlad" or increasing potential growth, it is imperative that economic growth is accelerated and sustained.Potential growth can be further enhanced by accelerating the full return of demographic dividend (Chapter 13).Aggressive efforts will be undertaken to ensure that families will be of the size that they can adequately care and provide for. Also, a major strategy to sustain and further accelerate growth in the future is by vigorously advancing science, technology and innovation (STI) in order for the country and the region to graduate to a knowledge economy (Chapter 14). Strategies needed to increase the region's growth potential will be undertaken through the generation of new scientific knowledge, development of technologies and the application of innovations.

To support the regional goals of achieving a progressive economy that ensures sustainable growth and inclusive development, macroeconomic stability will be maintained by sustaining robust growth of the regional economy, increasing exports receipts, sustaining low and stable inflation, lowering unemployment and underemployment and reducing poverty incidence (Chapter 15). Market competition will be enhanced to encourage industry players to innovate, increase productivity and growth, resulting in consumers enjoying a wider range of choices at affordable prices (Chapter 16).

The foundations or bedrock strategies will be put in place tosustain thedevelopment of the region. There will be earnest efforts to attain just and lasting peace because without durable and enduring peace, economic growth cannot be sufficiently buoyant, sustained nor inclusive. The resumption of peace talks and pursuit of social justice will be pursued. Government peace and development institutions will be strengthened to make them more responsive to peace, conflict and security issues (Chapter 17).

Security, public order and safety will be ensured because these are essential elements in building the foundation for sustainable and inclusive growth, a high trust and resilient society, and a globally competitive economy (Chapter 18). Along with just and lasting peace, these constitute the core of the 0 to 10 point socio-economic agenda of the Duterte administration.

The region's physical environment will be characterized by a balanced, and strategic development of infrastructure to facilitate connectivity, ensure the availability of power and water supply, reliable information and communications technology, and disaster-resilient social infrastructure (Chapter 19). This will be coupled by efforts to sustain ecological integrity by ensuring a clean and healthy environment from the uplands to the coastal areas. Likewise, approaches in restoring and improving air and water quality, managing solid and water wastes, and increasing capabilities in coping with disaster risks and adapting to climate change will be initiated (Chapter 20).

The RDP 2017-2022 also gives attention to the special circumstances of overseas Filipinos and their families by identifying appropriate strategies in the relevant chapters of the Plan to empower them towards inclusive and sustainable development.

Thus, balancing the need for a high and sustained economic growth,as well as, achieving social equityis the kind of inclusive growth that the region will pursue in the next six years.

PART II

ENHANCING THE SOCIAL FABRIC ("MALASAKIT")

05 Ensuring People-Centered, Clean, and Efficient Governance

Chapter 5

Ensuring People-Centered, Clean, and Efficient Governance

This chapter discusses strategies to ensure people-centered, clean, efficient and effective governance that will lead to a high trust society, where the citizenry has full trust and confidence on government. Citizens obey laws and pay correct taxes because they trust government will prudently manage the fiscal resources for public goods and services.

When trust is established between people and government, the opportunities for inclusive growth is broadened. The needy who benefit from the prompt delivery of adequate services will have better chances of achieving more in life. The taxpaying public, meanwhile, can pursue further their economic and other interests, secure in the knowledge that their rights are protected.

Assessment and Challenges

Measures to improve public service delivery and accountability were enhanced but compliance to standards remains low. There was a noticeable improvement in the delivery of public services as indicated by the increasing number of government offices that received an excellent rating in the Anti-Red Tape Act-Report Card Survey (ARTA-RCS) conducted by the Civil Service Commission (CSC). Of the 82 agencies surveyed in 2015, 34 were rated excellent. This is a remarkable improvement from the 2011 performance, when only one out of 38 government agencies assessed was rated excellent. Conversely, the number of agencies which failed the ARTA-RCS decreased. Of the 41 agencies surveyed in 2011, 10 failed the ARTA-RCS; this went down further in 2015, when only two did not pass out of 82 agencies surveyed.

Since the implementation of the Seal of Good Housekeeping (SGH) in 2010, the principles of transparency and accountability in the operations of local government units have been advanced. SGH focused on good financial housekeeping through compliance with accounting and auditing standards and implementation of full disclosure policy.

In 2014, the SGH was scaled up to become the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG), recognizing the good performance of LGUs, not only in financial housekeeping, but also in the delivery of services that directly benefit the people. Such services include disaster preparedness, social protection for the basic sector, business-friendliness and competitiveness, environmental management, and law and order and public safety. Qualified LGUs in the region received funding for a total of 327 Performance Challenge Fund (PCF) projects. Completion rate of the projects was 88 percent or 288 PCF projects completed as of May 2015. The amount of assistance released reached PHP302 million.

Barangay officials were trained on government procurement procedures, particularly on the utilization of the Budget Operations Manual for Barangays, as well as on drafting of local action plan to address climate change.

Public financial management reforms were implemented but challenges remain, particularly on the linkage of planning, budgeting, cash management, accounting, and auditing across the bureaucracy. Inter-operability remains an issue. The operationalization of the Government Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS), which was initiated in 2010 to strengthen the evaluation of key government programs, and enhance transparency and accountability of the budget process, is currently on hold.

Continued dependence of LGUs on IRA because of low revenue collection rate and limited own local revenue sources. Local revenues (real property tax, business tax, fees and charges, economic enterprise income) generated from 2010-2012 increased by an average of 10 percent annually. From 2013 – 2015, however, the annual average increase was only 8.13 percent –much lower than the target of 20 percent increase. The devastation inflicted by typhoon Yolanda in 2013 was a major contributor to the significant decline of local revenues. BLGF data shows that from 2009 to 2015 provinces in the region were dependent on IRA from 58 percent to as high as 92 percent.

Despite the wide powers and authority given to LGUs to generate resources under the Local Government Code, the high dependency on IRA continues to persist. In 2015, the average IRA dependency ratio of provinces in the region was 79.6 percent, cities 80.2 percent and municipalities 89.5 percent.

Own revenue sources (36% of total local revenues), are collections from real property tax, business tax mostly (71%), and from fees and charges (29%).

The low levels of revenue collection in the LGUs is not only due to provisions in the Local Government Code of 1991, which limit the potential for revenue collection, but is also due to weak revenue administration, and lack of accurate, computerized tax payer registration databases, in particular the absence of accurate cadastral information. The internal controls in many LGUs are weak due to frequent staff turnover and insufficient public financial management capacity.

Table 5.1 Internal Revenue Allotment Dependency Ratio, by Province, 2009-2015

PROVINCE	IRA DEPENDENCY RATIO (%)						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Aklan	69	67	63	56	55	58	58
Antique	89	87	84	74	75	77	76
Capiz	93	91	91	93	92	92	92
Guimaras	92	91	89	88	86	87	86
Iloilo	90	90	91	88	91	81	77
Negros Occidental	90	90	90	88	88	87	89

Source: BLGF-VI

Long processing time in applying for business registration and permits. Most investors face bureaucratic and legal hurdles in registering a new firm. A World Bank study reported that it takes 28 days to register a business from registering with the SEC to securing a business permit to operate and other requirements from BIR, SSS, and Pag-Ibig. Slow process and long processing time, too many signatories and clearances required, among others, present more opportunities for corruption through the use of fixers.

Low compliance of LGUs in the updating of CDP/ CLUP using the new guide book enhanced with DRR/CCA. In 2012, the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) launched the CLUP ZERO BACKLOG - a strategy of extending technical planning assistance to a group of LGUs in the formulation or updating of their respective Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance (CLUP/ZO). Personnel of 92 LGUs were trained on the formulation of CLUP/ZO with DRR/CCA and GIS mapping. The plan targets on plan formulation and updating, however, were not met. In 2015, in partnership with the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), a Training of Trainers for the Mainstreaming of DRR/CCA into the CLUP/ZO was conducted for regional and provincial government offices and LGUs in selected sites.

The LGUs are mandated to prepare their CLUP and enforce their zoning ordinances to serve as guide in the prudent use of their areas of jurisdiction. They are expected to update their plans in order to keep abreast with current developments. Although all the local government units in the region have prepared their CLUP, only 42 of the 133 cities and municipalities have approved CLUP since 2007; the remaining 91 LGUs have CLUP that were approved prior to 2006. Only 30 LGUs have approved CLUP from 2012 to 2016 (Table 5.2).

Meanwhile, 14 out of the total 16 cities in the region have updated their respective Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP). However, only 26 of the 117 municipalities have updated CDP.

Table 5.2 Status of preparation of CLUP, by Province, 2016

PROVINCE	TOTAL NUMBER OF LGUs	APPROVED 2006 & Earlier	APPROVED 2007 & Later	APPROVED 2012 -2016
Aklan	17	14	3	3
Antique	18	11	7	4
Capiz	17	12	5	2
Guimaras	5	3	2	1
Iloilo	44	30	14	13
Negros Occidental	32	21	11	7
TOTAL	133	91	42	30

Source: HLURB-VI

Weak coordination among implementing agencies of related government programs at the regional and local levels. Many programs undertaken by agencies and LGUs may have been singularly successful in their implementation, yet failed to achieve potential maximum impact. Or else, projects during implementation run into trouble or worse, generate problems simply because during the planning stage, little or no attempt was made to confer with partner government agencies, local governments, and the private sector. Coordination among agencies is also hampered by lack of up-to-date, reliable, and user-friendly data, or by difficulty in accessing data.

Among the critical sectors where convergence of implementing agencies is critical are the following:

SECTOR	AGENCIES
Agriculture	DA, DOST, NIA, PCA, SRA, FIDA, BFAR, PCIC, LBP, SUCs
Industry/Tourism	DTI, DOST, DTI, DA, DENR, DOT
Trade and Commerce	DA, DTI, DENR, BOC, Marina, PPA, Phil Coastguard, CAAP,
Education/Manpower Development	DepEd, CHED, SUCs, TESDA, DOLE
Health and Nutrition	DOH, DepEd, DOST, DA, NNC,PopCom, Regl/Provl Hospitals
Water-related infrastructure	DENR, DPWH, NIA, LUWA, DOH, DA, DOST, BFAR,
Transportation infrastructure	DPWH, LTO, LTFRB, PPA, CAAP, DOE, NEA, Marina, private utilities, DENR,

The idea is for the agencies to become comfortable in regularly conferring with one another for the purpose of streamlining projects, avoiding duplication and overlaps, consolidating and rationalizing the use of government resources, creating awareness and appreciation of other agencies' on-going and planned projects, etc.

The participation of stakeholders, affected population, and non-government organizations must be meaningful; spoon feeding and outright dole-out will be avoided. The voice and participation of the basic sectors will be paramount to instil a sense of ownership in the charting of the region's and their future.

One specific area of governance that sorely lacks coordination is on migration. The country being a top source of migrant workers in the world, migration is one policy matter that is being given attention. The challenge of making growth more inclusive includes making migration more of an option rather than a necessity. Yet migration data is not readily available, or is difficult to access. There is dearth of information on local migration. Several agencies have roles in migration; no single agency is responsible for the various aspects and actions on migration. Currently, data generated are mostly on out-migration and few on return migration. There is a need to have a more comprehensive, harmonized, linked, and realistic data at the national and regional levels.

At the local level, very few LGUs have established their data base on out- and return migration. Local governments need to adopt a migration and development lens in governance, and invest in a data base on migration. They can engage migrants, diaspora communities and their families in realizing the potentials of migration to contribute to the development needs of their localities, and likewise to be able to duly respond to the needs the OFs.

Strategic Framework

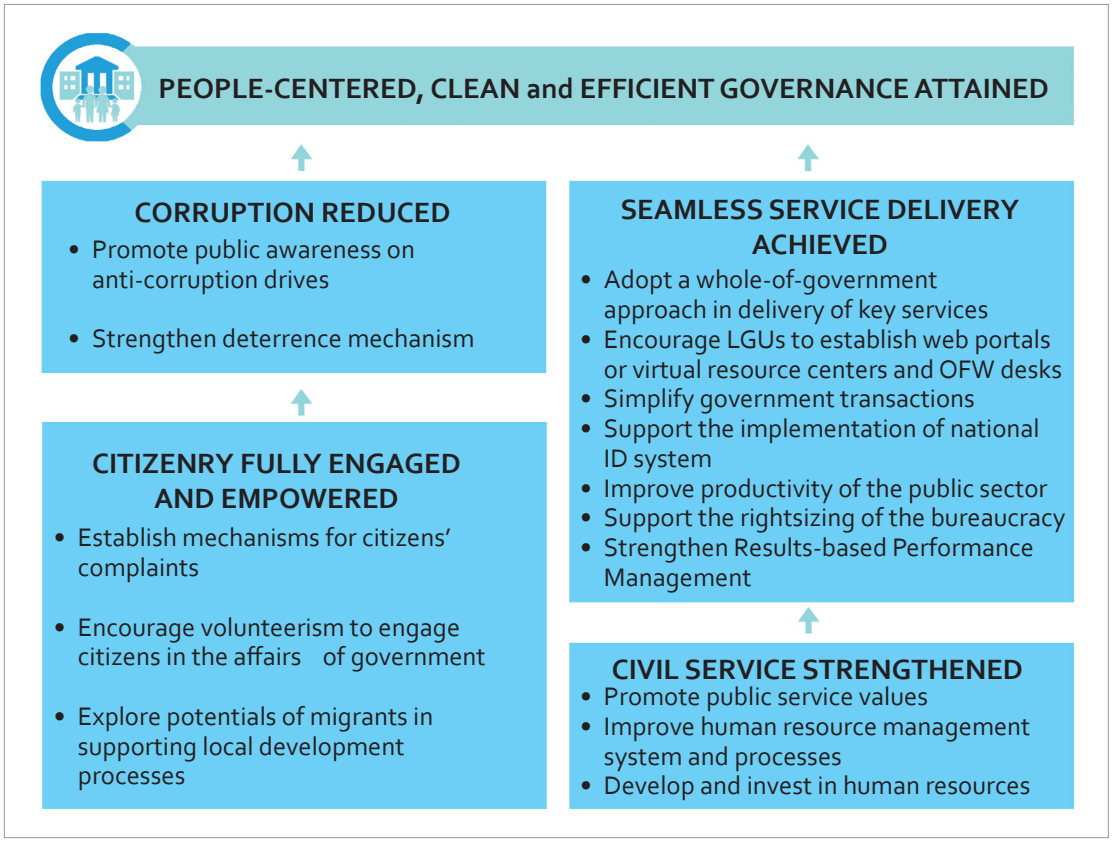
To attain a people-centered, clean, efficient and effective governance, the region will focus on the reduction of corruption, ensuring seamless service delivery, enhancement of administrative governance, strengthening of the civil service, and fully engaging and empowering citizens, including overseas Filipinos.

People will trust a government that is clean, efficient, effective, and people-centered. Policies and programs must be responsive to the needs of the people; public goods and services must be delivered in a timely manner. While government is expected to enforce regulations, it must be perceived as fair and the regulations must be seen as necessary and not too burdensome.

The framework to improve governance adopts a culture-sensitive perspective, gender-sensitive paradigm, and human-rights based approach in public service. This ensures that the interests of vulnerable sectors such as indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, women, youth and children are well considered. Culture-sensitive governance will be encouraged through awards and incentives. Overseas Filipinos will also be encouraged to participate in good governance initiatives, especially in enhancing the positive impact of migration to local development.

The government will continue to invest in developing its workforce. Training and capability advancement of government executives and high level civil servants will be continued for them to be more capable, effective and efficient.

Figure 5.1 Strategic Framework to Ensure People-Centered, Clean and Efficient Governance, 2017-2022



Targets

The following are the plan targets that will be pursued until 2022:

- LGUs compliant with the new BPLS standards increased from 91 to 101
- All 139 LGUs compliant with the Public Financial Management Standards maintained
- LGUs conferred with SGLG award increased to 30 from 24 in 2016
- LGUs provided with Performance Challenge Fund (PCF) facility increased to 30
- LGUs compliant with the Full Disclosure Policy increased to 106
- 18 CLUPs updated and enhanced with DRR/CCA
- Local revenues increased by 9 percent annually
- IRA dependency ratio of LGUs reduced by 3 percent annually

Strategies

Outcome 1- Corruption reduced

Promote public awareness on anti-corruption drives. Media will be encouraged to publicize effective enforcement cases, and the citizens shall be empowered to report corruption practices. Corruption prevention forums and ethics development seminars will be organized for public servants and the business sector.

Integrity caravans initiated by the Ombudsman will be continued to promote and communicate the work and various anti-corruption programs of the government and how the public can be involved.

Strengthen deterrence mechanism. Anti-corruption laws and policies will be strictly enforced: Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, ARTA, Government Procurement Act, and programs under the Ombudsman to ensure enforcement of laws and handle complaints against public officers and employees. Prompt action on investor-related grievances will be provided.

Outcome 2- Seamless service delivery achieved

Adopt a whole-of-government approach in delivery of key services. Interoperability of government processes shall be achieved to include converging of government databases, achieving a smart and automated government, and continuing the information infrastructure that will allow smooth exchange and sharing of data, including those pertaining to international migration.

One-stop shops shall be enhanced to integrate single-window and single-door approach. Profiling of the OFs shall be developed to duly respond to their needs.

Stronger coordination among agencies with interrelated objectives and targets will more likely lead to an accelerated achievement of sector goals and priorities. Coordination may come in the form of: regular meetings to discuss the sector's development agenda; brainstorming on persistent problems to determine the most appropriate solutions; information and data sharing; sharing manpower, facilities, or financial resources;

and assisting the LGUs in setting up and in carrying out local development agenda.

Horizontal and vertical linkages of government agencies and offices like the NDRRMC and their regional counterparts shall be rationalized and strengthened to improve decision-making, avoid duplication of initiatives, and maximize complementation in the use of resources.

Encourage LGUs to establish web portals or virtual resource centers and OFW desks. The aim is to disseminate public services being provided by LGUs, facilitate investments, as well as ensure accessible, reliable, affordable and real-time information sharing, and establish communication platforms between the public, specially the OFs, and the local government units.

Simplify government transactions. For frequently-demanded government services, the reduction of documentary requirements, steps, processing time, and number of signatories will enhance the region's and LGUs' competitiveness.

Support the implementation of government National ID system. The delivery of public services especially to the marginalized groups will be facilitated. The national ID system will be harmonized with the civil registry system.

Improve productivity of the public sector. The promotion of a culture of innovation and productivity in public sector organizations will be intensified. The conduct of national 5S campaign will raise consciousness on the fundamental concepts of orderliness, cleanliness, elimination of wastes, especially waste of time and effort. The governance award systems such as the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG), Excellence in Local Governance (EXCELL) shall be continuously promoted.

Support the rightsizing of the bureaucracy. Agencies will be required to justify their staffing pattern with their mandates and functions to eliminate duplication and regulate the number of contractual personnel in government.

Strengthen the Results-based Performance Management (RBPM), ***Public Financial Management (PFM)***. PFM reforms will be sustained to ensure that planning, budgeting, cash management, accounting, and auditing become integrated processes.

Outcome 3- Citizenry fully engaged and empowered

Promote participatory governance Mechanisms will be established for citizens to be able to submit complaints on lapses in government services, and proactively negotiate with government for delegated power of services that would be beneficial to their communities.

Sustain volunteerism. Volunteerism will be encouraged as a core modality to engage citizens in the affairs of government, promote a consultative process in policy and decision-making, and enhance public accountability in managing development programs and activities. The national and local governments and the civil society shall work closely and open platforms for inclusive volunteering to enable ordinary citizens and the marginalized to take active role in information sharing, public resource management, conflict resolution, among other activities aimed at strengthening these democratic institutions.

Support the development of migrants. The potentials of migrants in supporting local development processes will be explored, such as in the transfer of knowledge and skills, facilitating trade and diaspora philanthropy, providing access to markets, attracting investments, and sharing of expertise and knowledge. Local governments will be encouraged to provide venues for engagement with migrants and families in the local development processes.

On Subsector Outcome 4- Civil service strengthened

Promote shared public service values. The values of professionalism, excellence, integrity and non-discrimination in public service will be adhered to by civil servants through:

- Heightening awareness among government workers on civil service values and norms
- Strict implementation of anti-corruption laws and provisions of the Anti-Red Tape Act
- Updating of Citizen's Charter by all government agencies and offices.

Improve Human Resource Management (HRM) systems and processes. The Enhanced Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management (PRIME-HRM) will be further strengthened.

Develop and invest in human resource. The government will continue to invest in developing its workforce so that civil servants are capable, effective, and efficient, through continuing training and capability advancement of government executives and high level civil servants, and conducting capability- and capacity-building interventions for first and second level civil servants.

The required hardware and software will be provided to ensure comprehensive and timely information acquisition and dissemination, and to enable state-of-the art analytics.

Legislative Agenda

Table 5.3 Legislative Agenda to Ensure People-Centered, Clean and Efficient Governance, 2017-2022

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE
Amendment of the Local Government Code	The challenges in local service delivery must be addressed, in particular on the provision of Personnel Services cap, and for a common and standard mandated plantilla items in all LGUs. Even for LGUs short of funding, it should be mandatory to designate a regular employee to perform designated positions such as LEIPO, tourism officer, etc.
Support to the passage of the E-Government Act	Interoperability of government data and processes should be enabled to increase efficiency and economy in the delivery of services.
Passage of the Unified National Identification System Act	Expand EO 420 to harmonize ID Systems, and cover self-employed, the unemployed, minors and those working abroad.
Amendment to the Corporation Code	To address the bottlenecks in starting an enterprise, protect minority investors, improve visitorial powers of the SEC, penalize fraud and graft corruption, and provide mechanisms to avoid protracted litigation.
Passage of the Freedom of Information Bill	To require government agencies to allow public review and copy of all official information to promote meaningful and increased participation of the people in government decision-making and public accountability.
Institutionalization of citizen participation in the budget process	To promote shared accountability.
Passage of the Budget Reform Act	To incorporate the necessary ingredients of a modern budget system: a) a shift from obligation basis to cash basis, b) and from a two-year appropriation shelf life to one year, c) sustain a results-based approach, d) the introduction of an office of the comptroller general and, e) strengthen the congressional power of the purse.
Passage of an Act Rightsizing the National Government	To simplify systems and processes in order to deliver public goods and services in the most efficient, effective and economical manner.
Passage of the Civil Service Code	Address deeply-rooted problems besetting the public service such as graft and corruption, red tape, violations of employee's rights, and organizational ineffectiveness.
Amendment of the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees (RA 6713)	Promote shared public values in civil servants.

06 Pursuing Swift and Fair Administration of Justice

Chapter 6

Pursuing Swift and Fair Administration of Justice

This chapter presents the thrusts and priorities in pursuing fair administration of justice. Providing justice is an essential component in enhancing the social fabric of the country. It serves as a deterrent to those intending to violate the law, provides recompense and closure to the victims of those who violate the law, and gives chance to those convicted of violating the law to face the consequence of their action and redeem themselves in society.

Providing justice is the role of government. The administration of justice must be swift and fair so that people will trust the government.

Assessment and Challenges

The government has established institutions to maintain a peaceful and orderly community life of the people. These institutions are responsible for the prevention of crimes, enforcement of laws, apprehension, and prosecution of those found violating the law. Under the Criminal Justice System, institutions are grouped under five pillars: Law Enforcement, Prosecution, Court, Correction, and the Community. The first four are categorized as formal components and are composed of agencies that are responsible in controlling crime, namely: the Philippine National Police; provincial and city prosecutors; regional and municipal trial court judges and justices of appellate courts; Bureau of Jail Management and Penology; and parole and probation officers. Outside of the formal structure is the mobilized community which may be composed of public entities, private groups and individuals, and local officials performing functions related to the prevention and reduction of crime, and/or rehabilitation of offenders.

The previous RDP focused on the law enforcement and correction aspect of the administration of justice, and to some extent the participation of the community. Prosecution and court were not included then as they are deemed the responsibility of the judiciary.

While some gains were achieved in the five pillars of the criminal justice system, there are still many prevalent issues that need to be addressed:

Fragmentation in the justice system. Under the legal and judicial framework, the justice system and its components are composed of interconnected processes. However, agency compartmentalization has resulted in system fragmentation which causes the prevailing functional overlaps or redundancy, resource inefficiency, poor cooperation and coordination, and delays in dispensation of justice.

Law enforcement officers perform the arrest of persons who have transgressed the law. The prosecutor determines whether there is a valid ground or probable cause to file a criminal case against the offender in the court of law. The court, the cornerstone of the system, determines whether the person criminally charged is guilty or not. A strong cooperation between law enforcement and prosecution is essential for the smooth dispensation of justice. The law enforcer is expected to actively engage the prosecutor in presenting a meritorious case and to aggressively take a stand in court in securing the conviction of the offender. Moreover, he must see to it that the appropriate correctional remedy is imposed. More often than not, however, once law enforcers file a case, they seldom pursue the case until the conviction of the offender as their performance is generally measured by the successful filing of a case and not of conviction. On the other hand, weak cases are usually not given importance by the prosecution as this will ultimately result in cases being dismissed or archived.

Coordination problems among agencies in the criminal justice system has thus persisted due to the tedious rules and structural constraints. These often result in blame passing among agencies: prosecutors are blamed for court dismissal of cases for lack of evidence; prosecutors, in turn, blame the police for poor case build up and inefficient gathering of evidence; and the police blame the lack of comprehensive policy guidance. As a consequence, victims and accused alike see the justice process as inefficient and slow. There is a general low public awareness and appreciation of the justice system.

Backlogs in resolving cases and delays in case development procedures. In normal operations, cases filed outnumber the cases resolved, because of the uneven ratio between judges and caseloads. This is the reason for the piling-up of cases and case hearing delays.

In the region, there are 18 branches of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) and 10 branches of the Municipal Trial Circuit Courts (MTCC) based in Iloilo City. In 2014, all the 18 RTCs were filled-up by competent judges, 10 female and eight male, to hear cases before their respective courts. But, in 2015 one trial court was left vacant due to retirement. In 2016, another three trial courts were vacated also due to retirement. This left the 18 regional trial courts based in the 6th Judicial Region, Iloilo City with only 14 presiding judges, nine female and five male (Table 6.1).

From 2014 to 2015, four of the 10 MTCCs have been vacant. In 2016, another MTCC was vacated due to retirement. This leaves only five judges, two female and three male, to handle cases filed before the MTCCs. Filled positions declined to only 67.86 percent in 2016 from 85.71 percent in 2014.

Limited resources of relevant agencies. Many capacity-building programs have been implemented (preparation of judicial affidavits, forensic evidence trainings, implementation of Task Force Katarungan at Kalayaan), and even the establishment of alternative courts (E-JOWS, eCourts, automated hearings, etc.) to support the swift and fair administration of justice.

In terms of human resource, there are only 124 prosecutors under the regional prosecution service in 2016. The lack of human resources is evident in the uneven ratio between public attorneys and courts. A public attorney-to-court ratio of 1:3 remains, despite the law (Republic Act 9406) requiring one public attorney per court (1:1). Moreover, the funding for projects for the whole justice sector is not enough to fully implement them and respond to sector efficiency concerns.

Table 6.1 Number of Judges of Trial Courts, Sixth Judicial Region, Iloilo City

Court Branches	2016	2015	2014
RTC Branches	18	18	18
Filled-up	14	17	18
Percent Filled-up	77.78	94.44	100.00
Female	9	9	10
Male	5	8	8
MTCC Branches	10	10	10
Filled-up	5	6	6
Percent Filled-up	50.00	60.00	60.00
Female	2	2	2
Male	3	4	4
Total Court Branches	28	28	28
Total Filled-up	19	23	24
Percent Filled-up	67.86	82.14	85.71

Source: RTC, Iloilo City

Overcrowded jail facilities. Congestion in the 35 jail facilities managed by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) in the region was further aggravated with the 14 percent increase of inmates - from 5,998 in 2012 to 6,822 in 2015. From 2013 to 2014, jail population density (number of inmates per four square meters) was 2:4. In 2015, jails became more congested with 3:4 density. The annual target jail population density ratio of 1:4 has thus become farther from the actual. Among the factors for the non-attainment of the plan target was the increasing number of commitment of offenders due to the intensified anti-criminality campaign of the Philippine National Police, the slow disposition of inmates' cases, and insufficient funds for the construction of jails.

Absence of a comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration program for drug surrenderers. The plan target of disposing 90 percent of cases referred to the Parole and Probation Administration (PPA) for investigation, by the Courts and the Board of Pardons and Parole, was surpassed. In 2013, out of 1,487 cases for probation, 1,437 cases or 96.64 percent were processed or disposed, 1,227 cases or 94.42 percent in 2014 and 1,168 cases or 94.29 percent in 2015.

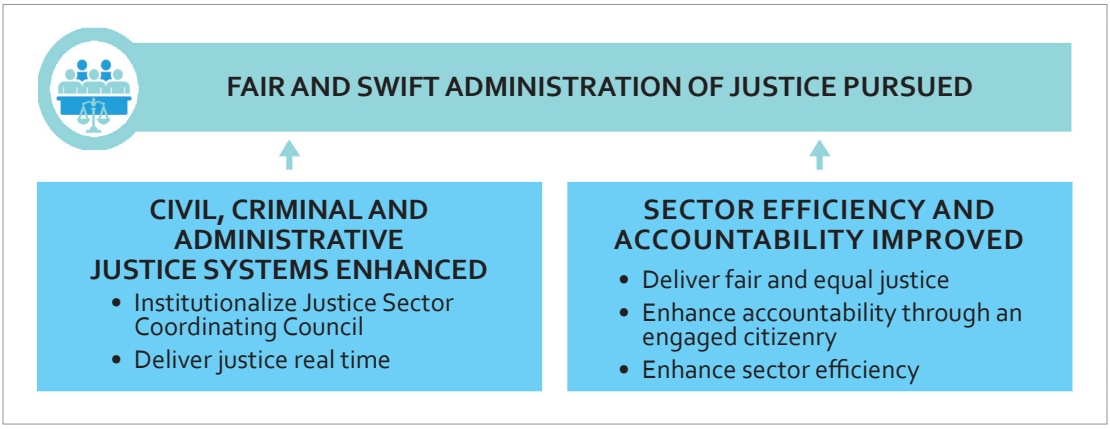
The rehabilitation of probationers, parolees and pardonees towards their integral development was sustained through the collaboration and partnership with the civil society organizations and LGUs. The community-based rehabilitation approach implemented by the PPA in the region has been strengthened by the convergence of the delivery of services from other sectors of the society. The PPA has committed to sustain and continually improve its own community-based rehabilitation programs, including the Volunteer Probation Assistant (VPA) Program.

Strategic Framework

The RDP of Western Visayas, 2017-2022 aims to ensure that justice is administered fairly and swiftly by enhancing the civil, criminal, and administrative justice system and improving efficiency and accountability among the institutions. It will support the PDP's thrust of overhauling the existing mechanisms. At the core of this process is a streamlined interdependence among the institutions in the pillars, each one competent and efficient in pursuing the swift administration of justice cognizant of its own jurisdiction and mandate.

The institutions that comprise the justice sector will operate in an environment of interdependence of functions, although each one is independent, and has a clear appreciation of each other's mandates.

Figure 6.1 Strategic Framework to Pursue Swift and Fair Administration of Justice, 2017-2022



Targets

The following are the major targets that shall be realized by 2022:

- Improve jail population density ratio (inmate per 4 sq m) to 1:4 from 3:4 in 2015
- Improve custodial ratio (jail guards to inmates) to 1:7 from 1:21 in 2015
- Improve escorting ratio (jail guards to inmates) to 1:1+1 from 1:3 in 2015
- Maintain percentage of administrative cases decided within the prescribed period from the time the case is ripe for resolution at 90 percent
- Percentage of Volunteer Probation Assistants mobilized for the rehabilitation program of clients maintained at 84 percent
- 100% of available positions for judges in all court branches are filled up
- Increase in attorney-to-court ratio from 1:3 to 1:1 and prosecutor-to-court ratio to 2:1
- A comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration program for drug senderers in all cities and urban municipalities

Strategies

Outcome 1 - Civil, criminal and administrative justice systems enhanced

Institutionalize Justice Sector Coordinating Council (JSCC). This is done by establishing justice zones for effective inter-agency coordination in the criminal justice system, the location of which will be determined by JSCC based on selection and rating criteria. The Council is composed of agencies belonging to the five pillars and is headed preferably by the Executive Judge of the Regional Trial Court.

Moreover, the establishment of a justice hub in LGUs to house courts, prosecutors, public attorneys, police, and jail (with classified housing for surrendered or apprehended drug offenders) will improve interaction and coordination among the agents.

Deliver justice real-time. Real-time justice will be operationalized through inter-agency efforts by streamlining investigation and prosecutorial processes, expanding the continuous trial system, rolling-out automated systems in court hearings, enhancing and expanding night courts, expanding and enhancing the e-Subpoena and e-Warrant systems, and strengthening the family courts.

Outcome 2 - Sector efficiency and accountability improved

Deliver fair and equal justice. Impartial and non-discriminatory administration of justice will be achieved through increased access to legal aid; plantilla positions for public attorneys and prosecutors will be created to improve the current public attorney-to-court ratio of 1:3 to 1:1, and prosecutor-to-court ratio of 1:1 to 2:1.

Restudy the distribution of courts. The restudy of the distribution of courts under BP Blg. 129, the judiciary Reorganization Act, in relation to the population per proposed court location, historical volume of filings, and the existing dockets of the courts will be supported.The BJMP and PPA will continue their paralegal programs which look after the rights of detained individuals on pre-or post-conviction. Decongestion of jails and detention facilities, with BJMP fast tracking the processing of release documents of qualified inmates, will be pursued. Strategic reforms shall likewise be pushed in the penology system through the establishment of a single correction agency or harmonization of processes, standards, and programs across the different correction agencies.

Moreover, efforts shall be focused for the establishment of a training center for clients and the development of an integrated training program for probation officers and Volunteer Probation Assistants.

Enhance accountability through an engaged citizenry. Engaging the citizenry will spur trust and enhance public accountability. By launching broader information, education, and communication (IEC) campaigns, the public will better understand the justice system. The services of the media can be tapped by criminal justice agencies to educate the public about the criminal justice system and its critical role in the prevention and control of crimes. This will lead to a higher degree of citizen engagement, which in turn will motivate accountability of agencies in the system.

Enhance sector efficiency. The goal is to depart from the prevailing mind-set of institution-focused performance to sector-wide performance and sector outomes-directed targets. Among others, this will involve adoption of common template for court-bound and court-issued papers to reduce time gaps to bare minimum. This can also be achieved through:

- Undertaking joint training programs geared towards reorienting all sector actors in the direction of coordinated delivery of justice real-time;
- Using ICT sector-wide to help address fragmentation and enhance information management;
- Fast tracking the resolution of all administrative and criminal cases especially, those under RA 9165 (Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002);
- Recruiting more volunteer probation assistants (VPAs) to implement community-based rehabilitation and integration programs for offenders, probationers, parolees and pardonees
- Implementing a comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration program for the reintegration of drug surrenderers to society through the intervention of the DOH for rehabilitation, and the DSWD, DOLE and TESDA for livelihood programs.

Legislative Agenda

Table 6.2 Legislative Agenda to Pursue Swift and Fair Administration of Justice, 2017-2022

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE
Amendment of RA 9165 or the "Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002"	Amend RA 9165, particularly its very strict rules for evidence to be considered admissible in court proceedings, and for the same to be given weight. Also review the standard of proof in determining probable cause.
Amendment of the Local Government Code particularly, Section 399	Support to the amendment of the LGC, increasing the coverage of the Katarungang Pambarangay and to mandate the composition of the Lupong Tagapamayapa, revising Section 399 of the Local Government Code which only requires for membership that one be a resident of or have work in the barangay concerned; to include the accreditation of service by lawyers on the Lupon as legal aid; and to institutionalize the concept of inhibition due to relationship and interest.
Amendment ofthe Witness Protection, Security and Benefit Program (RA 6981)	Amend RA 9165, particularly its very strict rules for evidence to be considered admissible in court proceedings, and for the same to be given weight. Review of the standard of proof in determining probable cause
Strengthening the Victims' Compensation Program (RA 7309)	Support to amend RA 7309 to increase compensation for victims of unjust imprisonment or detention and victims of violent crimes as well as to increase access to the program and enhance its administration.

07 Preserving Traditional Values, Culture and Heritage

Chapter 7

Preserving Traditional Values, Culture and Heritage

Western Visayans recognize that preserving and promoting awareness of traditional values, culture and heritage is a basic foundation for a higher appreciation of their rich historical past. These are tried and tested ways for reinforcing the unity of a people who share common principles and a common vision for the development of the region and the country. The goal of creating a high-trust society is made more achievable when positive values, rooted in its local culture, are instilled among the people.

The desired outcome is a culture-based regional development where no one is marginalized based on ethnicity, gender, age, physical capabilities, and social status. The region's priority cultural agenda include valuing the diverse cultures of Filipinos, deepening appreciation of local cultures and arts in the region, inculcating values for the common good and strengthening culture-sensitive regional and local development.

Assessment and Challenges

There have been efforts at the local level to promote local culture and arts. In 2010, the RDC-VI, in close cooperation with the eastern and central Visayas regions, held a "One Visayas" culture and arts festival to foster unity among the Visayas regions despite their diverse cultures and history. Visayan artists, artisan and craftsmen from different art disciplines shared their works, experiences and expertise through performances, exhibits, and workshops. Workshops were conducted to identify issues and propose recommendations in the areas of museum pieces and artifacts, music and literature, built heritage, and traditional arts and crafts. However, no mechanism was established to follow through and monitor the implementation of the proposed activities.

Several local government units have initiated projects to protect, conserve and rehabilitate their local heritage or legacy buildings, structures and historical sites. The Iloilo City government, for example, created a heritage council, passed ordinances, and catalogued its heritage structures for the purpose of protecting, conserving and rehabilitating its local heritage buildings, structures and historical sites. Since 2010, several heritage buildings in the Iloilo City central business district have been restored to their former glory and became tourist attractions. Also, legislative actions have been initiated in some LGUs to further boost cultural tourism through preservation of structures, properly marking historical significance of sites, and ensuring that designs of buildings are consistent or complementary to existing protected heritage structures. These efforts however, still need to be enhanced and replicated in other LGUs.

In order for culture to become a solid foundation for the attainment of the region's development goals of inclusive growth, a high-trust and resilient society, Western Visayas will address the following challenges:

Dearth of studies and documentation on West Visayan languages and literature, and Filipino ethnic cultures. Data on culture are sparse, scattered and erratically gathered because there is no one agency responsible for overseeing this concern in the region. Events and activities initiated by local government units, educational institutions, and non-government organizations are sporadic and not sustained.

As in the rest of the country, the people of Western Visayas speak many dialects which mirror the diverse cultures of the provinces. The constant movement of the early settlers and their contacts with other people and culture affected their speech so much so that daughter-dialects became distinct from the parent language, and from each other. (Regalado and Franco, 1973).

A survey conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority show that the dominant dialect spoken in various parts of the region vary. The language generally spoken in the region is Hiligaynon/Ilonggo which is spoken in Iloilo City, in the coastal towns from Iloilo City to the northeast part of Iloilo province, in all of Guimaras, in Bacolod City and most of the towns and other cities of Negros Occidental. A variant of Hiligaynon or Capizeño is spoken in most of Roxas City and in Capiz. Akeanon is the dialect generally spoken in Aklan and Karay-a in Antique. Like other regions in the country, Filipino and English are the second languages in most literate homes in Western Visayas since these are the media of instruction in schools under the old curriculum prior to the K-12 program implementation as well as the official language in the work place.

Table 7.1 Dialects Generally Spoken, 2015

PROVINCE	DIALECTS GENERALLY SPOKEN	PERCENT SHARE(%)
Aklan	Akeanon Tagalog Hiligaynon/ Ilonggo	95.62 1.37 0.83
Antique	Karay-a Cuyonon/Cuyonen	92.85 3.79
Capiz	Capizeño Hiligaynon/Ilonggo	96.11 2.86
Guimaras	Hiligaynon/Ilonggo Karay-a	92.56 7.05
Iloilo City	Hiligaynon/Ilonggo	99.07
Iloilo	Hiligaynon/Ilonggo Karay-a	74.00 25.2
Negros Occidental	Hiligaynon/Ilonggo Cebuano Bisaya /Binisaya	81.12 9.67 8.82
Bacolod City	Hiligaynon/Ilonggo Cebuano	98.5 0.80

Source: PSA-VI

West Visayans have produced a rich body of literature that include oral and written poetry, narratives and history, native sayings, lullabies, folktales, folk songs, legends and traditions that are beyond dating. Oral literature, handed down from generation to generation remains extant or still in existence, in spite of being very old. Among the popular types are hurobaton (proverbs), paktakon (riddles), the composos (ballads), and the folksongs which narrate the past, the hopes and the dreams of the early settlers. The luwa, a poetical joust and battle of wits, is similar to the balagtasan of the Tagalogs. Some of these materials, such as folk songs and folktales, have been collected and published, but the bulk remains unwritten. Since language and literature evolve overtime, studies on languages should be updated and more studies should be conducted and supported. Few studies have been undertaken on languages of Western Visayas. The Open Language Archives Community (OLAC) has only 14 resources catalogued under Aklanon, three (3) on Ati language, six (6) on Kinaray-a, three (3) on Capiznon, and 32 on Hiligaynon.

A complete assessment of the country's diverse cultures, both the tangible and intangible, remains a challenge. There is lack of proper documentation, inventory, or cataloguing of museum pieces and artifacts, built heritage, and traditional arts and crafts, as well as indigenous music and literature, especially at the local level.

Efforts to create a database are constrained by lack of cultural experts to conduct research and gather data in a culture-sensitive and ethical manner, and by lack of funding to sustain these activities.

Filipino identity has been undermined but there are inherent values that can be nurtured towards promoting the common good. The colonial experience of the Filipinos has resulted in feelings of inferiority as manifested by the culture of "hiya" or shame. The pervasive undermining of what is meant to be a Filipino gave way to regional identities that overshadows national pride. This led to a society that has become disconnected from its core culture and is characterized by fragmented identities. Values like malasakit and bayanihan that manifest pakikipagkapwa-tao, a way that Filipinos recognize kinship among themselves should be inculcated for national unity and cohesion.

Channels of learning about the Filipino history, culture and values have not been effective. Formal education across all levels has emphasized developing literacy and skills in other fields and glossed over values education or the critical teaching of history. Mainstream media have failed to promote positive values in their pursuit of profit for the market-driven entertainment industry. A report of the National Commission on Culture and Arts noted that popular shows or movies "extol visual and aural symbols, characters, designs, replete with cultural ignorance and misinformation." Thus, the level of consciousness among Filipinos about their own culture and embedded values remain low.

Climate change and human-induced risks threaten heritage structures. Cultural and historical structures, built centuries ago that remain standing today, are tangible ties of the present generation to their past. They provide a sense of identity and belongingness, and recognition of their value brings a sense of pride of place. While the economic value of heritage sites can be seen in the revenue generated from tourism, their greater value lies in what they symbolize for the local community and the key spiritual and cultural message attached to them.

Several centuries-old structures, like churches, public buildings and infrastructures, around Western Visayas are crumbling, dilapidated and destroyed. Climate change and human-induced disasters further pose risks to the physical integrity of these heritage structures. Efforts to prevent their destruction need to be set in place. Some LGUs have initiated restoration and preservation of their cultural assets, such as century-old commercial and institutional buildings, through public-private sector partnerships. Highlighting conservation of cultural assets as much as development and modernity should be institutionalized. Unfortunately, conservation materials and the skilled workers required are expensive, if at all available at the local level.

Existing governance framework for cultural development has been inadequate in addressing the concerns of the sector. Despite the government's recognition of the importance of culture in national development, conflicting provisions in certain laws compromise the implementation of cultural initiatives. For example, the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) has been getting funds from amusement tax revenues generated by local cinemas as provided for in implementing rules and regulations of RA 9167 establishing the FDCP. In 2015, however, the Supreme Court declared the collection of amusement tax from local cinemas illegal as it infringes the constitutional policy of local autonomy. Moreover, the under-representation of marginalized sectors in local councils further constricts the integration of culture in development work.

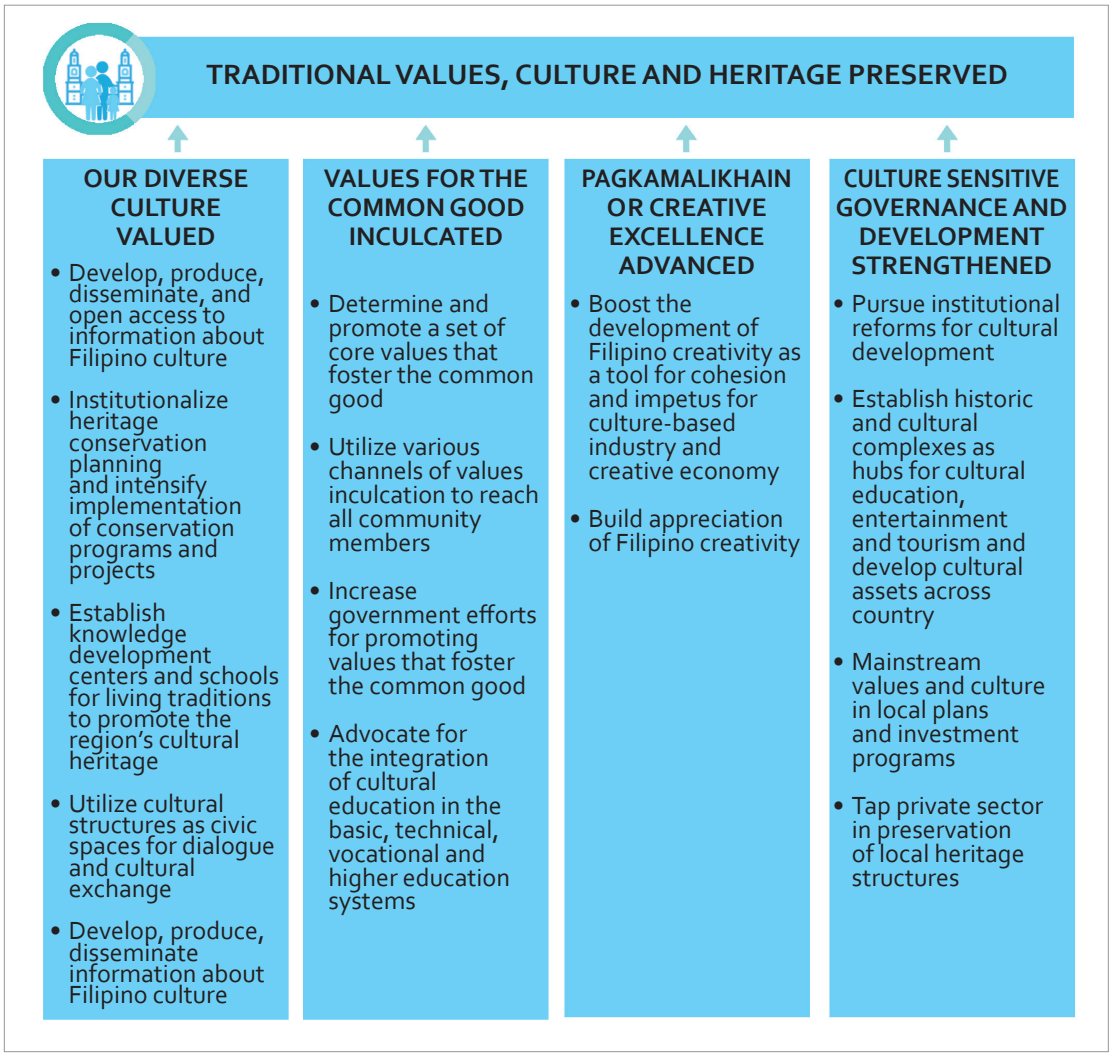
Existing laws include provisions on conservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage, protection, recognition and empowerment of diverse cultures. However, violations are not penalized, especially the unethical and exploitative extraction of knowledge, skills, and practices from indigenous cultural communities or repositories of local knowledge. The lack of updated data on areas reserved for ancestral domain add further to the conflict between property rights of private individuals or entities and the cultural rights of indigenous peoples over their ancestral domain.

Strategic Framework

The government will increase the level of cultural awareness, inculcate values for the common good, cultivate creativity, and intensify national pride among the Filipinos. These objectives will be present in development plans across all levels of government, supported by adequate resources. Government agencies will undergo capacity-building orientations on culture-sensitivity that will result in increased government engagement with stakeholders.

The practice of volunteerism will be promoted and pursued in the advancement of the culture agenda, especially in the academe; corporate, non-government, and international volunteer service organizations; and government.

Figure 7.1 Strategic Framework to Preserve Traditional Values, Culture and Heritage, 2017-2022



Targets

The core outcome and output indicators will be monitored to ensure progress towards valuing the diverse culture of Filipinos, inculcating values for the common good, and strengthening culture-sensitive governance and development. Baseline studies on these indicators, however, are not yet available, pending a national survey. Data will be incorporated in the plan's midterm update in 2019 when guidelines for the regions are made available. Nonetheless, the achievement of the following targets until 2022 will be monitored:

- Number of LGUs with mainstreamed heritage conservation/preservation in their local plans, zoning ordinances and investment programs increased from 3 in 2015 to 30 by end of plan period
- Number of schools of living traditions established increased from 20 in 2015 to 30
- Number of activities promoting local culture and history conducted/ supported increased from 116 in 2015 to 234
- Number of important cultural heritage sites and structures preserved and/or restored increased from 41 in 2015 to 138.

Strategies

Outcome 1 - Our diverse cultures valued

While the different segments of society should have a clear consciousness that they belong to the larger national community, a strong appreciation of the different cultures in the country will enable them to integrate their unique cultural heritage in their personal lives as well as in their contribution to a more vigorous national development.

Valuing cultural diversity requires its recognition, protection, safeguarding, and promotion. To achieve this, the following national strategies will be supported:

Develop, produce, disseminate, and open access to information about Filipino culture. Learning materials will be developed in order to raise awareness about the country's cultural diversity. Various agencies will collaborate to disseminate these information materials to their respective stakeholders, including overseas Filipinos, or anybody interested to know about the country's diverse cultures.

Institutionalize heritage conservation planning and intensify implementation of conservation programs and projects. The protection of tangible heritage will benefit from careful comprehensive conservation planning, which should be motivated from a recognition that it is a shared responsibility of every Filipino. The regional agencies and LGUs will be encouraged to incorporate culture and heritage conservation concerns into their planning and investment programming.

Establish knowledge development centers and schools for living traditions to promote the region's cultural heritage. Knowledge Development Centers will be established to document, conserve, and protect tangible and intangible cultural heritage for posterity, as well as to enrich knowledge and sense of ownership of the Filipino culture. The NCCA has established more than 20 Schools of Living Traditions (SLTs) throughout the region, foremost of which is the Central Panay School of Living Traditions in the University of the Philippines. An SLT is one where a living master/culture bearer or culture specialist teaches skills and techniques of doing a traditional art or craft to the young people from the same ethno-linguistic community.

The establishment of SLTs will encourage culture specialists/masters to continue with their own work, develop and expand the frontiers of that work, and train younger people to take their place in the future. This initiative to safeguard the region's cultural heritage by preserving it in a living form and ensuring its transmission to the next generations shall be sustained and supported.

Utilize cultural structures as civic spaces for dialogue and cultural exchange. Cultural infrastructures and facilities will be used as venues for fostering social cohesion and valuing cultural diversity. Museums, cultural centers, archives, libraries, art galleries and other cultural facilities will be made more inclusive to allow for dialogue and cultural exchange.

Develop, produce, disseminate information about Filipino culture. LGUs will be tasked to initiate and partner with private sector organizations and tri-media in generating awareness and appreciation about local culture and arts. Museums will be promoted as available and affordable venues for educational tours and visits. Awards and incentives in recognition for creativity and outstanding works of local artisans will be encouraged in all levels of local government.

Outcome 2 - Values for the common good inculcated.

Instilling values for the common good into the consciousness of all citizens will provide the needed positive and transformative change that will eventually lead to a high-trust society. The following strategies will be implemented:

Determine and promote a set of core values that foster the common good. While there will always be conflicts of interest and differences in beliefs and principles, there are values common to all Filipinos which are important for social cohesion and inclusive development. Values that are embraced by various Filipino communities such as discipline, persistence and grit, as well as having positive disposition for which Filipinos are known for will be promoted. Other values that many Filipinos share are pagkamalikhain (creativity) and malasakit (empathy or compassion). These values will be instilled especially among young people through relevant subjects at all levels in formal education. Establishing the core values, however, does not preclude the freedom of different cultural communities from defining their own values.

Because there is no existing baseline to serve as a starting point, researchers will be encouraged to examine how social values are tackled in institutions, such as schools, government, media, among others. Information from these studies will help determine the design of effective advocacy materials.

Utilize various channels of values inculcation to reach all community members. Once advocacy channels and systems are established, values education could be intensified. The formal education system, mass media, and various social institutions will be tapped for this purpose. Formal class lectures will be enriched with actual community encounters, field visits to historical and heritage places around the region, and readings of local culture reference materials.

Increase government efforts for promoting values that foster the common good. To reach the population, the production of information materials on the identified set of values will be intensified. Projects, activities, and programs that promote these values will be created, implemented and reviewed across all levels of government.

Advocate for the integration of cultural education in the basic, technical, vocational and higher education systems. The region can take advantage of the reform of the basic education system through the K to 12 curriculum, particularly as regards the development of "21st century skills". The desired outcome is to ensure that students are equipped with not only functional literacy and skills but also with the values necessary to become productive members of the society.

In particular, the so called 21st century skills" should emphasize the need to instill ethics among students – particularly focusing on virtuous behavior. All other means and channels will be utilized for values formation to cover all stages of human development.

Outcome 3 - Pagkamalikhain or creative excellence advanced

A culture of creative excellence needs to permeate various levels of public consciousness as a foundation of globally-competitive knowledge economy. To advance creative excellence or pagkamalikhain, the following national strategies will be supported:

Boost the development of Filipino creativity as a tool for cohesion and impetus for culture-based industry and creative economy. Students need to appreciate at a young age the importance of inventiveness and creativity. Inter-disciplinary collaboration among public and private sectors will boost innovation in various areas.

Certain mindsets shall be nurtured such as: an entrepreneurial spirit that rewards industry and smart work, giving importance to design in reinforcing cultural and national identity, generating solutions through innovation, and valuing intellectual property. It is important to foster a culture that values arts, science, technology and innovation. (See also Chapter 14 on Advancing science, technology and innovation.)

Build appreciation of Filipino creativity. To realize the potentials of the creative process, the agents of creativity will be empowered and supported by an institution that will encourage the production of creative works, invest in human development of its stakeholders, support their products, and develop the industry. To build appreciation of West Visayan creativity, the Regional Development Council will continue to support such activities as the "Weekend Tienda," a strategy to promote and improve local arts and crafts, and local cuisine, as to provide an alternative venue for local artisans and craftsmen to showcase their works.

Trainings and seminars for skills development will be conducted, especially on packaging, presenting and promoting product design and traditional arts and crafts, as well as on fund sourcing and mobilization with the help of local and national experts. Avenues for hands-on training and implementation of technical knowledge and expertise of local artisans, including museum personnel will be provided by the national government. LGUs will take the lead in providing access to folk artists and craftsmen to publicly display their products and crafts.

Outcome 4 - Culture-sensitive governance and development strengthened

The government has an important role to play in the nation's cultural development. It can provide the needed resources to ensure the preservation and development of Philippine culture, and the exploration and understanding of Philippine history. Local government units likewise can support community initiatives by including culture in their local development plans. The region will support the following strategies initiated at the national level:

Pursue institutional reforms for cultural development. Mechanisms will be built to improve the capacity of the culture sector in the fields of governance and legislation. This will include improving infrastructure support for cultural agencies and strengthening the implementation of relevant policies. Existing legislations will be reviewed to assess whether the measures are still appropriate given the technological, political and social developments, and whether established mechanisms are still relevant to address issues brought about by climate change and human-induced disasters.

Culture-sensitivity will be enhanced in government bureaucracies so that policy makers will not only focus on deriving economic benefits from cultural assets, but also recognize the intangible value of the creative process that pushes its citizens to imagine, create and innovate. LGUs will be encouraged to provide awards and incentives in recognition for creativity and outstanding works of local artists and artisans.

Establish historic and cultural complexes as hubs for cultural education, entertainment and tourism and develop cultural assets across country. Historic and cultural complexes will be established to showcase the best of the Philippines for cultural tourism, which can contribute to economic growth. To broaden access to cultural resources and activities, cultural assets and structures will be developed across country and these will be promoted as available and affordable venues for educational tours and visits.

Mainstream values and culture in local plans and investment programs. LGUs will be enjoined to incorporate the preservation of music and literature, traditional arts and crafts development, and protection, conservation and enhancement of local heritage, arts, and culture in their local plans, zoning ordinances and investment programs.

Tap private sector in preservation of local heritage structures. LGUs will be encouraged to partner with private sector or owners of heritage buildings in the renovation and preservation of heritage structures, to properly mark the historical significance of sites, and ensure that designs of new buildings are consistent to the architecture or complementary to existing protected heritage structures.

Allocate space for public arts. A certain percentage of the budget for any building construction will be allocated to public arts as part of infrastructure such as space for art installations.

Legislative Agenda

Table 7.2 Legislative Agenda to Preserve Traditional Values, Culture and Heritage, 2017-2022

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE
Modernization Act for the National Library of the Philippines	This will establish the charter of the National Library of the Philippines to promote full intellectual and cultural development of the Filipino. It will also standardize public libraries and ensure their funding.
Strengthening the Conservation and Protection of the National Cultural Heritage	Amend the Heritage Law (RA 10066) and its provisions on jurisdictions will be updated.
Film Industry Act	Include film appreciation, construct local cinematheques, replace the Metro Manila Film Festival with a national film festival and encourage the production of films by providing incentives.
An act providing for the Welfare Protection of Artists and Cultural Workers	Promote and protect the rights of artists and cultural workers (e.g. conservationists) to be considered as persons actually engaged in cultural work and to benefit from all legal, social and economic advantages pertaining to the status of workers.
Establishment of the Department of Culture	Reorganization of the National Commission on Culture and Arts into the Department of Culture and the Arts, define its powers and functions.
Establishment of Local Culture and Arts Councils and Allocate Funding similar to the Gender and Development (GAD) Fund or Special Education Fund	Establish offices for culture and arts in LGUs, with a mandate to protect and promote local cultural heritage and arts.

PART III

INEQUALITY-REDUCING TRANSFORMATION ("PAGBABAGO")

08 Expanding and Diversifying Opportunities in Agriculture and Fisheries

Chapter 8

Expanding and Diversifying Opportunities in Agriculture and Fisheries

The agriculture, fisheries and forestry (AFF) sector plays a crucial role in the economic progress of Western Visayas region. With about 40 percent of the region's labor force engaged in agriculture and fisheries, expanding and diversifying opportunities for employment in this sector will significantly help in reducing poverty and inequality in the rural areas. This chapter presents the persistent challenges of the sector and strategies that will revitalize and harness its growth potentials to promote a more inclusive development. The region seeks to expand and diversify economic opportunities for those who are engaged in producing agriculture and fishery products and to increase access to economic opportunities for small farmers and fisherfolk.

Assessment and Challenges

The sector outcome for the AFF under the Regional Development Plan, 2011-2016 is the productive and profitable harnessing of agri-fishery resources by marginalized farmers and fisherfolk. The region aimed at improving food security, reducing agricultural losses due to climate change, strengthening support services to agrarian reform beneficiaries, institutionalizing a market information system and other innovations for a more competitive agri-fishery industry.

The discussion below details the performance of the region in the achievement of the AFF targets taking into account the constraints and challenges faced during the plan period. It also considers the possible scenarios over the incoming plan period that will likely affect the sector such as the impact of international agreements that will come into force and the performance of the global economy.

Weak growth performance of AFF in the past three years . The contribution of AFF to the regional economy continued to decline. The huge decline in 2011-2012 sector growth (from 14.1 percent to negative 0.1 percent) was attributed to the reduction of harvest area of major crops such as palay, corn, and sugarcane as a result of the late onset of rainy season. Fisheries production also decreased due to the long dry spell, stoppage of operation of some commercial fishing boats, and the imposition of closed season. The stricter rules imposed by neighboring municipalities on allowable fishing grounds based on their local ordinances also contributed to the decline in the fisheries production.

The sector's growth further decelerated in 2013 to negative 3.5 percent. The devastation wrought by Typhoon Yolanda caused damage and losses estimated at PHP1.4 billion in agriculture and fisheries, and recovery costs would entail about PHP4 billion. Contraction however eased to negative 2.3 in 2014, and further to negative 0.6 percent in 2015. The gradual recovery is attributed to sugarcane production which, although at a decreased level in 2015, still makes Region VI the top sugarcane producer among the regions. Also Region VI was third highest palay producer among the regions, with a record increase in palay production.

Low or declining yield of major agricultural crops. The average yield of the region's major crops has not improved and did not reach the targets set under the RDP 2011-2016. Palay yield was targeted to improve to 4.57 metric tons per hectare (MT/ha); corn yield to 4.22 MT/ha; and sugarcane to 75 MT/ha by 2016. Yet, average palay yield from 2005-2014 is only 3.31 MT/ha, with irrigated areas averaging 3.72 MT/ha and non-irrigated to only 2.9 MT/ha. Compared with other regions, palay yield in Region VI is consistently below the national average as shown in Figure 8.1. Corn yield, at only 2.42 MT/ha, was also way below target. Sugarcane yield was also below plan target at only 66.08 MT/ha., although the region has consistently been a front runner in production. This situation points to the region having more production areas, but with very low yields per hectare.

The average yield of palay for 2013 to 2015 at 3.34 MT/ha has shown a decreasing trend despite the use of high-yielding varieties. The 2015 yield at 3.31 MT/ha is more than a ton short of the target for 2016.

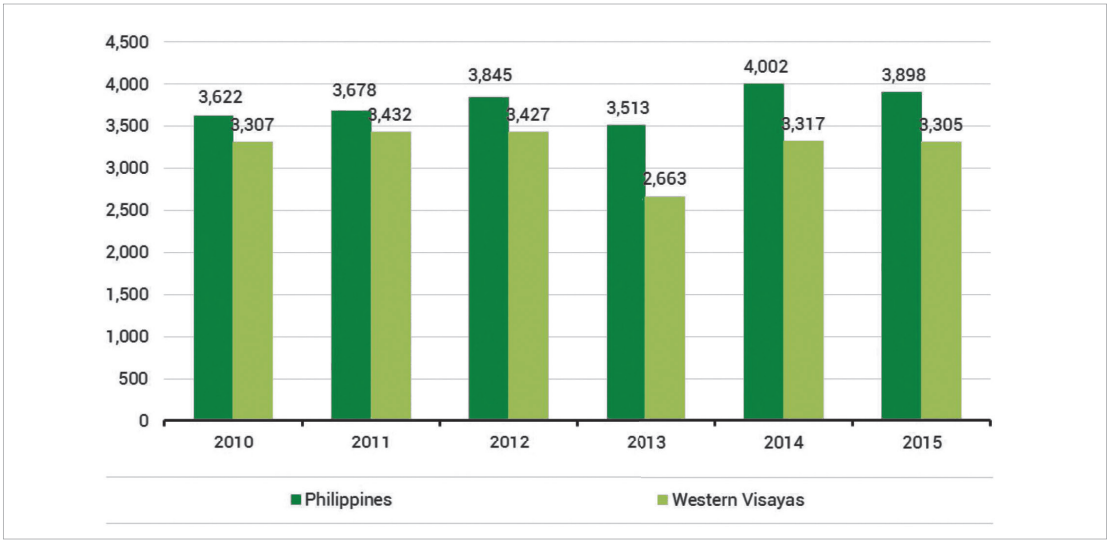
Several factors prevented farmers from optimum production performance: the lingering effects of super typhoon Yolanda in 2013, the dry spell or late onset of rain resulting in insufficient water supply in some parts of Aklan, Antique, Guimaras and Iloilo, the decline in area harvested due to intense heat, and the El Niño experienced in the last quarter of 2015 up to the 1st quarter of 2016. The abnormal weather conditions also aggravated the susceptibility of crops, especially rice, to pests and diseases. To minimize losses, farmers opted to plant corn or vegetables instead of rice. Despite these setbacks, the region still ranked third in rice production in the country.

Table 8.1 Gross Regional Domestic Product and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery Growth Rates, by Subsector, 2010-2015 (at constant 2000 Prices, in Percent)

INDUSTRY/YEAR	GROWTH RATES				
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP)	6.2	7.2	3.4	5.2	8.3
Agriculture Hunting, Forestry & Fishing (AHFF)	14.1	(0.1)	(3.5)	(2.3)	(0.6)
a. Agriculture and Forestry	18.5	0.7	(3.4)	(1.5)	(0.1)
b. Fishing	1.5	(2.6)	(4.0)	(5.0)	(3.4)

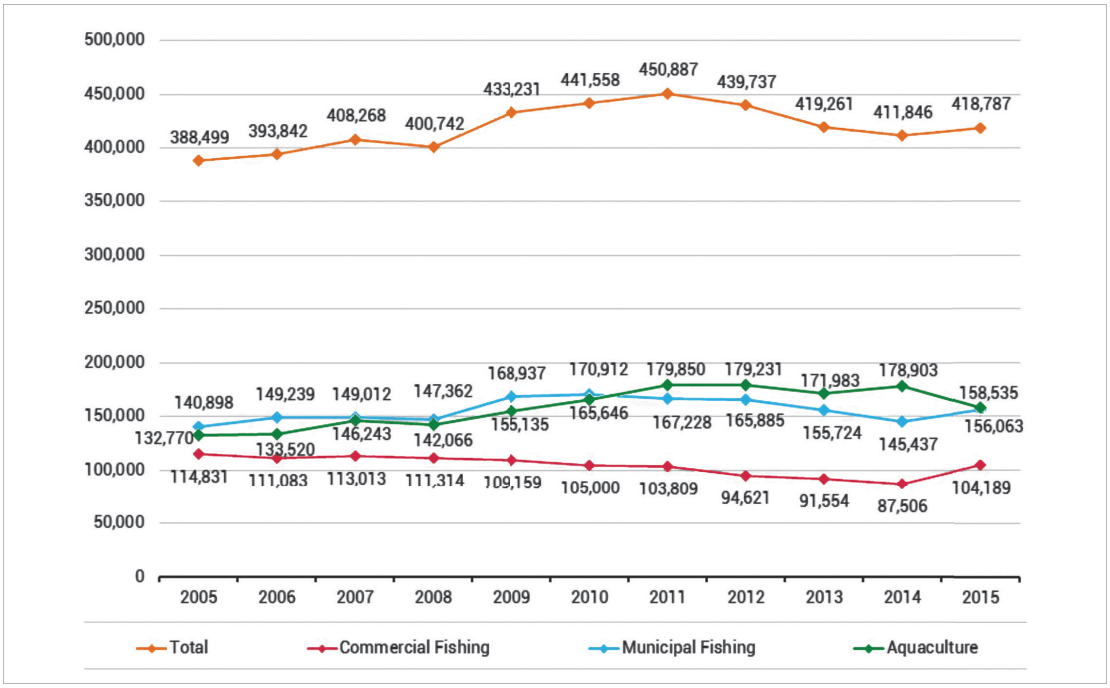
Source: PSA-VI

Figure 8.1 Average Palay Yield, 2010-2015 (in kilograms per hectare)



Source: PSA-VI

Figure 8.2 Fish Production, by Type, 2005-2014 (in metric tons)



Source: PSA-VI

Similarly, fish production remained stagnant and barely improved in the ten-year period. Fish production remained at almost the same level, at 388,499 metric tons (MT) in 2005 to 411,846 MT in 2014 or an increment of 23,347 MT for the ten-year period. The decreasing trend in the volume of catch, especially in the Visayan Sea, a major fishing ground in the region, is attributed to overfishing, destruction of habitat, overcapitalization, and non-limitation of fishing effort within the fishing ground.

Slow progress in crop diversification. Concentration on a few traditional crops has prevented the AFF from taking advantage of the growing demand for other commodities in growing local and international markets. Over the years, the dominant crops have been rice, corn, and sugar. The combined area harvested of coffee, mango, pineapple and high value vegetables barely reached 30,000 hectares, compared with those of rice, corn, sugarcane, and coconut which reached more than a hundred hectares.

A weak support system may be attributed to this persistent situation. Local agriculture extension workers do not have enough information or enough skills to embark on high-value crops that promise higher returns on investments. Further, despite available fund support from various agencies involved in agriculture, there is very little convergent effort to share skills and resources.

Persistent and long standing challenges in the AFF continue to hamper productivity. Despite the seemingly greater attention accorded to the agriculture sector in the past three years, sustaining growth continued to be elusive because of continued failure to address the lingering challenges and the inability to overcome emerging challenges. The long standing challenges in the AFF that continue to hamper productivity include the following:

Table 8.2 Average Area Harvested and Production of Selected Crops, 2005-2014

CROPS	AVERAGE PRODUCTION PER YEAR, 2010-2014 (METRIC TONS)	AVERAGE AREA HARVESTED, 2005-2014 (IN HECTARES)
Rice	2,094,059	621,460
Corn	320,525	299,156
Sugarcane	13,636,976	199,891
Coconut	448,192	119,992
Peanut	2,106	3,197
Mango	46,823	10,818
Coffee	5,304	10,020
Pineapple	16,040	767
Cabbage	468.2	67
Tomato	9,224	816
Abaca	1,784	4,859

Sources: PSA-VI, PhilFIDA-VI

- **Limited access to credit and insurance.** Insufficient working capital inhibits farmers and fisherfolk from using appropriate inputs, equipment and facilities that will expand production and spur entrepreneurial activities in the rural economy. A survey by the Agricultural Credit Policy Center shows that in 2015, about 39 percent of small farmers and fisherfolk borrowers did not access formal credit due to: a) lack of technical capacity to develop viable project proposals; b) lack of/poor credit track record; c) lack of acceptable collateral; and d) limited information about the loan products. Also, banks have low compliance of loan quotas (15% agricultural, 10% agrarian) under the Agri-Agra Law or RA 1000, with agricultural loans comprising 14 percent agricultural and agrarian loans representing only 1.1 percent of the banks' total loanable funds.

- **Low Farm mechanization and inadequate postharvest facilities**. Amidst concerns of labor displacement, farm machinery and postharvest equipment and facilities are not fully taken advantage of to increase quantity and quality of produce, reduce losses, and incur lower labor costs. The country's improvement in farm mechanization from 0.52 horsepower per hectare (hp/ha) in the 1990s to 1.23 hp/ha for all crops in 2011, lag behind the mechanization level achieved in other Asian countries.

- **Inadequate irrigation.** As of 2015, only 19,165 hectares of the plan target 47,409 hectares of irrigation areas were rehabilitated; 7,177 hectares of target 12,812 restored; and only 8,983 hectares of the target 22,202 new irrigation service areas have been developed. Thus, cropping intensity for 2013 also decreased to 133.58 from 149.91 in 2012, and dropping further from 2013 to 2015.

  Irrigation development has been slow because of the long and tedious process of designing and constructing large-scale irrigation systems. As of 2015, the implementation of large-scale irrigation projects like the Jalaur Multipurpose project Phase II in Iloilo and the Panay River Multipurpose project in Capiz still have to be realized.

- **Insufficient support for research and development.** Despite the significant role that R&D plays in developing technologies and identifying good farm and fishery management practices, the share of R&D programs in the total budget of the DA and DOST- Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resource Research and Development is only 0.28 percent of the AFF gross value added (in current prices), lower than the one (1) percent level recommended for developing countries.

- **Weak extension service.** The inefficiencies in the delivery of extension services can be attributed to inadequate operational funds and lack of human resources of local government units. A study by the Agricultural Training Institute show that almost half of the extension workers are ageing, ranging from 43 to 64 years old.

- **Ageing farmers and fisherfolk**. The Philippine Statistics Authority placed the average age of farm operators of palay, corn, bangus and tilapia from 48 to 55 years. As the sector's workforce gets older, the younger population finds more attractive employment opportunities outside the sector.

- **Failure to fully implement the agrarian reform program.** Only about 14 percent of the 150,378 hectares targeted for Certificate of Land Ownership Award in the region has been distributed from 2013 to 2015. Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries awarded with Emancipation Patents and CLOAs were always way below the annual targets. Landowners' resistance, tedious processes and delays in the fragmented land management bureaucracy, and uncertainties caused by Supreme Court decision to hold in abeyance the acquisition of lands under the Operation Land Transfer hampered the acquisition of private agricultural lands.

  Consequently, insecurity in land tenure has discouraged investments that would have contributed to growth and expansion of the production base.

Limited connectivity between production areas and markets and poor compliance with product standards resulted in low competitiveness of the AFF's products. Inefficiency in handling, packing, transportation, and logistics systems result in increase of time in moving goods from from production area to markets, reduction of quality of goods during transport, and increase of transport and handling costs, all of which eventually renders products less competitive in the market.

For the farming sector to survive, they need to be linked to targeted markets and be made competitive taking into account the seasonality, and perishability of agricultural products and variability of consumer demands. Overall, the DA has constructed only about 47 percent of its plan target of farm-to-market roads nationwide in 2015.

Accordingly, poor compliance with quality product standards along the supply chain has resulted in rejections of agricultural food products by some foreign markets due to the presence of contaminants, labelling, adulteration of, or missing documentary requirements. Small farm holders are, moreover, unable to compete with imported farm products right in their very own domestic market.

Vulnerability to disaster and climate risks and resource degradation. The declining growth in the agriculture sector is partly brought about by the region's vulnerability to weather disturbances. Food production is largely affected by adverse weather conditions. The lingering effects of typhoon Yolanda and the "El Niño" phenomenon in recent years were major causes of the big slump in AFF sector's performance in 2013-2014.

Resource degradation also poses a challenge for the sector. The vulnerability of the ecosystem's ability to replenish water supply, especially for irrigation, amidst long dry spells, and the deteriorating status of the marine ecosystem such as coral reefs, fish stocks, mangroves, are critical considerations in maintaining sustainability of agriculture and fisheries.

Inefficient delivery of services in agrarian reform. Despite the safeguards in place, the lack of coordination among government agencies has resulted in continued premature and illegal conversion of prime agricultural lands, and irrigated and irrigable lands, which will compromise food security and agrarian reform objectives.

Overlapping of functions across several national government agencies has led to inefficiencies in delivery of support services and has hampered agrarian reform. Lack of coordination and convergence of efforts also lead to unnecessary duplication of activities and failure to direct limited public resources to the most needy areas and areas with high potential for development.

Strategic Framework

In support of the overall national goal of the Philippine Development Plan, 2017-2022, the Western Visayas Regional Development Plan, 2017-2022 will seek to expand and diversify economic opportunities in agriculture, forestry and fisheries and increase access to economic opportunities of small farmers and fisherfolks.

Expansion of economic opportunities in AFF will be attained through sustained production improvement with the appropriate intervention to be provided by national and local government in the form of programs and infrastructure, and diversified and increased AFF enterprises by increasing production of commodities with high-value adding and market potential and expanding AFF-based enterprises through new and innovative production and marketing schemes.

Access to economic opportunities by small farmers and fisherfolk will be increased by value chain development, increased access to innovative financing, increased access to technology, and land tenure improvement and access to water resources.

In value chain development national and local government intervention in programs and infrastructure will be provided for the needed link of production areas to markets, organization of farmers and fisherfolks into formal groups and farms into clusters to create economies of scale, and provide capacity building trainings.

Innovative financing includes increasing access to agriculture insurance and easy access to credit.

Increased access to technology will include enhancement of research and development for AFF, and the promotion of the use of better technology.

Land tenure improvement and access to water resources will be done through successful implementation of agrarian reform, fast tracking the resolution of agrarian reform cases, and proper implementation of the Fisheries code.

Targets

Over the plan period, the main target is to reverse the negative growth of the AFF sector with a baseline value of negative 0.1 percent in 2015 to positive 1 percent in 2017 and to maintain a positive growth of 1.5 percent until 2022. Other targets are the following:

- Increase in GVA growth rate for AFF increased by 3% per year at constant 2000 prices

    a. Crops 4.0% - 5.0%
    b. Livestock 2.0% - 3.0%
    c. Poultry 4.0% - 5.0%

- Growth in fisheries production increased by 35%- 40% at constant 2000 prices

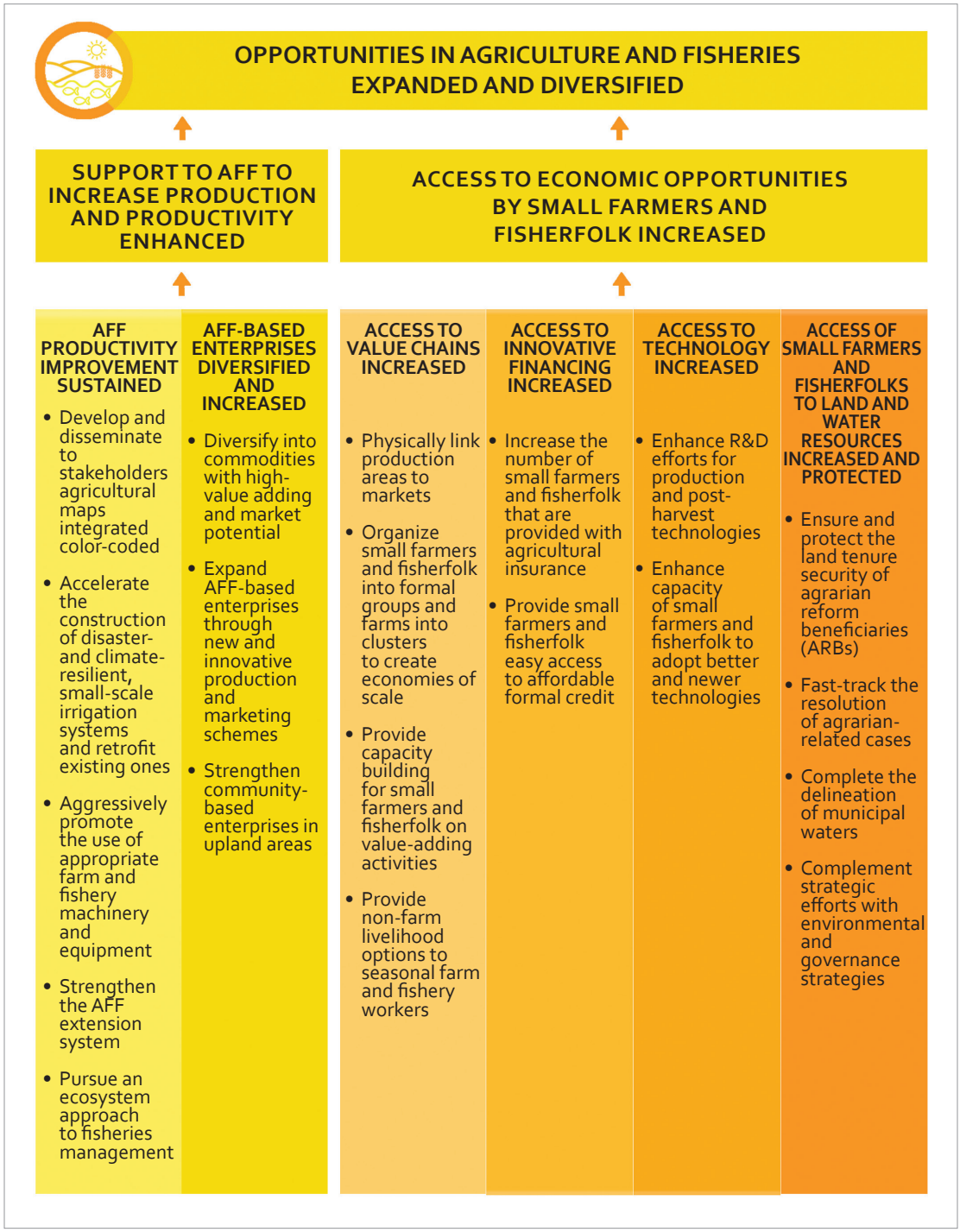
    a. Commercial 20%-30%
    b. Municipal 8%-10%
    c. Aquaculture 50%-60%

- Provided support to 313 agriculture and fishery based MSMEs

- Expanded areas planted with priority commodity crops to 26,295 hectares

- Prepared value chain studies for 8 priority commodities
- Completed distribution of 4,171 hectares to agrarian reform beneficiaries
- Resolved 9,492 agrarian reform cases involving land acquisition and distribution
- Conducted 108 consultations with LGUs and NGOs on agriculture and fisheries plans and budget.

Figure 8.3 Strategic Framework to Expand and Diversify Opportunities in Agriculture and Fisheries, 2017-2022



Strategies

The strategies to expand economic opportunities in AFF are supportive of the Pagbabago or reducing inequality. To achieve the sector and subsector outcomes and targets, the following strategies will be implemented:

Outcome 1 - Enhance support for AFF to increase production and productivity

To expand and diversify economic opportunities for existing AFF producers, a) productivity improvement must be sustained and b) the number and capacity of AFF-based enterprises must be increased.

Outcome 1.1 - AFF productivity improvement sustained

Develop and disseminate to stakeholders agricultural maps. The Department of Agriculture (DA) will complete the development of an integrated color-coded agricultural map and disseminate this to stakeholders particularly for the priority commodities agreed by the above-team. The map, which contains updated information on soil characteristics, water availability, climatic types, topography, and socioeconomic conditions, will provide basis for production decisions about suitable crops, and agricultural activities. It will also guide the identification and prioritization of programs, projects and activities. Information, education, and communication campaigns to farmers and other intended beneficiaries will be upgraded and intensified.

Accelerate the construction of disaster- and climate-resilient, small-scale irrigation systems and retrofit existing ones. Priority will be given to small and communal irrigation systems, especially water harvesting technologies. The implementation of large-scale irrigation system projects like the Jalaur River Multipurpose Project Phase II and the Panay River Multipurpose Project will be aggressively pursued to improve productivity of expansive agriculture areas in Iloilo and Capiz provinces.

Effective and efficient water saving and management technologies will be promoted to mitigate the impact of El Niño. Also, an integrated watershed management approach will be implemented to sustain soil productivity and water efficiency, particularly in the critical watersheds of the region.

Aggressively promote the use of appropriate farm and fishery machinery and equipment. The region expects full funding support for the implementation of the Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Law or RA 10601 to encourage local manufacturing and assembly of machinery and equipment for production, post-harvest, and processing. IEC activities will be intensified to promote the utilization of available local machineries. These machineries and equipment will include tractors, tillers, harvesters, mechanical dryers, threshers, and milling equipment, as well as fishing technologies such as fiberglass hull and small engines in fishing boats.

The lifting of the quantitative restrictions on rice should encourage the utilization of farm machinery and equipment to reduce production and post-production cost. Labor displacement as a consequence of mechanization will be addressed through commodity diversification, value-adding, and entrepreneurial development.

Proper training and certification for machine operation will also be provided, especially of low-skilled farm laborers and fishery workers. Custom hiring i.e., renting of machinery and servicing of farm implements and machine pooling will be encouraged to promote efficiency and provide alternative livelihood.

Strengthen the AFF extension system. The DA will be proactive in its role in guiding and coordinating extension services down to the LGU level. The research and development function of DA and its link to other government R&D institutions and think tanks shall be strengthened for enhanced collaboration toward development of needed farm technologies. The SUCs will be increasingly tapped in the capacity building of LGU extension workers, which shall be made regular and continuing. The DA and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources (BFAR) will also utilize the SUCs to hasten the diffusion of good farm and fishery practices, indigenous and local knowledge and appropriate technologies.

The LGUs, which have been given the responsibility for delivery of agriculture extension services by the Local Government Code, shall ensure that qualified extension workers are given the appropriate plantilla positions and their career path in local government service is clear in order to attract and retain the best extension workers. Moreover, the LGUs shall provide adequate funding for extension services as required by their development plan and investment programs.

Market-driven extension models such as nucleus estate model and multi-stakeholder partnerships led by the private sector will be promoted. Priority extension services will include encouraging farmers and fisherfolk to a) use certified seeds and quality planting materials, especially high-yielding and stress tolerant varieties (drought and flood); b) quality semen of animals and eggs for poultry; c) quality fish fry and fingerlings. Technologies and practices that lead to or promote climate change adaptation, organic agriculture, urban agriculture, halal food production, crop diversification, and other sector goals and objectives will be encouraged.

Pursue an ecosystem approach to fisheries management. The government, thru BFAR, will conduct regular fish stock inventory and assessment and implement appropriate fisheries management strategies such as the scaling up of the community-based coastal resources management and territorial use rights in fisheries. The declaration of closed season in some major fishing grounds, like the Visayan Sea, will be undertaken to address declining fish production for certain fish species such as mackerels, sardines and herrings. The decision to declared closed season will be based on scientific studies.

The government will strengthen measures against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and will continue to regulate fishery structures such as fish pens and cages in inland bodies of water. It will implement boat, vessel and gear registration and licensing, and monitoring of compliance with catch documentation requirements among municipal and commercial fishing boats. An aggressive information, education and communication activities will be conducted to enhance awareness and appreciation of resource conservation measures, and to intensify compliance with fishery laws.

Outcome 1.2 - AFF-based enterprises diversified and increased

Diversify into commodities with high-value adding and market potential. The DA will pursue priority commodities that can be developed based on vulnerability, suitability and value chain analyses. Initially, the DA has identified 15 commodities for market and value chain studies. These are muscovado, mango, seaweeds, oyster, swine, abaca, native chicken, coconut, coffee, cacao, banana, aquaculture, cattle, upland vegetables.

Other commodities with high potential for value-adding, processing and export will be pursued such as herbs and spices (e.g., laurel, parsley and pepper). Five Roadmaps which include market and value chain studies for the top 5 priority commodities of the region in terms of diversification will be prepared. The roadmaps will be for mango, native chicken, natural fibers, aquaculture, and sugarcane (see Chapter 9, subsector outcome A1, 1). The adoption of integrated farming systems such as intercropping, livestock-crops, crops-livestock-fish, and agro-forestry will be promoted to maximize the use of land. The integrated color-coded agricultural map can be utilized for this integrated farming system.

Strategic areas for mariculture as sustainable livelihood diversification option for coastal fishers will be identified. Mariculture refers to the culture of finfishes, shellfish, seaweeds and other commodities in cages, pens, stakes and rafts in marine environment.

Expand AFF-based enterprises through new and innovative production and marketing schemes. Innovative forms of linkages such as contract farming and corporate farming that will connect AFF enterprises to markets and other upstream services will be established. The link of producers to processors, enterprises and agro-industries will be enhanced by supporting market consolidators that will broker connection to established markets like malls, institutions and public markets. The role of private sector in developing new markets and products will be highlighted. Government will lead in in market facilitation through domestic and international trade fairs and market-matching activities. It will also intensify enterprise-based capacity building and business advisory services for farmer and fisherfolk organizations, including.

Strengthen community-based enterprises in upland areas. Programs and projects that foster community-based enterprises in upland areas will be continued to be implemented and monitored. At the same time, efforts will be undertaken to address issues of accessibility and connectivity, as well as vulnerability to climate and disaster risks.

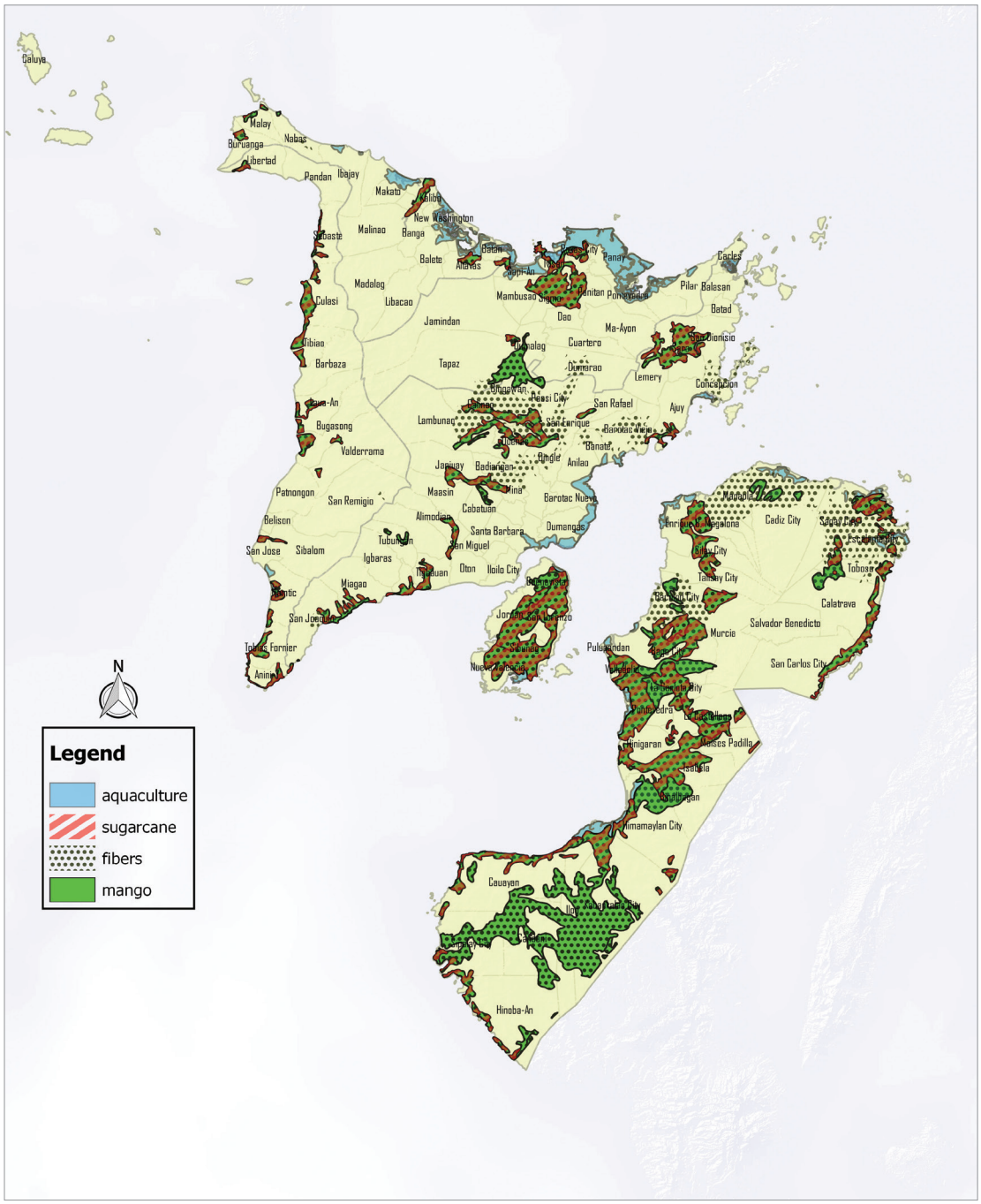
Outcome 2 - Access to economic opportunities by small farmers and fisherfolk increased

Outcome 2.1 - Access to value chains increased

Physically link production areas to markets. Farm-to market roads, bridges, and railways will be constructed to connect small farmers and fisherfolk to the agricultural value chain. Inter-island water transport such as roll on-roll off nautical highway and port facilities such as fish ports will be improved to foster greater coast trading of agriculture and fishery products. Climate and disaster risks will be taken into consideration in the design of transport networks. Alternative means of transportation will be considered to enhance connectivity of farms and markets such as, for hilly and mountainous areas, cable cars will be considered for a quicker descent of goods and people. See Chapter 19 (Accelerating Infrastructure Development).

The RDC will continue to support the Weekend Tienda which seeks to promote and improve Ilonggo products and provide venue for marginal farmers and fisherfolk to market their products. Producers of farm fresh organic fruits and vegetables and other farm produce, freshwater and saltwater fish will be linked to institutional buyers like malls, hotels and restaurants.

Figure 8.4 Suitability Map, Selected Priority Commodities



Source: DA-VI

Organize small farmers and fisherfolk into formal groups and farms into clusters to create economies of scale. . Social preparation such as organization and management will be undertaken for small farmers and fisherfolk who are not yet organized into associations and cooperatives. Efforts to link them with larger agribusiness enterprises and institutional buyers will be pursued.

Provide capacity building for small farmers and fisherfolk on value-adding activities. Professional agricultural extension workers will be tapped to provide trainings to small farmers and fisherfolk in the farmer field schools and demonstration farms. The trainings will include processing, packaging, marketing, and compliance with product standards and certification.

Provide non-farm livelihood options to seasonal farm and fishery workers. Community-based employment programs as alternative income sources during the off-season will continue to be implemented. Seasonal workers, especially whose incomes are irregular and who are vulnerable to shocks, will be trained on off-farm and non-farm activities to enable them to take advantage of alternative employment opportunities, including those in agri-tourism development.

Outcome 2.2 - Access to innovative financing increased

Increase the number of small farmers and fisherfolk that are provided with agricultural insurance. This will be done by improving the awareness and appreciation of small farmers and fisherfolk of risk insurance. Innovative agricultural insurance schemes such as weather index-based and area-based yield index insurance will be promoted.

Provide small farmers and fisherfolk easy access to affordable formal credit. The government will develop and implement innovative loan products with responsive credit delivery mechanisms. Efforts to provide adequate information and assistance to borrowers on the available loans will be enhanced.

Outcome 2.3 - Access to technology increased

Enhance RD efforts for production and post-harvest technologies. SUCs, research consortia and institutions will be encouraged to prioritize R&D efforts towards reduction of losses, maintaining quality and food safety, and increasing the value of agriculture and fishery commodities (e.g., ice-making and storage technologies). R&D efforts will be supportive of the Harmonized National R&D Agenda for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources, 2017-2022, which espouses the use of advanced and emerging technologies such as biotechnology, genomics, bioinformatics, nanotechnology, and ICT, as tools to find S&T solutions to AFF problems as well as develop new products that would significantly impact on the sector. Existing agriculture and fishery laboratories and research facilities will be upgraded towards ISO-accreditation. See Chapter 14 (Vigorously Advancing Science, Technology and Innovation).

Enhance capacity of small farmers and fisherfolk to adopt better and newer technologies. Aggressive information, education and communication campaign and capacity building activities will be undertaken on the use of certified seeds as well as post-harvest, processing and packaging technologies.

Outcome 2.4 - Access of small farmers and fisherfolk to land and water resources increased and protected

Ensure and protect the land tenure security of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs). This will be done by completing the land acquisition and distribution and immediately install ARBs in awarded lands upon the issuance of emancipation patents or Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOAs). An inventory of lands and profiling of ARBs will be conducted to ensure an updated status of land distribution and guide the delivery of support services in agrarian refom communities or clusters.

Fast-track the resolution of agrarian-related cases. Timely and free legal assistance will be provided to ARBs, including counselling and representation In judicial and quasi-judicial bodies.

Complete the delineation of municipal waters. Local government units with municipal waters will pass their respective ordinances and will request the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) to complete the delineation of their municipal waters.

Complement strategic efforts with environmental and governance strategies. To enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the strategies, the government will:

- Expand the existing human resource base by increasing scholarship opportunities in AFF-related courses (See Chapter 11 Enhancing Human Capital and Access to Social Services)
- Continue to pursue the national convergence initiative using the ridge-to-reef approach
- Strengthen resilience to climate and disaster risks
- Regularly update the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture and Fisheries Registration, especially the information used in targeting for credit and agricultural insurance
- Conduct a comprehensive market scoping to analyse competition issues in priority sectors, which may include land market (See also Chapter 16 – Promoting and advocating the national competition policy)
- Ensure the meaningful participation of all stakeholders, through organized groups, in planning, monitoring and implementation
- Strengthen coordination and convergence of efforts of national government agencies, LGUs, and civil society organizations on AFF concerns and cross-cutting issues such as food security and nutrition;
- Intensify public-private partnership especially on rural infrastructure and logistic facilities to support value-chain development.

Legislative Agenda

Table 8.3. Legislative Agenda to Expand and Diversify Opportunities in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, 2017-2022

PROPOSED LEGISLATION	RATIONALE
Amend the Revised Charter of the PCIC Act of 1995 or RA 8175 as well as other relevant laws	Reorganize the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) and increase its authorized PHP2 billion capital stock to cater more effectively to the demands of small farmers and fisherfolk.
Amend or repeal Presidential Decree No. 4 of 1972 as well as other relevant laws	This will decouple the regulatory and proprietary function of the National Food Authority (NFA). The NFA will continue to exist but its role will focus on rice buffer stocking for food security.
Amend the Agricultural Tariffication Act of 1996 or RA 8178	Replace quantitative restrictions on rice with tariffs. The tariff proceeds from rice imports will be ploughed back to the rice sector.
Provide guidelines for the utilization of the Coco Levy Fund.	Consolidate all assets and benefits emanating from the coconut levy and will create a Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund to exclusively benefit coconut farmers and farm workers.
Pass the National Land Use Act (NALUA)	The intention of this proposed bill is to protect prime agricultural lands, thereby ensuring the viability and sustainability of on-farm employment and overall rural development. The definition of prime agricultural lands in the NALUA should represent a socially-acceptable minimum agricultural land requirement that will maintain a certain level of agricultural industry in a given economic or spatial context at a given point in time.
Genuine and Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.	Distribute for free or without amortization agricultural lands to landless farmers and agricultural workers. Its coverage will include: all public and private agricultural lands exceeding five hectares; lands that have been declared and/or reserved for non-agricultural uses but remain unutilized and undeveloped; and lands that have been reclassified or converted for commercial, industrial or residential uses but have remained undeveloped and used for agriculture.

09 Expanding and Developing Opportunities in Industry and Services

Chapter 9

Expanding and Developing Opportunities in Industry and Services

Laying down the foundation for an inclusive growth, high trust society and a globally competitive economy requires the expansion and development of economic opportunities in industry and services. Increased access to economic opportunities for micro, small and medium enterprises, cooperatives, and overseas Filipinos is crucial in reducing poverty and inequality,

This chapter presents the thrusts and priorities in developing the region's industry and services sectors. A brief assessment of the sectors' performance, and identification of prevailing issues and challenges, is followed by the strategic framework, and key strategies to be implemented in the next six years. A list of proposed legislative agenda to provide policy support is presented for consideration by national and local bodies. A results matrix details the basis for monitoring on how the regional development goals and objectives might be met through the sector targets.

Assessment and Challenges

As noted in assessment of the economic performance of the region in Chapter 2 (brief assessment of the RDP, 2011-2016), the impressive overall economic performance of the region in the recent years (8.3% in 2015) was propelled by the industry and services sectors. The industry and services sectors have shown their capacity to grow and create jobs. Over the 2013 - 2015 period, the industry sector steadily increased its share to the GRDP from 18.8 percent to 22.9 percent. The services sector average annual share to total output remained almost constant at 57.5 percent, tapering to 57.1 percent in 2015. It was in 2015 when the industry sector's contribution to the region's overall growth started to overtake that of the agriculture sector. In Table 9.1, the agriculture's share is seen decreasing over time as more and more activities and investments in the manufacturing, construction, and power projects conversely started increasing in those years.

The PSA estimates the industry contribution to the region's 8.3 percent growth was 4.5 percentage points, services 4.0 percentage points, while AHFF pulled down the region's economic performance by 0.1 percentage point.

Table 9.1 Percent Distribution of Gross Value Added of Industry and Services, 2013-2015 (at Constant 2000 Prices)

INDUSTRY/ YEAR	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION (%)		
	2013	2014	2015
GRDP	100	100	100
Industry	18.8	20.3	22.9
a. Mining and Quarrying	1.9	2.3	2.1
b. Manufacturing	7.9	8.3	7.9
c. Construction	8.0	8.7	11.8
d. Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	1.0	1.1	1.0
Services	57.6	57.8	57.1
a. Transport, Storage & Communication	11.2	11.6	11.5
b. Trade and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles, Personal and Household Goods	13.7	13.6	13.3
c. Financial Intermediation	7.3	7.4	7.1
d. Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities	7.8	7.6	7.3
e. Public Administration & Defense; Compulsory Social Security	4.3	4.4	4.2
f. Other Services	13.2	13.3	13.7

Source: PSA-VI

Industry

Construction grew the fastest. On the average, the industry sector grew by 15.03 percent per year from 2013-2015 with construction showing the fastest growth at 24.87 percent, followed, not very closely, by manufacturing and electricity, gas and water both at 8.17 percent. Construction is also the biggest source of employment in the sector.

Table 9.2 Gross Value Added and Employment Statistics of Industry Sector (at Constant 2000 Prices)

INDUSTRY/SUBSECTORS	GVA AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH (2013-2015)	GVA SHARE TO REGION VI GRDP (%) (2015)	AVERAGE SHARE TO WV EMPLOYMENT (2013-2014)	AVERAGE NO. OF EMPLOYEES
Total Industry	**15.0**	**22.9**	**11.6**	**358,000**
Mining & Quarrying	6.3	2.1	0.3	10,000
Manufacturing	8.2	7.9	5.0	154,000
Construction	24.9	11.8	5.8	181,000
Electricity, Gas and Water	8.2	1.0	0.4	13,000

Source: PSA-VI

Increased private and public spending in infrastructure pushed up the growth of construction in 2015 to a remarkable 46.9 percent from its 2013 level, accounting for more than 50 percent of the industry's output for that year.

More public infrastructure spending induced private investments especially in the IT/BPO and tourism industries. Construction will continue to be a significant growth driver in the region's economy as billions of pesos public infrastructure projects are in the pipeline specifically for irrigation, flood control, and transportation.

Mining and quarrying output is third largest in the country. Mining and quarrying contributed 2.1 percent or PHP6 billion to the region's economy in 2015. Notwithstanding the seemingly small contribution to the regional economy, the region's mining and quarrying produced the third (although a far third) biggest output among the regions, next to Region 4B (PHP39 billion) and CARAGA region (PHP19 billion).

The region's mining and quarrying subsector is heavily dependent on the Semirara Coal mine in Antique, the largest coal mine in the country, and the major supplier of coal to the region's power generators - the Panay Energy Development Corporation and Palm Concepcion Power Corporation. There are small scale mining activities for metallic and non-metallic minerals in the region but their contribution is negligible.

Mining permits granted by the MGB in the region are basically for exploration. Quarrying of construction materials like sand, gravel, boulders, and filling materials, also contributed to the subsector's output, supporting the spike in construction activities of the region.

Manufacturing is second to construction in share to industry GVA, but growth has declined. From 2013 to 2015 the manufacturing subsector was the second biggest contributor to the industry sector. Manufacturing contributed more than PHP24 billion to the region's economy in 2015. Although its share to GRDP has been stable at around 8 percent, its growth rate has dropped significantly from more than 10 percent in 2013-2014 to just 3.4 percent in 2014-2015.

The major manufacturing industries in the region, as identified in the Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan (PDPFP), are agriculture and fishery based. Also, 99 percent are micro, small and home-based industries. Except for sugar and rice mills, there are very few medium and large manufacturing ventures in the region owing to the absence of reliable power supply in the past years.

This is expected to change in the coming years as more roads to areas with economic potentials and power projects are now being implemented in urban centers and across the countryside (see Chapter 19 on Infrastructure).

Aside from the industries identified by the provinces, animal feeds, wood and wood products, which include furniture, are also manufactured in the region. The region is the top producer of abaca in the country. The Philippines being one of the major suppliers of abaca in the world, the abaca industry holds a lot of potential to contribute to the manufacturing industry of the region.

Table 9.3 Major Manufacturing Industries, by Province

PROVINCE	INDUSTRY	PROVINCE	INDUSTRY
AKLAN	• indigenous fibers/crafts • agri/aqua food processing • gifts, housewares and furnishings	GUIMARAS	• food delicacies • fruit preserves • processed nuts
ANTIQUE	• muscovado processing • abaca weaving	ILOILO	• rice processing • sugarcane milling • fish processing • woven products
CAPIZ	• canned fish • oyster sauce • crab meat	NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	•sugarcane milling •rice processing •bio-fuels •gifts, housewares and furnishings

Source: PDPFPs

Need to diversify manufacturing. Western Visayas is a major supplier of live animals like swine, carabao and chicken to the meat industry of the country. As such, the Philippine Development Plan, 2017-2022 has identified processed meat as a priority sector of the region, based on the national industry roadmap localization and consultation conducted by the DTI-BOI. However, there are no major meat processing plants in the region, only home-based meat processing, to date.

The challenge is attracting investments in manufacturing based on the comparative advantages of the region and diversifying the manufacturing sector. There are more than 20 subsectors for manufacturing. They can be categorized into manufacturing of consumer goods, intermediate goods and capital goods.

However, almost all manufacturing in the region involves manufacturing of consumer goods specifically food, wearing apparel and furniture and fixtures. These manufacturing activities are the most basic and provide the least value added. This is evident in the labor productivity statistics of the industry sector.

Low Industry Labor Productivity. Within Region VI in 2015, labor productivity, measured as the ratio of gross domestic product to employment, posted highest for industry at PHP187,739, followed by services at PHP105,124 and agriculture at only PHP51,992. Industry labor productivity grew 22.3 percent over the 2014 level of PHP150,670.

However, among the Visayas regions, this is the lowest industry labor productivity; Region VII's was PHP290,690 and Region VIII's PHP516,836.

Furthermore, according to the Roadmap for Structural Transformation adopted by the government for the manufacturing sector, there is a shifting of focus to the medium-term goals, but the region still has to accomplish the short-run goals which should have been attained by 2014-2017. For the short run, the region should have maintained competitiveness of comparative advantage industries, strengthen emerging industries, and strengthen capacity of existing industries. Medium-run goals (2018-2021) involve shift to high-value added activities, investments in upstream or core sectors, link and integrate manufacturing with agriculture and services industries, and create a manufacturing innovation ecosystem while long-run goals (2022-2025) involve continuing technology upgrading to maintain a globally competitive and innovative manufacturing industry.

Electricity gas and water supply maintains its contribution of one percent every year to the GRDP. Power industry projects are expected to continue coming to the region because of the increasing demand and the potential of the region especially in renewable energy like wind and solar.

Table 9.4 Labor Productivity by Sector, Philippines and Visayas Regions, 2010-2015

REGION AND SECTOR	LABOR PRODUCTIVITY (PHP)					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Philippines	158,222	158,911	167,692	177,098	185,517	196,014
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	55,425	55,420	57,800	59,734	60,908	63,728
Industry	334,418	342,486	353,725	373,769	387,739	404,111
Services	170,183	172,033	180,875	187,988	196,318	204,904
Region VI	76,410	78,581	85,834	88,669	88,273	95,211
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	49,949	53,970	57,130	56,692	50,900	51,992
Industry	115,123	115,112	138,223	148,825	150,670	187,739
Services	88,378	90,404	95,852	98,316	101,626	105,124
Region VII	121,289	125,371	135,996	144,295	147,932	150,228
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	32,314	31,959	32,593	32,268	30,809	31,717
Industry	241,935	243,745	260,879	289,905	296,116	290,690
Services	132,861	139,641	149,472	156,042	158,142	162,153
Region VIII	90,788	89,425	80,982	81,918	140,168	150,555
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	45,624	43,732	40,924	37,3354	52,418	57,432
Industry	409,537	406,367	314,437	334,262	544,360	516,836
Services	66,872	67,365	69,790	68,602	138,280	142,987

Source: PSA

Services

Other Services, Wholesale and Retail Trade have largest share of services GVA and employment generated. The services sector grew at an average of 6.63 percent per year from 2013-2015. It is the biggest contributor to the region's total employment, accounting for more than half of the total.

The other services subsector recorded the highest average annual growth at 8.16 percent over the 2013-2015 periods. In 2015, other services registered 11.4 percent growth from 2014. It is also the biggest source of employment for the sector, contributing almost 18 percent share to Western Visayas total employment in 2013- 2014. Other services include education, health and social work, hotels and restaurants, sewage and refuse disposal, sanitation, logistics-related activities, recreational, and cultural and sporting activities.

Wholesale and retail accounted for the second biggest share to the total regional employment, slightly edging other services in terms of contribution to the growth of the services sector.

Table 9.5 Gross Value Added and Employment Statistics of Services Sector (at Constant 2000 Prices)

INDUSTRY/SUBSECTORS	GVA AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH (2013-2015)	GVA % SHARE TO REGION VI GRDP (2015)	AVERAGE SHARE TO REGION VI EMPLOYMENT (2013-2014)	NO. OF EMPLOYEES
Total Services	6.63	57.5	51.01	1,580,000
Transport, Storage & Communication	7.13	11.43	7.29	226,000
Wholesale and Retail Trade and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles, Personal and Household Goods				530,000
Financial Intermediation	6.00	13.53	17.11	30,000
Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities	5.20	7.57	2.27	70,000
Public Administration & Defense; Compulsory Social Security	4.03	4.3	5.42	168,000
Other Services	8.16	13.4	17.92	555,000

Source: PSA-VI

Transport, storage & communication subsector was the third biggest contributor to the services sector at almost 12 percent from 2013 to 2015. Its growth rate slowed down to 7 percent in 2015 from 8.9 percent in 2013.

This subsector, however, is expected to rapidly grow especially with proposed and pipelined improvements in airports and sea ports to cater to more flights and Ro-Ro vessel trips as well as development of new tourist destinations in the region. Infrastructure challenges are discussed further in Chapter 19 and challenges on tourism in Chapter 10.

IT/BPO has great potential for growth. The share of real estate, renting, and business activities was steady at an average of more than 7 percent over the 2013 to 2015 period. Although its growth was likewise stable over the years, it was relatively lower compared to the other services subsectors and to expectation. The business process outsourcing (BPO), which is classified under this subsector, employed about 20,000 or 29 percent of the subsector's total of 70,500. According to the Iloilo Federation for Information technology (IFIT), there were 46 IT/BPO companies in the region in 2015. It has great potential for growth with more private investments being infused to cater to the demand of the industry. Currently, there are seventeen operating Information Technology Parks/ Centers accredited by PEZA in Iloilo City and more are expected in the coming years. There are also three IT centers being developed and one IT park in the region. Excluded from the list are those not registered with PEZA.

The main challenge of this subsector is how to improve the growth of the IT-enabled industry and to expand economic opportunities and increase the potential income for the region's work force. With increased demand from millennials who will likely constitute the main workforce, the IT/BPO industry will also open up opportunities in food and beverage, passenger transport, travel and tourism, recreation and entertainment, retail trade, consumer durables, among others.

Table 9.6 Existing and Proposed IT Parks/Centers

NAME OF ECONOMIC ZONE	LOCATION	LAND AREA (HA)	BUILDING FLOOR AREA (SQ.M.)	NATURE OF ACTIVITY	CAPITALIZATION (PHP MILLION)
A. Operational					
Amigo Mall	Corner Iznart - Delgado Streets, Iloilo City	0.94	40,382	IT Center	
Cornerstone Business Center	Barangay San Rafael, Mandurriao, Iloilo City	0.24	7,680	IT Center	
				TEZ	
Iloilo Commercial Development Corp. Building	Barangay North San Jose, Iloilo City	0.14	92,830	IT Center	
Iloilo Technohub	Old Airport, Iloilo City	54.47		IT Park	
SMCI IT Center	Benigno Aquino Ave., Iloilo City	17.5	101,735.57	IT Center	
Ayala North Point TechnoHub	Brgy. Zone 15, Talisay City	12.95	-	IT Park	65.00
Lopue's South Square IT Park	Araneta Street, Barangay Tangub, Bacolod City	5.39		IT Park	448.00
Lopue's East I. T. Center	Burgos Street coner Hilado National Highway, Bacolod City	1.00	20,000.0000	IT Center	-
Luxur Plaza ITFormation Centre	46 Lizares Avenue, Bacolod City	1.74	15,326.0000	IT Center	-
Monfort Information Technology Building	22nd Street, Lacson, Bacolod City	0.94	2,284.0000	IT Center	-
Negros First Cybercentre	Barangay 38, Bacolod City	1.52	18,979.0000	IT Center	500.00
Robinsons Cybergate Center	Araneta Street, Singcang, Bacolod City	1.00	-	IT Center	-
St. Francis IT Centre	Araneta Street, Singcang, Bacolod City	0.32	5,618.0000	IT Center	-
The Block IT Park	Villamonte Bacolod City	1.17	-	IT Park	54.00
Transcom Center Bacolod	Araneta Street, Barangay Tangub, Bacolod City	5.39	5,542.0000	IT Center	100.00
Villa Angela Techno Park	Don Carlos Hilado Avenue, Bacolod City	4.26	-	IT Park	155.50
B. For development					
Pueblo de Panay Technopark	Roxas City, Capiz	7.44		IT Park	
GST Iloilo Corporate Center	Quezon Street, Iloilo City	0.14	5,028.88	IT Center	21.79
Plazuela de Iloilo	Barangay San Rafael, Iloilo City	1.25	8,528	IT Center	198.00
Robinsons Place Iloilo	Ledesma Street, Iloilo City	3.24	78,158.00	IT Center	728.00

Source: www.peza.gov.ph

Additional support, especially on the improvement of infrastructure and utilities, is needed to attract more foreign direct investments. The region must prepare its graduates to match the requirements of the industry. Increased investments in this industry will open up myriad of economic opportunities especially for office and accommodation that would require support from construction, renting, maintenance, electricity and water.

Fast growth of other services fueled by high performance of tourism. The growth of this subsector can be attributed to the impressive performance of the tourism industry in the region. Tourist arrivals increased from 2.03 million in 2009 to almost 5 million in 2015. From PHP37.42 billion recorded in 2009, tourist receipts increased to PHP102.27 billion in 2015, which are all above the plan targets. Employment generated by the tourism industry reached 33,000 direct and 195,068 indirect employment in 2015.

Among the factors that contributed to high employment rate in tourism were the massive construction of infrastructure supporting the tourism sector; the opening of tourism-related businesses to cater to the demand for accommodations, transportation, local food delicacies, and other processed food items, interesting souvenir items, wellness and spa services, cargo and logistics ventures, utilities, other services, etc. The positive developments in the tourism industry encouraged more investments in the region amounting to PHP98.01 billion, implemented by government and private businesses in the past three years. There are two operating tourism economic zones registered with PEZA - Iloilo Business Park in Iloilo city and Boracay Eco-Village Resort in Boracay Island. A detailed discussion on the performance of the tourism industry is discussed in Chapter 10 – Developing more tourism options.

Despite the region's impressive economic growth, it still needs to address the following challenges in order to expand and take advantage of opportunities in the coming years:

Low investments and diversification in manufacturing. While manufacturing was the second largest contributor to the industry output of the region, the performance of this industry subsector is low compared to that of Region VII and VIII as well as other regions in Luzon and Mindanao. There is not even one PEZA manufacturing economic zone in the region. The challenge is how to attract more investments and diversify the manufacturing sector to cover other potential industries such as jewelry-making, marine products processing, and custom-building of farm machineries, and even ship-building.

Table 9.7 Comparative Costs of Electricity, Water and Land in Central Business Districts of Selected Cities in Visayas and Mindanao

CITY	ELECTRICITY (PHP/KILOWATT)		WATER (PHP/CU. METER)		COST OF LAND (PHP/SQ. METER)
	COMMERCIAL	INDUSTRIAL	COMMERCIAL	INDUSTRIAL	
Iloilo	8.25	8.29	35.00	35.00	21,000.00
Cagayan de Oro	6.66	5.94	61.10	61.1	12,500.00
Cebu	10.52	8.02	44.65	26.38	20,000.00
Davao	8.88	7.66	35.98	64.4	10,000.00

Source: CMCI 2016 rankings

The region will endeavor to accomplish the short-run goals for the manufacturing subsector, especially on improving the competitiveness of the local manufacturing industries, and work towards accomplishing the medium-term goals. The subsector should be able to graduate from consumer goods into more intermediate and capital goods production in order to achieve higher labor productivity.

Heavy reliance on coal mining. Coal is the only major mining resource of the region and also the region's major export. With heavy reliance in the coal industry, any disruption in the operation of the Semirara Coal Mining Corporation can have a significant impact on the performance of the mining and quarrying subsector. There is a need to invite investors to venture to other mineral products such as gems and stone crafts.

High cost of doing business. The cost of doing business in the region, which could be measured in terms of the price of basic utilities like power and water, is relatively high compared to other regions in the country. The average cost of electricity in the region as of 2017 is PHP11.6270 per kilowatt hour, higher than that of NCR, where MERALCO rate is much lower at PHP7.4176 per kilowatt hour (kuryente.org,ph).

In terms of water rate, the average minimum charge in the region is PHP194.06 per 10 cubic meters in 2015. In Region XI the average minimum charge is PHP183.98 and only PHP144.98 in Region VII. For commercial use, the minimum charge per 30 cubic meters in the region is PHP666.62 while it is only PHP610.82 in Region XI and PHP509.05 in Region VII (Source: LWUA Website).

Comparing the costs of electricity, water, and land in Iloilo City with selected cities outside NCR that ranked higher than Iloilo City in the Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI) 2016 rankings, data showed that those cities generally have lower costs of doing business because of cheaper charges for basic utilities and land in their central business districts.

Aside from high cost of utilities, the cumbersome regulatory or licensing requirements and procedures also contribute to the cost of doing business. Business registration and licensing in some municipalities still need to be streamlined. Requirements for permits from national and local governments (e.g. numerous signatures needed to put up a business) among others, need to be drastically cut (see also Chapter 5 on Ensuring People-Centered, Clean and Efficient Governance).

In terms of competitiveness in attracting investments, many of the LGUs of the region ranked low compared to their counterparts in other regions. The 2016 CMCI rankings show four provinces of the region in the bottom one third of the provincial rankings. Aklan is the only province in the upper 1/3 of the ranking being in the 8th place among the 74 provinces in the country.

Weak LGU capacity for institutionalizing investment promotion. Many LGUs do not have the capacity to set up and manage their investment promotion activities. One of the measures used by CMCI for government efficiency or the quality and reliability of government services and support for effective and sustainable productive expansion is the establishment of an investment promotion unit, which is lacking in many of the LGUs in the region.

Recognizing this weakness of the LGUs in investment promotion, the DILG called for the creation of Local Economic and Investment Promotion Officers (LEIPO) in 2010 through Memorandum Circular 2010-113. In 2014, it called for the creation of the Local Economic Development and Investment Promotion (LEDIP) Team through Memo Circular 2014-523.

The main function of the LEDIP Team is to identify key opportunities and issues facing local businesses and to advocate and promote policies and practices that encourage investments and create employment. The LEDIP is expected to provide advice and guide the LGU on appropriate strategies, programs and projects to develop the local economy. However, not all LGUs have complied with the circulars because of budgetary and personnel constraints.

As of 2015, only 3 provinces and 14 municipalities in the region have officially designated or appointed their LEIPOs. In all cases, the appointed LEIPOs are designated and have no plantilla positions.

The weakness of the LGUs in the region in institutionalizing investment promotion is brought about by their incapacity to generate other sources of revenue resulting in high dependency on the internal revenue allotment (IRA). The 2015 BLGF data showed that, on the average, the provinces of the region are 80 percent IRA-dependent while the municipalities are 88 percent IRA-dependent.

On the average, the three cities in Panay island are 64 percent IRA-dependent with Iloilo City being the least dependent at 38 percent, while Passi and Roxas cities are highly dependent at 85 percent and 69 percent, respectively. In Negros Occidental, all 13 cities are on average 84 percent dependent. Bacolod city is the least dependent on IRA at 55 percent.

On the average, the three cities in Panay island are 64 percent IRA-dependent with Iloilo City being the least dependent at 38 percent, while Passi and Roxas cities are highly dependent at 85 percent and 69 percent, respectively. In Negros Occidental, all 13 cities are on average 84 percent dependent. Bacolod city is the least dependent on IRA at 55 percent.

Lack of a unified and aggressive investment promotion and marketing for the region's agri-industrial products and services. There is a need for a sector- and multi-stakeholder cooperation and coordination to develop a unified and aggressive investment promotion and marketing of the region's agri-industrial products and services. Currently, the NGAs, LGUs and the private sector have their own respective plans, programs and activities that are not well coordinated towards a single regional development goal for the region's agri-industrial products and services, resulting in duplication of efforts and inefficient use of resources.

Efforts to promote/develop clusters of the region's agri-industrial products and services through the value chain approach have been slow and uncoordinated. There is a need for regular consultations and feed backing among the various government and private sector groups to come up with industry cluster roadmaps that will serve as blueprints for enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of the region's priority products and services.

Inadequate statistics on industry and services, including those for MSMEs. Data and statistics on industry and services need to be comprehensive and updated, especially at the regional and sub-regional levels. These information are essential in tracking the performance of the sectors and in formulating strategic plans. Very little effort has been done to process information from the local business permits issued by LGUs which could be a rich source of information even for employment and investments.

Mismatch between technical skills and human capital requirements. Jobs and skills mismatch contribute to the slow absorption of available labor, and often triggers the out-migration of technically-skilled and educated young people. Industry accounted for 11.3 percent of total employment from 2012 to 2014, with manufacturing absorbing an average of 5 percent of its total. On the other hand, services accounted for 51 of total employment from 2012 to 2014 with wholesale and retail trade accounting for 17.2 percent of the total. (See also Chapter 11 – Enhancing human capital and access to social services).

Strategic Framework

In the next six years the industry and services sectors will focus on expanding economic opportunities in industry and services and increasing access to economic opportunities in industry and services for MSMEs, cooperative and OFs.

Regional agencies will coordinate closely with other relevant agencies in ensuring a more synchronized and complementary implementation of policies and establishing the necessary support measures that will address the most binding obstacles to the entry and growth of domestic and international firms. A policy framework aimed at encouraging the development of the private sector along the lines of the regions' comparative advantage will be created.

Value and supply chain linkages will be strengthened through commodity roadmaps to be prepared by concerned agencies under the oversight of the RDC and its committees. Marketing and promotion of regional investment and trade potentials will be intensified; local investments and incentives codes will be updated. In particular, the region will encourage investments to diversify the manufacturing sector. The region has potential for jewelry-making, marine products processing, and custom-building of farm machineries, ship building as well as processing of other mineral products like gems, stone crafts, limestone for agriculture and construction use, and further processing of agriculture products, etc.

Competitivenes innovativeness and resilience will be enhanced with the revitalization of manufacturing, strengthening the IT/BPO industry, strengthening tourism, ensuring compliance with new business permits and licensing systems standards (BPLS). Local processes will further be streamlined to increase the ease in doing business. Protocols and standard procedures for entertaining investors will be institutionalized; LGUs' participation in

CMCI surveys will be encouraged; the time for processing of business permits will be shortened; documentary requirements will be rationalized; and access to technology and innovation will be improved.

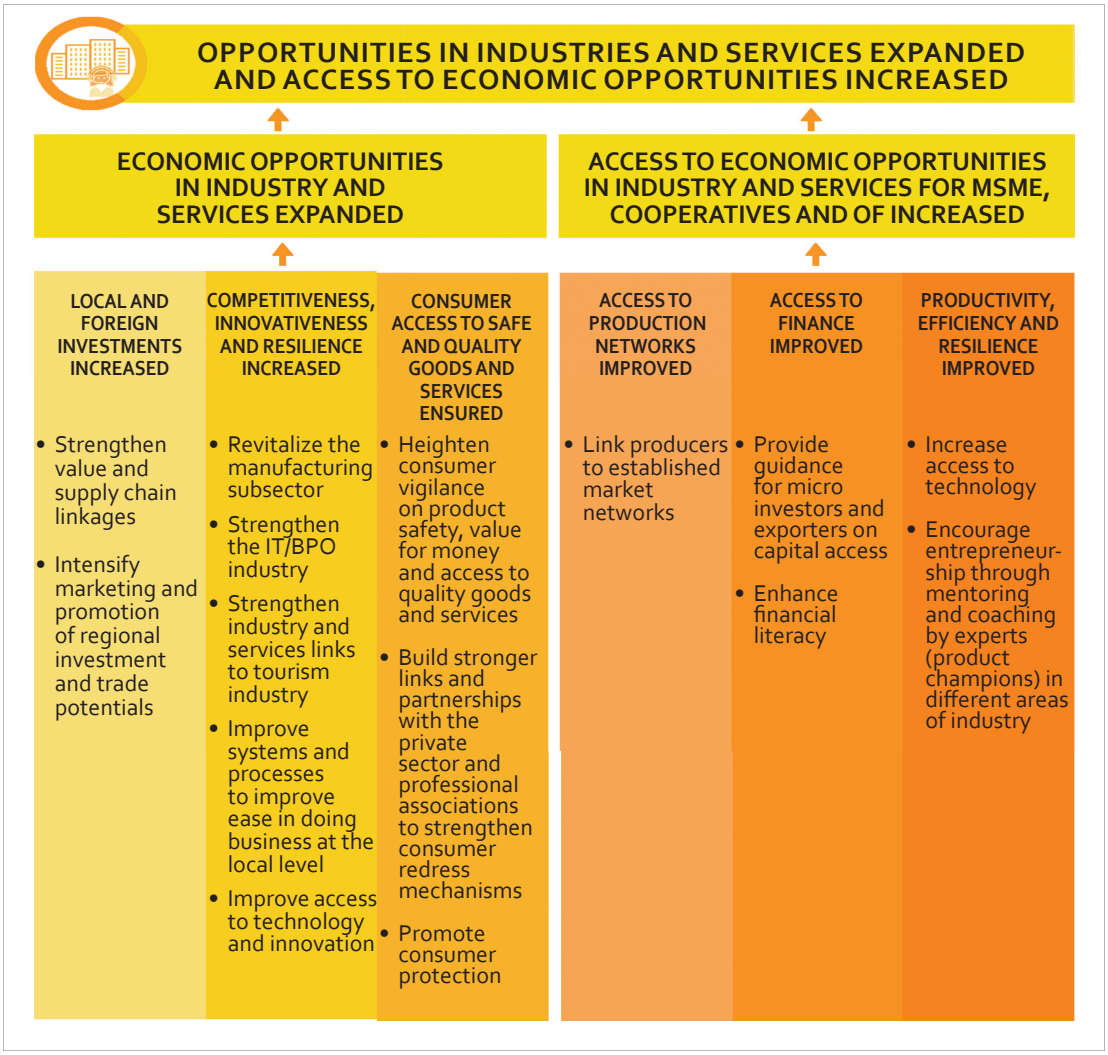
Consumer access to safe and quality goods and services will be ensured through heightened consumer vigilance on product safety, value for money and access to quality goods and services, building stronger linkages and partnerships with private sectors and professional associations to strengthen consumer redress mechanisms, and promotion of consumer protection.

Access to production networks will be improved by linking producers to established market networks through e-commerce and innovative market promotion strategies like the "Weekend Tienda."

Access to finance will be improved by providing guidance for micro investors and exporters on capital access and by enhancing financial literacy. Productivity, efficiency, and resilience will be improved through increased access to technology, implementation of MSMEs Development Plan, and encouraging entrepreneurship through mentoring by experts (product champions) in different areas of industry.

Strategies

Figure 9.1 Strategic Framework to Expand and Develop Opportunities in Industry and Services, 2017-2022



Targets

By 2022, the following targets should have been achieved:

- Regional industry cluster roadmap crafted for mango, natural fibers, native chicken, aquaculture, and muscovado (5 priority commodities)
- GVA growth of Industry sustained within 16.3 - 18.5 percent
- GVA growth of Services sustained within 7.9 – 8.2 percent
- Manufacturing GVA as proportion of GRDP increased from 7.9 % in 2015 to 8.5 percent
- Employment generated from Industry increased annually by 1 percent from 378,000 in 2014
- Employment generated from the Services sector increased annually by 10 percent from 1.6 million in 2014
- Manufacturing employment as proportion of total employment increased from 5 percent in 2015 to 10 percent
- Increase in investments by an annual average of 5% from Php 1.347 billion in 2016
- Number of new business ventures registered increased by 10% per year from 1,376 in 2016
- Number of barangay micro business enterprises registered increased from 101 in 2016 to 300
- LEDIPs organized in all the provinces, cities, capital towns, and urban municipalities
- Level of consumer awareness increased from 55% in 2015 to 90%

Outcome 1 - Economic opportunities in Industry and Services expanded

Outcome 1.1 - Local and foreign investments increased

Strengthen value and supply chain linkages. Industry clustering will be used as a mechanism to boost the competitiveness of the region's priority commodities. This will bring about a more comprehensive identification of forward and backward investment linkages that will support these commodities and will result in a more concerted effort among the stakeholders.

Industry roadmaps will be prepared for the top five priority commodities of the region which will include: mango, native chicken, natural fibers, aquaculture, and sugarcane. Natural fibers include abaca, piña, silk, raffia, and bariw, while aquaculture covers bangus, snapper, grouper, seaweeds, shellfish/mussels, shrimps, prawns, crabs. The industry cluster roadmap for sugarcane will focus on the processing and further value-adding on muscovado sugar but will also take into consideration the priorities identified in the national Sugarcane Roadmap 2020.

The road maps will guide national government agencies, local government units and the private investors on the development and promotion of the top priority commodities. Local government units will also support the road maps with measures that will ensure the increase in production and the development of related industries.

Priorities of LGUs will be aligned to harmonize their programs, projects and activities to support the priority industries and commodities. Inter-agency work will be initiated to plan and implement value chain development and strategize to reverse the trend in declining number of farmers, and to make agribusiness an attractive investment opportunity and occupation.

Links between big business and small community enterprises will be forged. Strong cooperatives will be mainstreamed in the value chain to consolidate the quantity and quality of supplies required by institutional buyers and to allow negotiating. Value-adding activities shall be promoted and supported for all of the priority commodities except for rice, prawn, shrimp, crabs, grouper, snapper and other marine products which are preferably sold raw.

For services, the region will take advantage of opportunities in IT-BPM (information technology- business process management), transport and logistics, support to tourism, and construction.

Intensify marketing and promotion of regional investment and trade potentials. In line with the region's industry and services clusters roadmap, a regional product brand shall be defined and established. Partnership with the private sector in pushing for more investments in the region shall also be enhanced. Development and production of promotional collaterals and use of social media, as well as establishment of product display in strategic areas around the country will also be done such as the "Weekend Tienda" organized through the coordination of government and private sectors.

Local government units will be encouraged to update their local investment and incentives code to entice investments in the region. Local land use plans will also be updated to delineate specific zones where commercial and industrial investments can be put up.

The Philippines has been recognized to have the potential to become a major hub for logistics service providers, the size of the country's contract logistics market expected to hit PHP71.41 billion in 2020 (Transport Intelligence, 2015). The region will also explore its potential in becoming a transport and logistics hub for the country. Taking advantage of its central location and easy access to the rich markets in Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, Western Visayas could position itself as a major hub for logistics where it will offer the shortest Ro-Ro route from north to south of the Philippine archipelago.

Western Visayas has a network of 29 seaports that link to major growth centers in the country. The proposed bridges to link Panay Island to Guimaras Island and to Negros Island would further enhance connectivity outside the region. Moreover, it has a growing economy and a thriving consumer market driven by its growing middle class, remittances and the offshoring of back-office functions by many knowledge and financial institutions. The gradual integration of the ASEAN Economic Community, which offers a huge opportunity for the country to boost regional trade, is an opportunity for transport and logistics that the region should take advantage of.

Outcome 1.2 - Competitiveness, innovativeness and resilience increased

Revitalize the manufacturing subsector. Revitalization of the manufacturing sub-sector is among the major development agenda of the region. The region offers an ideal setting for processing or manufacturing ventures given its ideal location at the heart of the Philippine archipelago. The locational advantage of the region is enhanced by the presence of inter-modal transport facilities and infrastructure, availability of manpower and land among other requirements. It also has a pool of manpower ready for

employment. The region's connection to the Luzon and Visayas grids plus the presence of renewable energy companies assures reliable energy power throughout the year.

The strategies for manufacturing are to market the region's potential, and to identify and develop new industrial estates and agri-industrial economic zones through public-private partnerships. LGUs will be enjoined to identify areas suited for manufacturing activities in their land use plans to ensure available areas for investment in manufacturing. Private sector identified sites will be supported by the government in terms of incentives and infrastructure.

Industry clusters such as agri-business (food and resource-based processing-cacao, coffee, mangoes, bananas, coconut, bamboo, fruits and nuts), furniture and garments (houseware and wearables) can help develop backward and forward ***l***inkages and potential investments that can generate more employment. The region being a major supplier of live animals like swine, cattle, and chicken to the meat industry of the country, it will endeavor to attract investors to put up meat processing plants right in the region.

Ship- and boat-building will also be explored. The region, with its number of bays and coves that provide good anchorage could take advantage of the fact that the Philippines is the fourth largest shipbuilder in the world. Already, many established shipyards in the country are building more ships of larger tonnage capacities like bulk carriers, container ships and passenger ferries. The region, aside from preparing a suitable area for shipyard and shipbuilding, could work towards providing the necessary manpower requirements for shipbuilding and ship repair such as certified welders, engineers and architects. Filipino workers are trainable for the skills that would fit shipbuilders' requirements; hence, they can be sourced within the city or municipality where shipyards could be located.

Strengthen the IT/BPO industry. The region will provide support for human resources development, capacity-building and skills enhancement programs. It will establish tie-ups with higher education institutions to meet the human resource qualifications of the fast-growing IT/BPO industry. The business environment will be improved by addressing high cost of power and water, slow internet speed, and inadequate infrastructure. Also, improving the ease of doing business will strengthen the IT/BPO industry in the region.

Strengthen industry and services links to tourism industry. Aside from developing other tourism options, the region will link tourism development to the agriculture and rural sector, e.g., agri-tourism, organic farming, local culinary tourism, ecotourism. Links with MSMEs will be strengthened especially in furniture and garments, gifts, décor and houseware, product and process demo-experience centers.

For the services sector, links with arts and entertainment, creative industries, food and accommodation, tour guiding and training, transport and travel services, among others, will be strengthened. For a detailed discussion on the Tourism industry, please refer to Chapter 10.

Improve systems and processes to improve ease in doing business at the local level. Compliance to new business permits and licensing systems standards (BPLS) and other processes that will further ease in doing business will be ensured. New BPLS are being rolled out by DILG and DTI that should further decrease the time of granting business licenses by LGUs from the current 5 to 10 days for new registrants to 1 to 2 days, and 5 days or less for renewals to 1 day or less.

The region will also ensure the implementation of the Integrated Business Registry System (IBRS) which also reduces the number of steps and days in starting a business by generating SEC Registration Number, Tax Identification Number and Employers Registration Number for each of the three social agencies (SSS, HDMF or the Pag-IBIG Fund, and PhilHealth) in just one application. The Negosyo Centers (NCs) lodged in the DTI Offices and LGUs will also facilitate business name registration and issuance of Barangay Micro Business Enterprise (BMBE) Certificate of Authority (CA). Compliance with BMBE Law will be closely monitored, especially on registration of MSMEs to ensure that benefits provided by the law are availed of.

Protocols for entertaining investors will be put in place to guide LGUs on how to entertain potential investors and make better representation of the investment potentials of their locality. Each city or municipality will be encouraged to establish a dedicated office that will cater to the queries of private investors.

The RDC will enjoin the LGUs to comply with the CMCI requirements and participate in its annual survey. The CMCI could be a basis for determining which areas need further improvement in terms of economic dynamism, governance efficiency, and infrastructure development which shall guide the NGAs in coordinating and facilitating the right policies and necessary support measures. The CMCI will also guide the LGUs to pass local legislations that will improve the various processes at their level.The steps and time in processing of backroom business permit requirements will be rationalized. Rationalization of backroom processes such as those involved in acquiring construction permits like fire safety evaluation clearance etc. shall improve the ease of doing business and will entice investors.

Improve access to technology and innovation. Access to technology and innovation will be improved through appropriate incentives and mechanisms such as common or shared service facilities and laboratories (for quality testing etc.) and R&D facilities (incubation and innovation hubs), clustering, and industry-academe linkages for researches, new product development and applied technology for indigenous products and raw materials, grants, loans, innovation vouchers, and counterpart funding to innovative firms, and technical assistance to promote long-term research collaboration between universities and business.

National government agencies will also intensify conduct of skills and productivity trainings. (Also discussed in Chapter 14 Advancing Science, Technology and Innovation)

Outcome 1.3 - Consumer access to safe and quality goods and services ensured

Heighten consumer vigilance on product safety, value for money and access to quality goods and services. Quality consciousness among consumers will be promoted at the same time enforcing strict compliance with technical regulations by manufacturers and suppliers. Awareness on consumer rights will be increased through intensified advocacy and education campaigns, particularly in the secondary and tertiary schools. Through the use of the social networking sites and multimedia outlets, campaigns on value for money, safety, and quality of goods and services will be undertaken.

Build stronger links and partnerships with the private sector and professional associations to strengthen consumer redress mechanisms. Redress mechanisms for speedy resolution of consumer complaints will be made available through partnership with professional associations,

and advocacies for consumer concerns are channeled through reputable consumer organizations in all provinces.

Promote consumer protection. Standards and regulations will be enforced to protect and empower consumers against unfair trade practices. Policies against fraudulent business schemes will be strengthened, and sanctions against erring business establishments will be strictly enforced.

Outcome 2 - Access to economic opportunities in Industry and Services for MSMEs, cooperatives and OFs increased

Outcome 2.1 - Access to production networks improved

Link producers to established market networks. Promotion of e-commerce will be intensified through the conduct of trainings on Business to Business (B2B), Business to Consumer (B2C) and Business to Government (B2G). MSMEs will be encouraged to adopt online marketing, taking the cue from information, e.g. Huffington Post, that an increasing number of Filipinos rely on information from social media channels which strongly influence their purchase decisions. Many buyers believe that those with websites are more reliable than those without online presence

Market promotion will include participation in local and international fairs by MSMEs trained in product costing, buyer negotiation, and designs. To sustain market position and competitiveness of products, MSMEs will be assisted in securing License to Operate (LTOs) from the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) and registration with the Intellectual Property Office (IPOPHIL). Continuous consulting on product packaging and design will also be provided.

The region will prepare its MSMEs to enable them to access ASEAN markets. Local producers of furniture, garments, gifts, décor, housewares will be supported as they market quality products to tourist accommodations and souvenir markets. Region-made products will be branded to set the stage for marketing Region VI products to domestic markets and eventually to international markets. Eligibility for halal-branding of region-made products will be pursued to increase chances of access to the ASEAN and middle-east markets. MSMEs will be encouraged to apply for ISO certification. The academe-industry-government linkages will be utilized for human resource development in the creative industries.

DA, BFAR, DTI, DOST, DENR and DOLE, in close collaboration with LGUs will assist MSMEs to increase efficiency and productivity, through mentoring on business operations and labor-management relations, promoting innovation and upgraded technology, increasing energy efficiency, and providing working capital assistance. Fab-labs and IT- technology incubator shall be established in strategic areas of the region to encourage technopreneurs.

A website will be established where regional products can be displayed and advertised.

Outcome 2.2 - Access to finance improved

Provide guidance for micro investors and exporters on capital access. The entry of MSMEs in the formal sector will be facilitated with NGAs and LGUs collaborating to streamline their business permits and licensing procedures. Shared service facilities and Negosyo centers will be set up in cities and municipalities to capacitate MSMEs in the countryside. The LEIPOs will be trained on investment promotion, to include building capabilities on data analysis, project study and business plan preparation. Linkages will also be established with government financing institutions and other financial intermediaries for fund sourcing.

Enhance financial literacy. Financial literacy trainings will be organized for MSMEs, cooperatives, and OFs and their families to help them understand and access financial products, promote savings and investment, harness remittances for enterprise and employment development.

Outcome 2.3 - Productivity, efficiency, and resilience improved

Increase access to technology. Establish or expand the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program and Shared Service Facilities in the region. The upgrade of existing testing, calibration, and quality assurance services will broaden the access of MSMEs to innovative, appropriate, and cost-effective technologies. The research/academe community and business groups will come together to accelerate product and packaging research and development for commercialization to create and sell region-brand goods and services.

The scope of these linkages will be expanded to include building a culture of innovation in the region. DICT, DOST and DTI will engage with business chambers, HEIs/SUCs and LGUs on promoting creation of innovation in the existing FabLabs and technology incubation centers. Grants, loans and counterpart funding will be provided to innovative firms; technical assistance will be extended to promote long-term research collaboration between universities and businesses.

Encourage entrepreneurship through mentoring and coaching by experts (product champions) in different areas of industry. Industry champions and experts are needed to share knowledge on tested and commercially viable technologies, product designs, and to act as big brothers to micro enterprises. Programs on mentorship and coaching implemented by the DTI through the Negosyo Centers are aimed at improving the capability of MSMEs in managing their businesses.

Accredited mentors from other provinces are hired to render consulting services for a given period. A roster of experts and consultants will be made available as a resource for government in capability building activities for entrepreneurs. A directory of trainers and consultants will be regularly updated.

Legislative Agenda

Table 9.8 Legislative Agenda to Expand and Develop Opportunities in Industry and Services, 2017-2022

PROPOSED LEGISLATION	RATIONALE
Passage of the Ease of doing business act	Enhance market competition through improving ease of doing business. This legislation will sustain the intention of Project Repeal to review existing policies, statutes, and regulations, and eventually repeal unnecessary issuances.
Amend the Retail Trade Liberalization Act	Align guidelines for foreign investments with the Foreign Investment Act and lower capital requirements for foreign enterprises and harmonize with those observed in Asian countries.
Repeal or amend the Flag Law (Commonwealth Act 138)	Create a level playing field for foreign firms when bidding in government procurement. Adopt and enforce open access in various segments of the telecommunications market (e.g., backhaul and backbone facilities) on a non-discriminatory basis and publish prices in order to introduce effective competition in the broadband or telecom market.
Set up a National Quality Infrastructure system.	Integrate and coordinate standardization, metrology, testing analysis, quality management, certification, and accreditation.
Amend the Consumer Act	Increase protection of consumers and harmonize existing law with current and future technological advancements.
Institutionalize the industry cluster approach	Pursue local economic development through inter-local cooperation among LGUs and strengthen people participation in community development.
Inclusive Business Bill	Develop a national strategy for the promotion of inclusive businesses to be implemented by the Inclusive Business Center. This also provides policies for accreditation, support, and incentives.
Social Enterprise Bill	Provide a framework for the planning and implementation of a National Poverty Reduction through Social Entrepreneurship Program. This also promotes social enterprises as a tool in the government's poverty reduction program.

10 Developing and Expanding Opportunities in Tourism

Chapter 10

Developing and Expanding Opportunities in Tourism

Tourism is a major industry of Western Visayas and will continue to be a catalyst for improving the region's natural attractions, innovating on local products and souvenirs, and identifying other tourism-related enterprises and services that will bring about more revenues and jobs. This chapter presents the thrusts and priorities to make Western Visayas a top preferred travel destination of both domestic and foreign visitors.

Assessment and Challenges

Tourist arrivals in the region increased from 2.03 million in 2009 to 4.63 million in 2015. The increasing trend in tourist arrivals in the region over the years can be attributed to the following specific and purposive actions:

- Rolling out of "Experience Western Visayas First" consisting of several marketing and promotional activities;
- The development of various combinations of and options for tour experiences to cater to various types of tourists and to encourage more visits in less popular but equally exciting tourism destinations;
- Hosting of a "Travel Media and Travel Agents forum for Boracay Island, Iloilo City and Bacolod City" where valuable information about Western Visayas were provided to travel agents outside the region;
- Aggressive campaign among the operators of cruise ships to include Western Visayas in their itineraries;
- Securing the President's approval to celebrate the 117th Philippine Independence Day and the vin d' honneur in Iloilo;
- Hosting the APEC 2015 senior officials and ministers' meetings in Bacolod City, Boracay Island and Iloilo City.

Tourism revenues generated annually continued to increase in the past three years. From PHP37.42 billion recorded in 2009, tourist receipts increased to PHP102.27 billion in 2015, which are all above the targets. The major factors that helped in the attainment of these targets are the diversity and magnitude of tourist arrivals and the increasing length of stay in the region.

Employment generated by the tourism industry in the past three years was very remarkable. In 2015 alone, the tourism sector created 33,000 direct and 195,068 indirect employment. Among the factors that contributed to high employment rate in tourism were the massive construction of infrastructure supportive of the tourism sector; the opening of tourism-related businesses to cater to the demand for accommodations, transportation, local food delicacies and other processed food items, interesting souvenir items, wellness and spa services, cargo and logistics ventures, utilities, other services, etc.

The positive developments in the tourism industry encouraged more investments in the region amounting to P98.01 billion implemented by the government and private businesses in the past three years.

In 2015, nine cruise ships with 11,040 passengers and 4,604 crew visited Boracay Island, the region's major tourist destination. Region VI, in particular Boracay is now one of the country's major port destinations of cruise ships.

Collaborative efforts and cooperation among the regional office of the Department of Tourism, the six (6) provinces, and two (2) highly-urbanized cities of Western Visayas made possible the training of 840 tourism personnel and 12,261 frontline service providers over the past three years.

Table 10.1 Tourist Arrivals, Revenues, Employment and Investments Generated

INDICATORS	BASELINE		2013		2014		2015	
	YEAR	VALUE	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL
Number of tourist arrivals increased (in million)	2009	2.03	3.19	3.56	3.67	3.95	4.22	4.63
Tourist revenues increased (in billion pesos)	2009	37.42	73.01	78.94	83.96	87.72	89.25	102.27
Number of employment from tourism-oriented establishments generated • Direct employment • Indirect employment	 2012 2012	 10,592 106,250	 12,500 125,000	 14,875 147,500	 12,500 125,000	 22,313 169,625	 12,500 125,000	 33,469 195,068
Government and private sector investments generated (in billion pesos)	2012	21.25	25	25.08	28.75	33.92	33.06	39.01

Source: DOT-VI

While Western Visayas is one of the top tourist destinations in the country, there are still some challenges that must be addressed to maximize its potentials. Among these challenges are:

- Tourism potentials in ecotourism, agri-tourism, health and wellness, marine/ fishery destinations, etc. are not yet fully explored.
- Inadequate local capacities to provide support services such as comfort rooms, rest areas, and pasalubong stops in strategic places
- Inadequate and poor maintenance of signages along national highways, such as, welcome arcs and directional signs towards tourism destinations, rest areas, restaurants, etc.
- Undermanned staff of regional and LGU tourism offices.
- Lack of experienced and multi-lingual tour guides particularly those conversant with local history, culture and and heritage.

- Lack or absence of support facilities for persons with disabilities and other people with special needs in unaccredited establishments.

- Lack of proper documentation, inventory, or cataloguing of museum pieces and artifacts, built heritage and traditional arts and crafts, as well as, indigenous music and literature, among others.

- Inadequacy of safety and security coordination measures among interisland destinations and establishments, given the region's geography and location in the country.

- Prevailing threats of terrorism especially in island destinations and in rural areas in the mainland.

Strategic Framework

The goal of the tourism sector is to make the region a top destination of both domestic and foreign visitors. The region will develop more and varied natural as well as cultural destination areas and activities. The quality of tourist experiences will be enhanced by improving facilities and services, including safety in the sites and while traveling. Cultural tourism will also be promoted and sustained by cultivating appreciation by the residents of their own cultural legacy and historical past. Appreciation of culture and heritage will moreover, facilitate and enable the involvement or participation of the population in the local tourism programs and projects and in the overall tourism development effort.

Aside from Boracay Island, expected to become major tourist destinations in the next few years are the Isla de Gigantes and Sicogon Island in Northern Iloilo, Guimaras Island, the highlands of Antique, and the caves of Capiz, the development of which will be spearheaded by the local government units and the private sector with guidance from experts. Other tourism areas or destinations that will be developed and promoted in the provinces in the next six years are found in Table 10.2.

To facilitate the development of identified priority tourism areas in the different provinces, the government is going to provide the much needed infrastructure and technical support as outlined in Table 10.2.

Efforts will be exerted towards the establishment or putting up of directional signs in different languages to ensure ease in finding the attractions.

Cultural and convention centers, museums, and infrastructure support facilities in the cities of Iloilo, Bacolod, and other urban centers in the region will be established or upgraded to highlight their role and function as top meetings, incentives, conferences, exhibitions (MICE) destinations in the country as well as centers of culture and heritage.

Figure 10.1 Strategic Framework to Develop and Expand Opportunities in Tourism, 2017-2022

Table 10.2 Proposed Tourism Destination Areas for Development

PROVINCE	PROPOSED TOURISM AREAS	SUPPORT NEEDED FROM THE CONCERNED NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS
Aklan	Liktinon White Rocks, Madalag, Aklan	Construction of pathway for the elderly (senior citizens) and huts for day visitors (excursionists), and conduct of tourism related trainings to capacitate frontliners and the community
	Taeangban Hills, Malinao, Aklan	Construction of a welcome center/ tourist information center with restrooms, tourism related trainings (tourism awareness, guides) roads leading to the site/attraction
	Bayangan Village, Lezo	Construction of restroom and conduct of tourism related trainings
Antique	Igbaclag Cave, Aningalan, San Remigio	Construction of slope protection for the roads going to Brgy. Aningalan, food terminal, viewing deck, facilities for horseback riding, souvenir area and for local accommodation; formulation of cave development plan; and, provision of spelunking/ caving equipment
	Nogas Island, Anini-y	Construction of food terminal, boat docking areas, trails, standard and green toilets, souvenir area with facilities; installation/provision of power and water supplies; and, provision of snorkeling and diving facilities and equipment
	Mararison Island, Culasi	Construction of tourist information center, food terminal, boat docking areas, trails, standard and green toilets, souvenir area with facilities; installation/provision of power and water supplies; and, provision of snorkeling and diving facilities and equipment
Capiz	Basiao Beach, Ivisan	Construction of access trails; capability-buildings for the community through homestay program; enhancement/ improvement facilities; and, development and printing of promotional materials
	Capiz Ecology Park, Nagba, Cuartero	Construction of bike lanes and hanging bridge; installation of directional sign and other signage; improvement/ enhancement of children playground featuring robotic characters from story books and local folk tales; improvement of camping area; and, development and printing of promotional materials
	Marugo Dam, Tapaz	Construction of access road, accommodation facilities; tourist information center and restrooms
Guimaras	Dagsaan Eco Park	Construction/improvement of facilities, and developing and printing of promotional materials
	Guisi Light House	Improvement of access road and other facilities; declaration of the site/structure as a national heritage; and, development and printing of promotional materials
	Taklong Island National Marine Reserve	Improvement of facilities, and development and printing of promotional materials
Iloilo	Hinterlands (Barangays Ongyod, Onop and Tigmalapan , Miagao	Construction of viewing deck with comfort rooms and installation/ establishment of directional signage
	Bulabog - Putian Natural Park, Dingle and San Enrique	Construction of tourist lounge, viewing deck with comfort rooms and installation/ establishment of directional signage
	Seven Cities, Alimodian	Construction of viewing deck with comfort rooms and installation/ establishment of directional signage
Negros Occidental	Sagay Marine Reserve, Sagay City	Construction/improvement of access roads and environment-friendly restrooms; establishment of trekking markers/signage; tourism product development; conduct of capacity building trainings; development of farm tourism villages; and, construction of bird hides and provision of equipment for bird watching areas
	Mt. Kanlaon National Park	Construction/improvement of access roads and environment-friendly restrooms; establishment of trekking markers/signage; tourism product development; conduct of capacity building trainings; development of farm tourism villages; and, construction of bird hides and provision of equipment for bird watching areas
	Sipalay City	Construction/improvement of access roads; concreting of Sipalay airstrip runway; construction of rest stop areas, conduct of capacity building trainings; and, provision of stable internet connectivity and decompression chamber.

Source: DOT-VI

Figure 10.2 Location of Proposed Tourism Destination Areas

Source: DOT-VI

Targets

The following are the plan targets to develop and expand opportunities in tourism:

- Tourist arrivals to increase from 4.63 million in 2015 to 10 million
- Increase tourism employment from 117,000 in 2015 to 163,000 by 2022
- Generate public and private investments amounting to P555 billion
- Train 40,000 front line service workers, including tour guides in all cities and capital towns
- Develop at least three major tourism destinations by province
- Accredit 370 tourism establishments and pasalubong centers
- Establish 400 signages and directional signs for major tourist destinations
- Formulate 133 LGU tourism code or master plans
- Develop and distribute 74,000 promotional materials
- Conduct 250 tourism investment missions
- Construct 50 restrooms along major highways
- Support 235 activities promoting local culture, heritage, and history
- Establish tourism offices in all municipalities with tourism attractions
- In partnership with the private sector, establish information and pasalubong centers in cities and capital towns
- All artifacts in museums catalogued by 2022

Strategies

Among the strategies to be implemented over the next six years are:

Outcome 1- Quality and variety of tourism sites and services upgraded and sustained

- Conduct inventory and documentation of the region's existing and potential tourism areas (e.g. natural, manmade, historical/heritage, etc.) and develop a compendium through GIS-based mapping.
- Develop new areas with high tourism potentials. Table 10.2 shows the proposed new areas to be developed and promoted, and the specific support needed.
- Orient LGUs and LCEs on the importance and benefits of tourism in local socio-economic development and encourage them to create plantilla positions for local tourism officers and partner with private sectors in local tourism development
- Formulate sustainable local tourism development plans and programs to maximize more tourism potentials. Assist LGUs in formulating their Environment Code and Tourism Code

- Market various options for accessing tourism attractions that are being promoted via the internet, brochures, and advertisements (see also Chapter 19, Accelerating Infrastructure Development)

- Provide technical assistance to LGUs in mobilizing resources and enticing the private sector to invest in tourism sites and events, especially in the construction and/or upgrading of amenities, e.g. rest rooms along major roads, bus stopovers, and in souvenir shops.

- Produce more multi-lingual tour guides and upgrade the production of promotional materials thru the support of the academe and technical training institutions in enhancing existing course curricula.

- Provide for the needs of persons with disability, women and children, the elderly, and persons with specific preferences because of cultural traditions and beliefs.z

- Integrate disaster risk reduction and security concerns in tourism programs and projects. Reinforce police efforts as well as community vigilance to make the stay of tourists safe and secure anywhere in the region.

- Intensify promotion activities. In coordination and collaboration with government agencies and private sectors, conduct aggressive tourism promotion missions at the domestic and international fronts. Target tourists from the ASEAN countries, China, Taiwan, South Korea, Australia, and Europe. Maximize the use of ICT in tourism promotion and marketing, through airline, shipping and land transportation companies.

- In coordination with DPWH, DOT, Road Board, etc. develop and establish culture-sensitive standards in the design, size, and content of promotional materials and road signages. Signages will be of universal design standard and if necessary, done in the languages of the most dominant foreign and domestic visitors.

- Put in place security, safety and coordination protocols among relevant entities to preempt terroristic activities of any kind.

Outcome 2 - Further enhance and develop appreciation of local culture and heritage, and natural assets

- Provide regular seminars and training courses for continuing professional development with emphasis on local history, culture and heritage, beliefs and traditions, health and safety, as well as on ecological integrity, preservation, and environmental sustainability.

- Encourage tour operators and guides to use only DOT-approved and -sanctioned promotional materials which incorporate highlights on local history and culture;

- Documentation, inventory, or cataloguing of museum pieces and artifacts, built heritage and traditional arts and crafts, as well as, indigenous music and literature, among others (see Chapter 7, Preserving Traditional Values, Culture and Heritage).

Legislative Agenda

Table 10.3 Legislative Agenda to Develop and Expand Opportunities in Tourism, 2017-2022

PROPOSED LEGISLATION	RATIONALE
Local ordinance requiring mandatory accreditation of hotels and other tourism establishments, souvenir shops and pasalubong centers from DTI and DOT	A local policy to ensure that tourism facilities and equipment are within the required standards and business establishments are operating above board is needed. In addition, a policy is also needed to ensure the quality of local products being sold or bought by the tourists.
Uniform provincial ordinances to develop and establish directional signage and in different languages including tourism materials in strategic places, particularly along major road networks, in their respective areas of jurisdiction.	A uniform policy to establish signages along national highways and directional signs towards tourism destinations is needed. Signages and directional signs are very important guide for tourists, especially for first timers.
Local legislation establishing a Tourism Office and providing for mandatory creation of plantilla position at the provincial, city and the municipal levels.	A local policy to establishing a tourism office and/or designating tourism officers at the local level is needed because at present it is not mandatory.
Local ordinance requiring the provision of facilities to people with special needs as a pre-requisite in the issuance of building permits.	A comprehensive policy on the provision of support facilities in tourism establishments for person with disabilities and other people with special needs has to be implemented.
Local ordinance providing incentives for producers/manufacturers of innovative and high quality souvenir items, and to souvenir shops or pasalubong centers promoting locally-produced items.	There is a need for a local policy to provide financial and technical assistance, and incentives to producers/ manufacturers of souvenir items to encourage them to expand and improve product lines and mass produce, as well as, establish souvenir/pasalubong centers.
Passage of DENR Administrative Orders establishing water quality management areas (for water quality) and airsheds (for air quality).	More airsheds and water quality management areas are needed to regularly monitor the quality of air and water to ensure a sound and healthy environment for both local residents and tourists.
Local ordinances establishing marine protected areas and eco-tourism sites.	More airsheds and water quality management areas are needed to regularly monitor the quality of air and water to ensure a sound and healthy environment for both local residents and tourists.
Passage of the PNP Reorganization and Modernization Act	A comprehensive policy for addressing the protection, preservation and utilization of the environment and natural resources at the local levels is needed.

11 Enhancing Human Capital and Access to Social Services

Chapter 11

Enhancing Human Capital and Access to Social Services

The region aims to equalize opportunities for human development and achieve two outcomes, namely: improving the quality and delivery of health, nutrition and basic education services for inclusive human development; and improving competitiveness and productivity of human capital. This chapter will present strategies and interventions to achieve these outcomes.

Human capital development is an investment government must undertake in order to ensure better chances of achieving the vision for families and the country by 2040. An empowered and smart population is a key ingredient to a progressive and productive economy.

Assessment and Challenges

Health and Nutrition

Access to quality health services has improved but gaps remain. Achieving universal health care is made more accessible through health insurance. As of 2015, 77.7 percent of the population in the region were enrolled under the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP). Between 2013 and 2015, the number of households covered increased by 96.6 percent, from 1,769,328 to 3,479,244.

Due to the mandatory PhilHealth coverage policy, there was a remarkable 256 percent increase in the number of poor households enrolled under the Sponsored Program of the NHIP from 455,589 household enrolees in 2013 to 1,620,810 in 2015.

Table 11.1 National Health Insurance Program Coverage

INDICATORS	BASELINE (2008)	2013		2014		2015		EO Plan Target
	VALUE	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL	
Number of households with NHIP*	1,170,001	60% **	1,769,328	68% **	2,742,877	75%**	(77.71%) 3,479,244	85%**
Number of poor households with NHIP*	309,768	70%***	455,589	80%***	1,407,934	90%***	1,620,810	100%***

Source: Source: PHIC-VI
*Core Indicator | **With reference to regional population | ***With reference to number of poor households identified through NHTS-PR. The result of the 2015 NHTS-PR conducted by the DSWD is yet to be released.

Health manpower to population ratio remains below ideal standard. As of 2015, there was one medical doctor for every 30,291 population in the region while public health nurse to population ratio was at one for every 17,163. Better health services, call for more health professionals to monitor and guide the population achieve better health conditions and avoid the triggers leading to the region's leading causes of mortality and morbidity.

Table 11.2 Health professionals-to-population ratio, 2015

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS	RATIO TO POPULATION
Medical Doctors	1:30,291
Public Health Nurses	1:17,163
Dentists	1:58,486
Midwives	1:4,397
Nutritionists	1:253,438
Medical Technologists	1:50,688
Barangay Health Workers	1:279

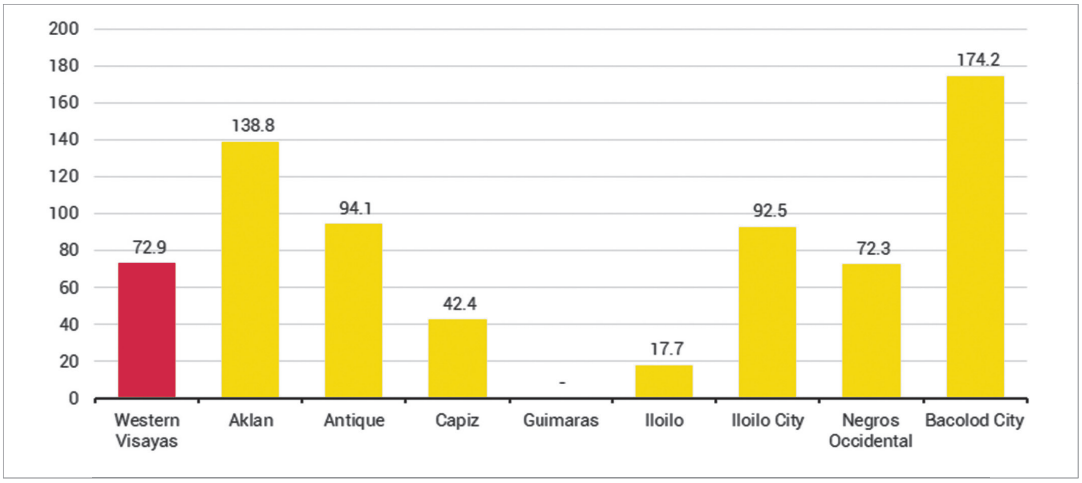
Source: DOH-VI

Maternal mortality, infant and under-five health outcomes improved but safe childbirth remains a concern. More births were delivered in health facilities instead of elsewhere and with assistance from trained and skilled personnel. Facility-based births increased from 79.4 percent in 2012 to 87.3 percent by 2015 (see also Chapter on Infrastructure Development).

Infant mortality rate improved and was maintained at less than 10 per 1,000 live births from 2013 to 2015. Mortality rate for children under-five years old slightly improved from 25.5 per 1,000 live births in 2012 to 23.5 per 1,000 live births in 2015.

However, maternal mortality ratio (MMR), or the proportion of women who died with causes related to pregnancy or childbirth, continued to increase from 71.3 per 100,000 live births in 2012 to 72.9 per 100,000 live births in 2015, much higher than the set end of plan target of 56 cases per 100,000 live births.

Figure 11.1 Maternal Mortality Ratio by Province and Highly Urbanized City, 2015



Source: DOH-VI

The leading causes of MMR are toxaemia of pregnancy, haemorrhage, uterine atony, heart disease, and ectopic pregnancy. Main reasons for the high and increasing rate are still the low ante-natal coverage; inadequate blood during emergencies, especially in remote areas; delayed referrals; and lack of ambulance or any transportation in case of emergency in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs).

Lack of skilled birth attendants in remote areas as well as lack of skills in Basic Emergency Maternal, Obstetric and Neonatal Care (BEMONC) services in rural health units also contribute to the increase in maternal mortality cases.

The proportion of fully-immunized children dramatically dropped from 86 percent in 2012 to 65 percent in 2015, a full 30 percentage points short of the target 95 percent immunization rate by end of 2015. During the period, pentahib and BCG vaccines were not usually available in health centers due to global shortage which affected not only the Philippines but other countries in the ASEAN region as well.

Progress in combating communicable diseases improved but need to be sustained. The incidence of malaria cases in the region remained low with three cases in 2015. Fifteen rabies cases per 1,000,000 population were recorded in 2015, higher than the set target of eight cases per 1,000,000 population. Low dog vaccination was identified as the main reason behind the upward trend in rabies cases. Meanwhile, deaths due to dengue increased by eight percent from 8,444 cases in 2014 to 9,336 cases in 2015 and 22 deaths also in 2015.

The intensified tuberculosis (TB) eradication campaign yielded positive results posting increased detection rates and case cure rates of 121 percent in 2015. Despite the aggressive campaigns and improved detection and cure rates, TB is still among the top ten leading causes of morbidity in the region (1,949 per 100,000 population) and mortality (12,689 per 100,000 population).

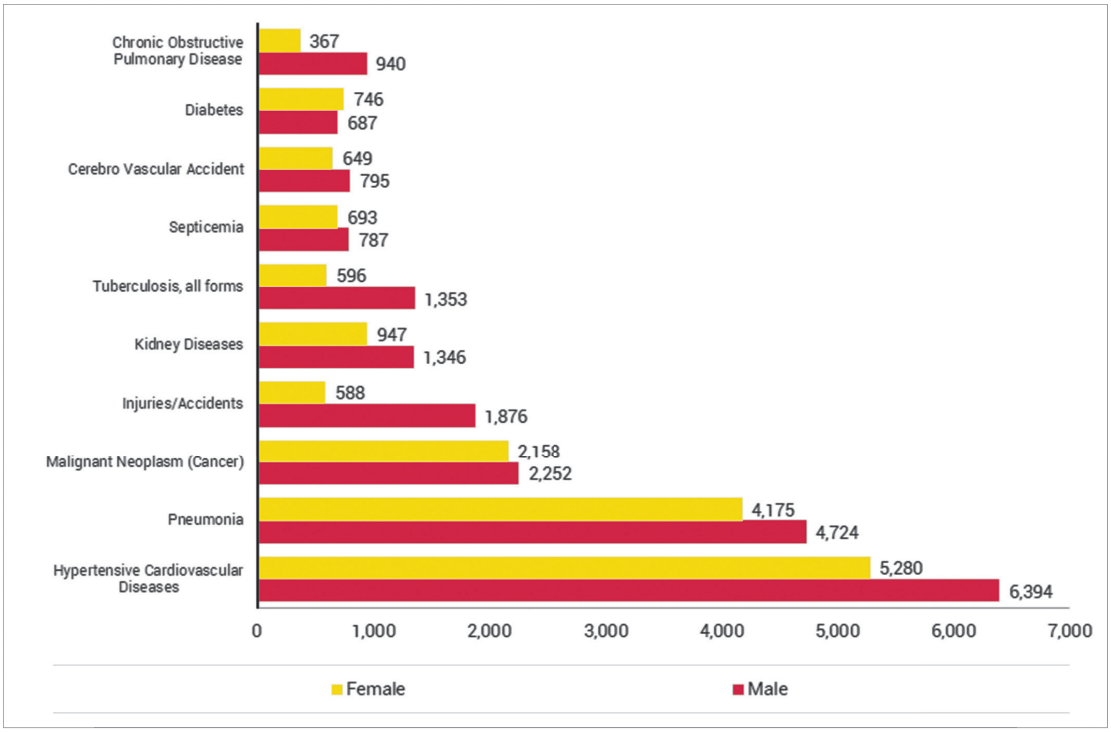
Health programs to address the leading causes of mortality and morbidity need to be intensified. Hypertensive cardiovascular diseases (HCVD) were identified as leading cause of mortality in the region which claimed 11,674 lives in 2015. Other deaths were mostly attributed to pneumonia, malignant neoplasm (cancer), injuries and/or accidents, kidney diseases, tuberculosis, Septicemia, cerebro vascular accident, diabetes, and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases.

Data also shows that in 2015 these diseases, except for diabetes, led to the death of more males than females.

Upper respiratory tract infection (ARI) remained as the top cause of morbidity in the last five years with 132,949 reported cases in 2015. Other leading diseases prevalent in the region are acute lower respiratory tract infection and pneumonia, hypertension, injuries, bronchitis/broncholitis, urinary tract infection, TB, skin diseases, acute watery diarrhea, and diabetes mellitus.

Access to safe water and toilet facilities increasing. The number of households with access to safe water supply increased from 44 percent in 2012 to 84 percent in 2015 while the number of households with access to sanitary toilets increased from 80 percent in 2012 to 83 percent in 2015.

Figure 11.2 Leading Causes of Mortality, per 100,000 Population, 2015



Source: DOH-VI

Table 11.3 Leading Causes of Morbidity, CY 2015

CAUSES	NUMBER
Upper Respiratory Tract Infection/ARI	132,949
Acute Lower Respiratory Tract Infection & Pneumonia	43,042
Hypertension	25,136
Injuries,All Forms	24,095
Bronchitis/Broncholitis	18,752
Urinary Tract Infection	16,656
TB, All Forms	12,689
Skin Diseases ,All Forms	8,981
Acute Watery Diarrhea	5,681
Diabetes Mellitus	4,498

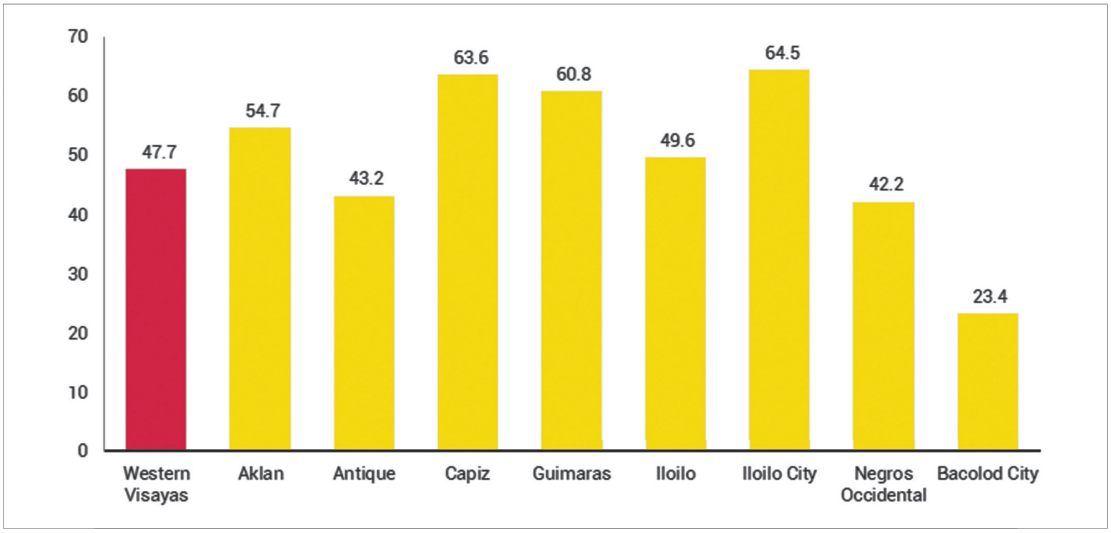
Source: DOH-VI

Contraceptive prevalence rate still low. The low accomplishment of 47.66 percent in 2015 is attributed to the issuance of a temporary restraining order (TRO) on the use of subdermal implant (SDI) by the Supreme Court in 2015 following a complaint filed alleging that the implant had abortifacient character.

Increasing number of persons living with HIV/AIDS. The number of persons positive with HIV/AIDS continued to rise to an alarming level, from 23 cases in 2009, to 176 in 2013, to 247 in 2014, and 377 by 2015.

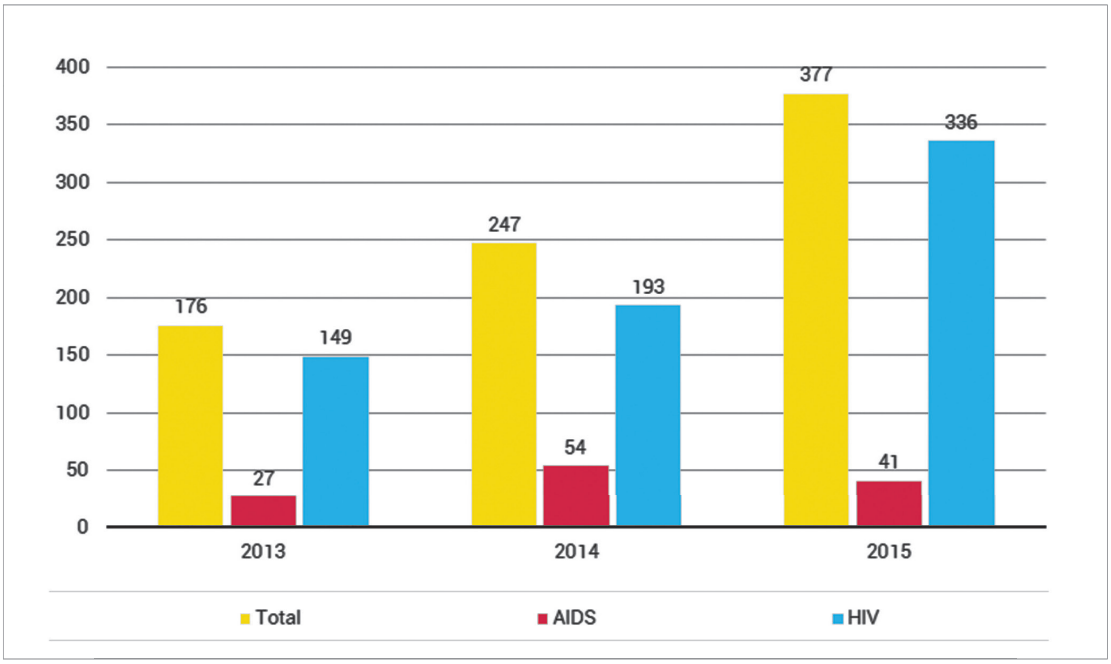
Western Visayas is now one of the regions with the most number of HIV/AIDS cases. While the plan target to maintain the proportion of persons living with HIV/AIDS below one percent of the region's population was achieved, combating and trying to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS remains a challenge.

Figure 11.3 Contraceptive Prevalence Rate, by Province and Highly Urbanized City, CY 2015



Source: DOH-VI

Figure 11.4 Number of HIV-AIDS Cases, 2015



Source: DOH-VI

The number of reported drug dependents and surrenderers is expected to continuously increase. The number of drug dependents who surrendered to authorities reached more than 17,000 in 2016 and is expected to further rise due to the intensified drug campaign of the current administration. There is a need, therefore, to develop a comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration program for drug dependents and enhance the capabilities of health personnel in extending aftercare services at the community level.

High incidence of teenage pregnancy. The increasing incidence of teenage pregnancy not only takes the youth out of school but poses risks on their health. It is also contributory to high maternal mortality rate, infant mortality and low birth weights of babies.

According to the Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFS), conducted by the Commission on Population among girls aged 15-19 in the region, the incidence of teenage pregnancy in the region continued to rise to an alarming level at 15 percent in 2015, way higher than the acceptable rate of four percent.

Children and families remain poorly nourished. The prevalence of malnutrition among pre-schoolers declined slightly from 6.4 percent in 2013 to 5.6 percent in 2015. The 2015 FNRI survey revealed that 26.6 percent or one in every four children less than 5 years old are underweight, and that stunting is prevalent in four out of every 10 children of the same age group.

Among school children aged 5 - 10 years old, the prevalence of underweight and stunting were observed in four in every 10 children while one in every 10 children are wasted or thin.

Also, overweight and obesity among adults became persistent with 23.5 percent or one in every four adults aged 20 years old and over.

Basic, Higher, and Technical Education

Lack of students' personal interest in education, insufficient financial resources especially from lower income groups, local migration, and early marriages as well as the displacement of students as a result of the lingering effect of the devastation wrought by Typhoon Yolanda were cited as reasons for the low enrolment rates in Western Visayas.

Cohort survival and completion rates improved. Cohort survival rate in elementary level increased from 75.4 percent (SY 2011-12) to 93 percent (SY 2014-15), in secondary level this improved from 77.7 percent to 85.9 percent. Completion rates likewise significantly improved from 73.1 percent to 92.0 percent (elementary) and from 70.9 percent to 84.9 percent (secondary) the same period.

Dropout rates reduced. Dropout rates improved from 1.3 percent (SY 2011-12) to 0.5 percent (SY2015-16) in elementary level and from 4.0 percent to 1.8 percent in secondary level.

Efficiency rate in basic education improved but missed the target. The achievement rates, measured through the National Achievement Test improved but were still below the beginning mastery level of 75 mean percentage scores (MPS) with 73.8 in elementary level and 53.0 in secondary level for SY 2014-15.

Dearth of teachers in urban areas still persists. While the teacher-to-student ratio improved overall with a regional average of one teacher for every 33 students in 2015 compared to one teacher for every 41 students in 2014, additional plantilla positions are still needed in urban areas where the ratios are highest.

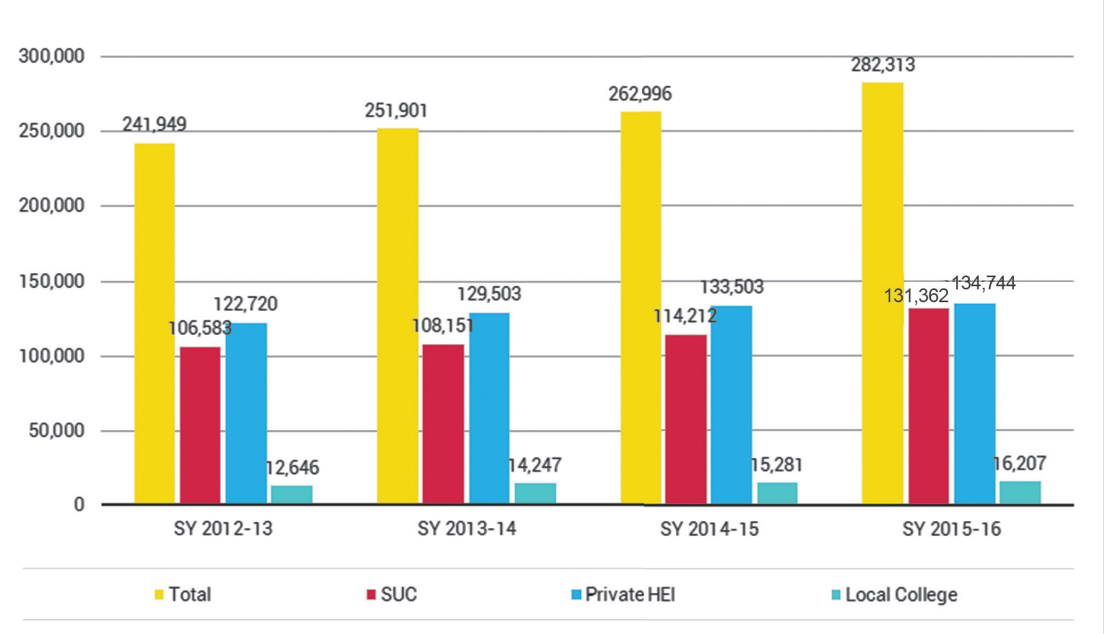
Beneficiaries served under the Alternative Learning System (ALS) dropped. From SY2011-2012 to SY2015-2016, the number of ALS beneficiaries in both elementary and secondary levels decreased by 19.8 percent and 3.3 percent, respectively. Likewise, the number of passers of the Accreditation and Equivalency Test decreased from 34 percent to 29.36 percent. According to DepEd, the decreases in figures are perceived to be due to lack of interest of the youth to education.

Indigenous peoples' access to basic education improved. Pursuant to the country's goal of Education for All, there were 852 indigenous people (IP) beneficiaries enrolled in ALS in SY 2014-15. Meanwhile, access by 3-5 year old children to day care services improved from 185,198 pupils in 2012 to 198,360 pupils in 2015. Also, IP households provided with educational assistance through the Modified Conditional Cash Transfer Program increased by 76.6 percent from 940 in 2013 to 1,660 in 2015.

Higher Education

The number of students enrolled in tertiary education increased from 241,949 in SY 2012-13 to 282,313 in SY 2015-16. In 2015, 47.7 percent of the students were enrolled in private higher education institutions (HEIs), 46.5 percent were enrolled in state universities and colleges (SUCs) and 5.7 percent were enrolled in local colleges.

Figure 11.5 Number of Students Enrolled in Higher Education, SY 2012-2013 to SY 2015-2016



Source: CHED-VI

The number of scholarship grants increased sharply but not sustained. The number of scholarship grants increased substantially in the last two school years, peaking sharply in SY2014-2015 from the previous school year. The drop in the following school years was partly due to limited access to and weak information dissemination on scholarship opportunities for poor but deserving students. Consequently, cohort survival rate in the tertiary level dropped.

Table 11.4 Number of Scholarship Grants to Poor but Deserving Students

Program	Baseline (SY 2012-13)	SY 2013-14	SY 2014-15	SY 2015-16
Regular Scholarship	405	617	34,452	19,004
Tulong Dunong 02	-	-	538	1,130
TOTAL	405	617	34,990	20,134

Source: CHED-VI

More Filipinos availed themselves of technical and vocational education and trainings (TVET) with TVET scholars almost doubling to 20,574 in 2015. The high turnout of scholars is attributed to the active involvement of TVET providers and industry partners and companies. The number of fully assessed TVET graduates was 89.9 percent of scholars in 2015.

The number of certified TVET scholars likewise increased from 66.7 percent of TVET graduates in 2009 to 85.2 percent in 2015. Moreover, the employability of TVET graduates also increased reaching 77.8 percent in 2014.

Providing quality and more relevant higher education remains a big challenge. As noted in the 0 to 10 socioeconomic agenda of the President, the current basic and advanced skills in communication, mathematics, and logical and critical thinking among college graduates need to be strengthened. There is a need to improve curriculum content and review existing courses for better employability of graduates. Also, faculty development programs should be enhanced to improve proficiency of teachers and instructors.

Labor and Employment

The employment rate has steadily increased since 2013. In the past two years, annual targets set for employment in the RDP were surpassed. Major employment drivers in the region were construction, IT-BPM, cyber services /Business Process Outsourcing (BPOs), hotels and restaurants, health and wellness, wholesale and retail and tourism industries.

With the increase in employment rates, both unemployment and underemployment rates correspondingly declined, although underemployment remained high at slightly above 20 percent.

Jobs generated in the formal and informal sectors showed a steady 10 percent average annual increase from 2013 (208,182) to 2015 (250,141), surpassing the annual plan targets. Compliance with labor standards improved from 56 percent in 2013 to 86.6 percent in 2015, well above the 80 percent plan target.

Table 11.5 Labor and Employment, 2013 - 2015

Indicators	2013	2014	2015
Employment	93.1	94.0	94.6
Unemployment	6.9	6.0	5.4
Underemployment	22.7	21.8	21.3
Labor Force Participation Rate	62.7	63.9	63.0

Source: DOLE-VI

The number of registered emigrants continues in search of employment opportunities. From 1998 to 2015, the Center for Filipinos Overseas registered a total of 62,641 emigrants, of which Western Visayas had a 3.38 percent share.

Strategic Framework

Accelerating human capital development will entail achieving the outcomes desired for health, nutrition, and basic education, thus ensuring everyone's participation in and enjoyment of the fruits of development. Healthy and well educated people are also more able to improve their skills and abilities to be more productive and competitive in today's labor market.

Priority will be on improving the region's health status as it is a major contributing factor in human capital development and economic growth in the long run. Strategies will focus on improving access to and provision of quality health care. Preventive and promotive health programs to reduce the incidence of diseases identified as leading causes of mortality and morbidity, as well as, interventions to manage the incidence of infant and maternal mortality will be scaled-up.

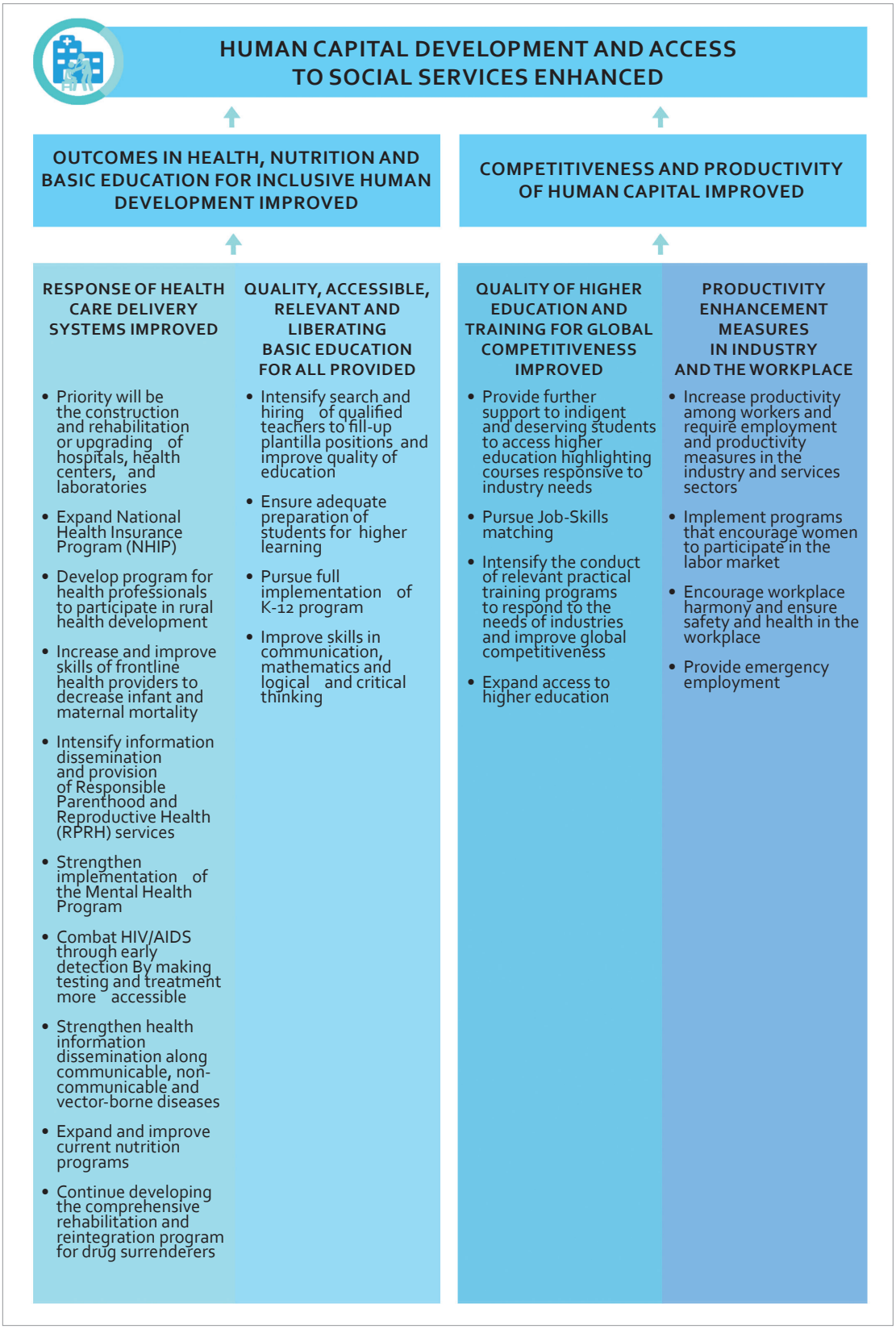
Recognizing that education is key to moving people out of poverty, the region will work on improving the quality of basic education, improve the competencies of the students, and produce high-quality graduates.

Strategic interventions that will be pursued will be along increasing access of children to a complete and quality education. Hiring of qualified teachers and strengthening of curriculums will be prioritized. The region will strive to keep children in the school system and prepare them for higher education, employment and entrepreneurship.

Improving the competitiveness and productivity of the region's human capital will furthermore, call for better quality higher education and training to meet global standards. Relevance of education and training to the needs of the labor market will be enhanced to boost quality, productivity and global competitiveness of the workforce.

Productivity enhancement measures will be promoted in industries and the workplace thru regular trainings and capability-building interventions for entrepreneurs, proprietors, management and employees.

Figure 11.6 Strategic Framework to Enhance Human Capital and Access to Social Services, 2017-2022



Targets

- Increase the number of households enrolled in the National Health Insurance Program from 3.4 Million in 2015 to 6.2 Million in 2022
- Reduce maternal mortality from 72.87 per 100,000 live births in 2015 to 70 per 100,000 live births in 2022
- Increase facility based births from 88.85 percent in 2015 to 90 percent in 2022
- Increase contraceptive prevalence rate from 47.66 percent in 2015 to 65 percent in 2022
- Reduce by half the incidence of teenage pregnancy from 16 percent in 2015 to eight percent in 2022
- Maintain the number of persons living with HIV/AIDS at below one percent of the regional population
- No cases of malnutrition by 2022, with one percent reduction annually from 5.58 percent in 2015
- Increase the percentage of fully-immunized children from 67.06 percent in 2015 to 76.24 percent in 2022
- Develop a comprehensive rehabilitation/ reintegration program for drug surrenderers and their families
- Conduct capability building activities for health manpower on drug rehabilitation, aftercare and psychosocial services
- Improve net enrolment rate from 94.65 percent in SY 2015-16 to 97.65 percent in SY 2021-22 for elementary level and from 63.29 percent in SY 2015-16 to 73.44 percent in SY 2021-2022 for secondary level
- Increase achievement rate from 73.77 percent in SY 2015-16 to 77.77 percent in SY 2021-22 for elementary level and from 54.04 percent in SY 2015-16 to 69.05 percent in SY 2021-2022 for secondary level
- Increase cohort survival rate from 93 percent in SY 2015-16 to 96 percent in SY 2021-22 for elementary level and from 85.87 percent in SY 2015-16 to 91.87 percent in SY 2021-2022 for secondary level
- Increase the passing percentage of ALS learners from 24 percent in 2015 to 75 percent in 2022 for elementary level and from 50 percent in 2015 to 75 percent in 2022 for secondary level
- Provide scholarship grants to 2,460 poor but deserving students
- Improve SPED teacher-to-student ratio from 1:26 in 2014 to 1:15 in 2022
- Conduct skills development programs to 1,310 faculty/instructors
- Increase the number of TVET scholars from 20,134 in 2016 to 26,981 2022
- Increase the employment rate of TVET scholars from 77 percent in 2016 to 95 percent in 2022

Strategies

Anchored on the long-term vision for the Philippines, the Social Development Goals (SDG) and the 0 to 10 socio-economic agenda of the Duterte administration, several strategies will be pursued to enhance human capital development and access to social services. Priority development strategies will be along health and nutrition, education, training and employment. Special attention will be given to:

Outcome 1.1- Response of health care delivery systems improved

Priority will be the construction and rehabilitation or upgrading of hospitals, health centers, and laboratories (see also Chapter on Infrastructure Support). Free quality medicines and vaccines that will reduce the incidence of the region's top causes of morbidity and mortality will be made available through the rural health units (RHUs) and barangay health centers. Primary and preventive health care will be prioritized and availability of human resources for health (HRH) in unserved and underserved areas will be ensured. The marginalized and vulnerable sector will be prioritized to ensure equity in the delivery of services. The integrated information and service delivery network (ISDN) will be strengthened by investing in eHealth and improving data collection mechanisms to facilitate the efficient coordination of healthcare delivery among government and non-government organizations, LGUs and private institutions.

Expand National Health Insurance Program (NHIP). Universal health care coverage and improved financial risk protection will be pursued by expanding enrolment in the NHIP, especially of the poor. Availment of quality services and no balance billing for sponsored members at accredited facilities will be sustained.

Develop program for health professionals to participate in rural health development. More scholarships for medical and health courses, which will require service in rural areas, will be provided. Community service will be widened and strengthened and deployment of "doctors to the barrios," nurses and midwives to the geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs) will be supported. Community Health Teams will be trained and deployed to provide basic preventive and curative care services to families. Skills enhancement trainings will be provided to rural health workers and local health personnel to improve competencies.

Increase and improve skills of frontline health providers to decrease infant and maternal mortality. Trainings on cost-effective antenatal services and public health measures will be intensified. Information and preventive services will be made more available, accessible, medically appropriate, and of good quality. Facility-based births attended by skilled personnel will be promoted. Information dissemination on the early signs of pregnancy risks, indirect causes resulting on adverse pregnancy outcomes, possible complications at childbirth and ways to prevent maternal mortality will be intensified.

Intensify information dissemination and provision of Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health (RPRH) services. Advocacy on RPRH will give priority to women of reproductive age. Access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and information will be ensured. Couples, especially the poor will be properly guided to have an informed choice on the number and spacing of children they can properly care and provide for.

The Adolescent Health and Youth Development Program will be implemented by LGUs and the Teen Centers in Schools will be strengthened. An adolescent health referral system, including counselling services, will be established to help bring down the incidence of teenage pregnancy. Massive IEC will be intensified using social media and schools will be encouraged to use effective tools and resources to help reduce sexual risk behaviours especially among adolescents. Health care providers, professionals, and school teachers will be trained to improve competencies in counselling, interpersonal communication and interdisciplinary care.

Strengthen implementation of the Mental Health Program. Community-, school-, and social media-based advocacy on the early detection and available services on mental health will be intensified. Patients will be provided with mental health care services in outpatient or community facilities, in-patient facilities or in mental hospitals depending on the severity of their cases. Continuing capacity building on psychosocial care, detection, and management of specific psychiatric morbidity will be conducted among mental health providers.

Databases will be established to determine the magnitude and nature of the problem. Monitoring and evaluation of existing programs will be regularly conducted, and results utilized as basis in formulating and modifying relevant policies, program objectives and action plans.

Combat HIV/AIDS through early detection by making testing and treatment more accessible. Delivery of HIV services such as anti-retroviral treatment (ART) and the number of treatment hubs will be increased. Community awareness, social-media campaigns and school-based counselling services and programs will be intensified. Advocacy work will focus on the most at-risk population including men having sex with men, teenagers, drug dependents and overseas Filipinos.

Strengthen health information dissemination along communicable, non-communicable and vector-borne diseases. Healthy lifestyle and family health management will be promoted. LGUs will strengthen their health monitoring systems; existing school- and community-based IEC will be sustained or expanded, and appropriate health programs and packages will be developed.

Expand and improve current nutrition programs. Access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food for all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, will be increased. Delivery of integrated package of nutrition services in schools and implementation of the integrated Maternal Newborn Child Health and Nutrition Strategy will be sustained. Breastfeeding and complementary feeding for infants as well as the Tamang Kain for the first 1,000 days of a child will be advocated. Private sector groups will be encouraged to adopt communities to address malnutrition problems as part of their corporate social responsibility.

Continue developing the comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration program for drug surrenderers. Trainings and capability building activities on aftercare and psychosocial services to drug dependents, drug surrenderers and their families will be rolled out. Livelihood component will be incorporated in the reintegration program and clear guidelines for the beneficiaries will be drafted. The role of the LGUs and relevant agencies will be defined, and collaboration with NGOs and CSO partners will be intensified.

Outcome 1.2 - Quality, accessible, relevant and liberating basic education for all provided

Intensify search and hiring of qualified teachers to fill-up plantilla positions and improve quality of education. Merit-based selection and hiring of teachers will be ensured by the Local School Boards in filling-up vacant teaching positions. Additional plantilla positions will be created, including ones for the ALS and SPED programs, and especially for deployment in remote areas. Living conditions of teachers in GIDAs and IP schools will be improved to entice qualified teachers to practice in these areas.

Ensure adequate preparation of students for higher learning. The early childhood care and development (ECCD) program will be strengthened. Capacities of child development service providers will be reinforced alongside implementation of developmentally-appropriate curriculum. Basic education will train the young on the fundamentals in communication, mathematics, and logical and critical thinking - skills required for both academic or for technical and vocational career paths, as well as for life-long learning.

SPED teachers especially those in primary and secondary schools with high concentration of children with special needs will be trained and capacitated. Curriculums will be made more relevant by giving importance to basic life skills, sports, culture, creative arts, values formation, and social awareness.

Priority will be on providing relevant learning methods, materials, curriculum, and capable teachers. More collaboration with CSOs and NGOs will be encouraged especially in library upgrading and ensuring updated practical library materials. Distribution of resources will be based on needs so as to equitably address the inadequacy in learning facilities.

Pursue full implementation of K-12 program. The timely delivery of adequate education inputs such as school infrastructure, quality learning materials including assistive devices and ICT equipment will be ensured (see also Infrastructure Support). Qualified teachers will be hired and provided with capability-building and professional trainings. An effective and transparent monitoring and evaluation system will be established and public financial management reforms to ensure availability, and timely delivery of learning resources will be observed. Likewise, a financial management information system will be created to track the status of budget releases and facilitate timely interventions should problems arise.

Improve skills in communication, mathematics and logical and critical thinking. Education from basic to tertiary level will be strengthened, focusing on improving skills in communication, mathematics, and logical thinking. Learning methods and materials on these critical skills will be improved. Priority will be on ensuring relevant learning materials and curriculum and producing capable basic education teachers who will prepare students for higher learning.

Outcome 2.1 - Quality of higher education and training for global competitiveness improved

Provide further support to indigent and deserving students to access higher education highlighting courses responsive to industry needs. Scholarships and subsidies will be provided to students enrolled in undersubscribed programs and priority courses identified by CHED.

Pursue job-skills matching. Higher education institutions will align their programs with the needs of industries. Linkages between industry, academe, training institutions and the private sector will be strengthened to

develop holistic outcome-based curriculums and training programs.

State Universities and Colleges will each identify and carry a banner program as specialization aligned with its mandate to ensure quality of course offerings. A labor market information system will be established to provide up-to-date information on jobs that are in-demand and hard-to-fill to guide both students and parents in choosing courses.

Intensify the conduct of relevant practical training programs to respond to the needs of industries and improve global competitiveness. Technical and vocational schools and institutions will be equipped with the necessary if not state of the art training facilities as well as highly qualified trainers.

Collaboration between industry and technical and vocational schools will be promoted for the purpose of aligning curriculum and learning materials development with actual industry needs, and for more purposive on-the-job trainings and apprenticeship programs. Regular capability-building programs will be undertaken to make the skills of workers and apprentices at par with industry standards.

Consortia with schools outside the region that offer specialized courses needed by local industries will be forged. The alternative learning system or distance education will be fully utilized to upgrade the skills of local workers.

Ladderized training programs, bridge trainings, as well as, work immersion for graduating students and returning overseas Filipinos will be continued and enhanced to include basic life skills and technical aspects. When necessary, retooling and re-training of the employed and those looking for additional work will be conducted.

In the case of business or knowledge process outsourcing or cyber-services, tie-ups with higher education institutions will be established to calibrate students' communication skills, particularly for proficiency in the English language. Learning other foreign languages will also be encouraged.

Expand access to higher education. The region will support the full implementation of the Unified Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) Act including the formulation of policies to rationalize tuition and school fees. The Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP) and the Ladderized Education Program (LEP), as well as, the distance education program will be promoted.

Outcome 2.2– Productivity enhancement measures in industry and the workplace

Increase productivity among workers and require employment and productivity measures in the industry and services sectors. Focus will be on promoting productive employment in industries or services with high paying jobs, with export potentials, are pioneering, have higher absorptive capacity for new graduates and are consistent with regional priorities. Specifically, productive employment will be promoted in business or knowledge process outsourcing and other cyber services, tourism, hotels and restaurants, renewable energy or biofuels, construction, transportation and logistics, real estate development and education. (See Chapter 9 Expanding Economic Opportunities in Industry and Services).

Implement programs that encourage women to participate in the labor market. The RPRH will be fully implemented in the region. In particular, access and affordability of child care services will be improved. Access of women to entrepreneurial

opportunities will also be improved and re-training services for women returning to the workforce will be provided. Policies that promote work-life balance will be supported, such as the provision of enhanced maternal and paternal benefits.

Encourage workplace harmony and ensure safety and health in the workplace. Institutional mechanisms for social negotiations will be strengthened, and improvements in labor-management relations will be nurtured. Gender-responsive occupational safety and health practices and implementation of workplace emergency plans and disaster risk programs will be encouraged.

Provide emergency employment. Emergency employment programs such as the community-based employment program will be enhanced to provide additional income opportunities for seasonal workers during lean or off-season periods.

Legislative Agenda

Table 11.6 Legislative Agenda to Enhance Human Capital and Access to Social Services, 2017-2022

PROPOSED LEGISLATION	RATIONALE
Amendment of the Philippine HIV-AIDS Law	The proposed amendment seeks to strengthen the current HIV Law to make it more responsive and relevant to the current epidemic. It will restructure the legal framework to harmonize evidence-informed strategies and approaches on the prevention, treatment, care, and support for HIV and AIDS patients and most at-risk population with government's response.
Passage of Local Population Development Act	This will provide for the establishment and operation of population offices to ensure the effective implementation of population management strategies and measures at the local level.
Passage of the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy Act	The passage of this law will facilitate the development of a National Program of Action and Investment Plan for the prevention of teenage pregnancy. The program of action will serve as the national framework for inter-agency and inter-sectoral collaboration at all levels to address the various health, cultural, socio-economic and institutional determinants of teenage pregnancy.
Passage of the Philippine Mental Health Act	A national law on mental health is necessary to promote the protection of mental health patients and improve the delivery of mental healthcare services in the country.
Law establishing a special health fund	There is a need to pass a legislation on the establishment of special health fund to support local programs along health, nutrition and sanitation and rehabilitation and aftercare services for drug dependents and surrenderers.
Amendment of the law on the Barangay Nutrition Scholar (BNS) program.	This aims to upgrade incentives and benefits and ensure security of tenure of BNS. Its amendment is essential in the provision of continuous frontline nutrition services to the community. This law would ensure that the services of trained and experienced BNS are carried over in succeeding political administrations.
Magna Carta for Day Care Workers	This bill proposes that day care workers be provided with proper compensation and benefits.
Creation of additional plantilla teaching positions	There is a need to create additional teaching plantilla positions in selected elementary and secondary schools, with teacher-to-student ratio below standard, to cope up with the increasing trends in enrolment and improve the delivery of quality basic education.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION	RATIONALE
Amendment of the guidelines on the special education fund	Review and amend the section mandating the broader and better use of Special Education Fund, reiterating the roles of LGUs in local management and quality assurance of basic education and promote greater role of the Local School Board to ensure synchrony and checks and balance among local stakeholders.
Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF) Bill	The bill aims to institutionalize the PQF to encourage lifelong learning of individuals, provide employers specific training standards and qualifications.
Passage of Apprenticeship Bill	The bill will establish a reformed apprenticeship program that will ensure the availability of qualified manpower in the field of critical and in-demand technical skills through the active participation of all workers, enterprise, government agencies, and NGOs concerned.
Passage of the 100-Day Maternity Leave Act	The passage of this law will institutionalize a mechanism to expand the maternity leave period of women workers. This will provide ample time for mothers to regain health and overall wellness, as well as, assume maternal roles before resuming paid work.
Amendment of the Productivity Incentives Act	The amendment will include the basis for computing baseline productivity data, the manner and frequency of distributing productivity-based bonuses, and the sharing scheme.

12 Reducing Vulnerabilities, and Building Safe and Secure Communities

Chapter 12

Reducing Vulnerabilities, and Building Safe and Secure Communities

This chapter takes a look at the region's vulnerabilities that can slow the momentum of its growth. On one hand, there are individuals and families who, by their poverty, are susceptible to infirmities and weaknesses. On the other hand, there are communities which, by their location and attributes are exposed to economic and natural risks. The plan presents strategies to reduce these vulnerabilities, strengthen individual and family resilience, and build safe and secure communities.

Assessment and Challenges

The poor are the most vulnerable members of society. As of 2015, poverty incidence among population in Western Visayas was estimated at 22.4 percent, which is higher than the plan target of 18 percent. Despite the considerable resources allotted to help the underprivileged, the magnitude of poor individuals and families remains high.

The absence of financial resources make the poor vulnerable to hunger, malnutrition, dropping out of school, becoming victims of abuse and exploitation, and becoming the liabilities of society as they engage in criminality.

The insufficient provision of LGU counterparts and lack of accredited partners that can facilitate implementation of government programs at the local level, are among the major factors in the slow implementation of anti-poverty interventions. Also, social protection programs such as the conditional cash transfer, social security insurance, livelihood support, and shelter assistance have limited coverage and benefits.

Appropriate interventions have to be based on a systematic understanding of the risk factors such as inherent vulnerabilities, economic risks, natural hazards, human-induced shocks, and governance and political risks.

Among the most vulnerable individuals and families are children; women; persons with disability; older persons; overseas Filipinos and their families; female workers and workers in the formal and informal sectors; indigenous peoples; families in coastal areas, highlands, and islands; and families living in high-risk areas (along riverbanks, mining areas, slopes, etc.).

Risk Factors and Social Protection Mechanisms

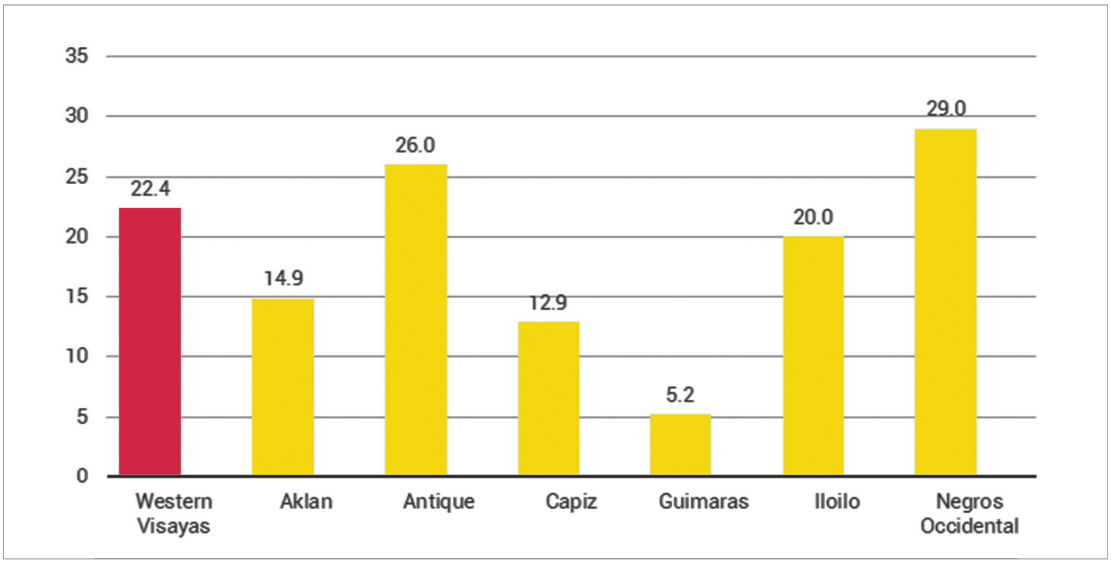
Inherent Vulnerability

The poor, children, women, PWDs, older persons, indigenous peoples, and overseas Filipinos have inherent vulnerabilities that make them more at risk to economic instability, social shocks, political disruptions, and environmental threats.

There is a need to develop comprehensive programs to protect their rights, improve their living conditions, and build their socio-economic resilience.

Poor families. Negros Occidental had the highest poverty incidence among population at 29 percent, followed by Antique (26), Iloilo (20), Aklan (14.9), Capiz (12.9) and Guimaras (5.2). The number of individuals who are poor, was also highest in Negros Occidental (867,141) followed by Iloilo (540,001), Antique (126,943), Capiz (118,678), Aklan (67,199) and Guimaras (8,435).

Figure 12.1 Poverty Incidence Among Population, 2015



Source: PSA-VI

The Listahanan 2015, a database of the DSWD that profiles who and where the poor are in the country, revealed that 86.8 percent or the great majority of the poor households in Western Visayas live in rural areas, and only 13.2 percent of the poor reside in urban areas.

In 2015, the targeted 318,840 vulnerable or disadvantaged individuals were all provided with basic social services under the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). The program has already saturated all provinces, cities and municipalities of Western Visayas, including those living in the geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs). Moreover, 66,306 beneficiaries availed themselves of assistance under the Sustainable Livelihood Program in the same year.

A total of 145,800 beneficiaries were also provided assistance under the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive Integrated Delivery of Social Service (KALAHI-CIDSS), a community-driven development project implemented in vulnerable communities to help address their most pressing need.

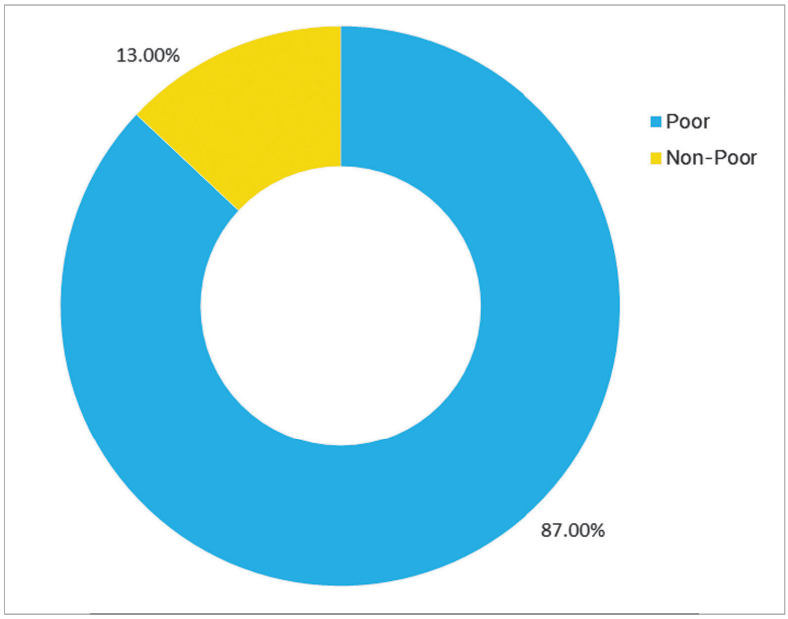
Children. Persons below 18 years of age, are considered vulnerable as they are unable to fully care of and protect themselves from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation, or discrimination and are often characterized by their dependency on adults.[1] As of 2013, all LGUs have organized inter-agency structures for children and other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups where preventive measures and early interventions against any form of abuse, violations and exploitations are enforced.

Assistance to street children and indigenous peoples (IP) were extended to 306 families in 2015 and 570 families in 2016. This included educational assistance, livelihood assistance, cash for work, feeding program and values formation seminars.

Poverty pushes children to work. National data show that in 2011, an estimated 2.1 million children were engaged in child labor, 97 percent of them under hazardous labor conditions. No data is available for 2014 on the total number of children engaged in child labor in the region, but it is reported that assistance was extended to 1,010 parents of child laborers.

Persons with disability. As of 2016, there were a total of 43,089 registered persons with disability in the region, of which 37,641 were poor.

Figure 12.2 Registered Persons with Disability, 2016



Source: DSWD-VI

[1] *RA 9523*

The number of persons with disability assisted increased very significantly from just 18 in 2014 to 6,844 in 2015. The DSWD is assessing and providing technical assistance to LGUs on the utilization of the one percent IRA by regularly conducting the Local Social Welfare and Development Office assessment. It should be noted that the internal revenue allotment (IRA) fund utilization for persons with disability (PWDs) is dependent on the priorities of the local chief executives.

Notwithstanding the passing of the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons and several legislations giving support to PWDs, providing them assistance and ensuring that their rights and privileges are protected remain a challenge. This is due to limited fund allocation and absence of Persons with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) in most LGUs in the region.

Indigenous peoples. As of 2016, it is estimated that Region VI had about 129,727 indigenous peoples belonging to two ethnic groups, Ati and Bukidnon. They are found in the Islands of Panay, Guimaras and Negros Occidental. IPs are nomadic, roaming the forested highlands as hunters-gatherers. Currently, many still prefer to live in the uplands and in remote areas, perhaps wanting to preserve their culture and practices.

Educational assistance was provided to IPs through the Modified Conditional Cash Transfer which aims to empower, to promote, and to protect IPs from any unavoidable adverse effects caused by development activities in GIDAs. The program has served an increasing number of IP households from 2013 to 2015 (average of 1,432 HH assisted per year).

Older persons. As of 2016 there were 349,302 senior citizens, aged 60 and above, in the region of whom 75,434 were identified as poor under the Listahanan. Based on the eligibility criteria determined by the DSWD, indigent senior citizens are entitled to a monthly stipend amounting to P500 to augment their daily subsistence and other medical needs. The coverage of social pension has been increasing from 2013 to 2015, to a total of 103,238 indigent senior citizens, or an annual average increase of 34,413.

Economic Risks

Overseas Filipinos and their families. Overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) are vulnerable to risk of abuses abroad, especially the women domestic workers. Abuses are in the form of labor rights and contract violations, illegal recruitment, trafficking, forced labor, physical and psychological abuses, discrimination and marginalization.

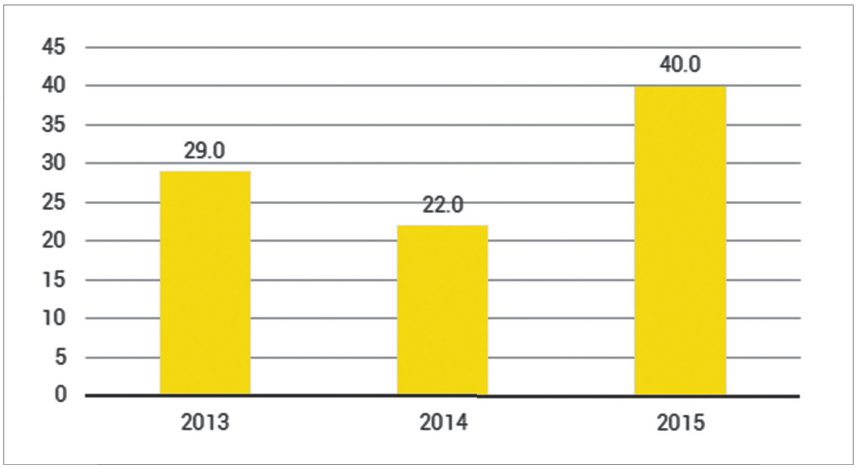
Most of the workplace-related problems are about migrants' set-up in the work area, problems with employers, and difficulty in fulfilling work responsibilities. They also raised problems of low salary, loneliness, and lack of knowledge about contracts and OFW rights, as well as policies and laws of the country of employment. The vulnerabilities of OFs are further aggravated by global developments such as emerging policies on protectionism, the increasing prevalence of international drug trafficking and illegal recruitment, and other types of trafficking that prey on the OFWs.

Also, earthquakes and tsunamis, floods, hurricanes, and the outbreak of conflicts are disasters and crises which have seriously affected migrants. Assistance in education and livelihood trainings and scholarships were provided to overseas Filipino workers (OFW). OFW provided education and training assistance from 2013 to 2015 averaged around 4,000 every year. Scholarship grants to OFW dependents have increased over the same period, from 276 scholars in 2013, to 385 in 2014, and to 467 in 2015.

The Workers Welfare Assistance Program recorded an annual average 879 OFWs provided with welfare assistance in the same period. The number of assistance provided depends on the requests received for welfare case management. From 2013 to 2015, a total of 91 OFWs were repatriated back to the country: 29 workers in 2013, 22 in 2014, and 40 in 2015. These included OFWs who were repatriated due to political unrest in their jobsites.

The Regional Development Council, recognizing the link between migration and development as a key area for development, created the Subcommittee on International Migration and Development (SCIMD). The SCIMD is tasked to coordinate the formulation, implementation, monitoring, assessment and evaluation of plans, policies, programs and projects related to overseas migration and shall serve as a mechanism to ensure that the concerns of migration are being tackled and addressed at the regional and local levels.

Figure 12.3 Number of Repatriated Overseas Filipino Workers, 2013-2015



Source: DOLE-VI

Women workers. Employment rate was pegged at 94.6 percent in 2015 while labor force participation rate was 63 percent. Males accounted for 60.3 percent while female participation was at 39.5 percent of the labor force.

There is no legal framework promoting work-life balance that addresses the dilemmas faced by many women wanting to join the labor force. As of July 2016, national data showed that 36.8 percent of population 15 years old and over were not in the labor force, i.e. housewives, students, persons with disability, and retirees, etc. Around 69.4 percent of those not in the labor force were women.[2]

Female workers face additional vulnerability during periods of their pregnancy and maternity as leave benefits are not sufficient to ensure that mothers have enough time to rest, recuperate and regain their full health and adequately breastfeed their newborn. Women also face risks such as gender wage gap, persistent occupational gender segregation and sexual harassment in the workplace.

[2] *Philippine Statistics Authority Website: Employment*

Workers in the formal and informal sector. The 2015 data from DOLE showed that there were a total of 113 establishments that either retrenched (69) or shutdown (44) that affected 4,320 employees.

The Emergency Employment Program generated 42,517 community-based employments in 2015. In the same year, the program extended livelihood assistance to 16,267 beneficiaries while 133 individuals underwent capability building trainings. The number of beneficiaries that can be covered for each year is limited by the amount of fund allotted for the program.

Poverty among families dependent on agriculture and fisheries. About 40 percent of the region's labor force is engaged in agriculture and fisheries. Fifty-nine municipalities and two cities in the region are classified as coastal areas where families largely depend on fishing and farming marine products. As of 2015, there were 147,349 registered fisherfolks in the region while registered fishing boats reached 18, 620. Meanwhile, about 63 percent of the total land area of the region are classified as crop lands. It is ironic that, while Western Visayas has among the richest agricultural and marine resources in the country, the farmers and fisherfolk are among the most impoverished. Moreover, some families live in the upland areas of Iloilo and Antique and survive mainly by cutting of trees and planting crops along the slopes.

Weather disturbances which the region experiences many times in a year, pose a risk of increased vulnerability to families dependent on food production.

Socialized housing. Provision of housing is one of the most expensive programs to implement since it requires huge amount of capital, numerous procedures and documents related to land and development from various agencies, both national and local, and social preparation of household beneficiaries.

Backlog of housing units for urban poor across the country was estimated to be around 5.5 million in 2015. Informal settlers are in constant threat of displacement due to demolitions to make way for government and private infrastructure development projects.

Regional data shows that there were 54,605 socialized housing units constructed from 2013 to 2016, or 303.36 per cent of the 18,000 units plan target for the same period. However, despite surpassing the target, the region's housing sector continues to face a huge challenge of an estimated backlog of 162,691 units.

See also Chapter 19 on Accelerating infrastructure development.

Natural Hazards and Human- Induced Shocks

At the community level, vulnerabilities come as a result of geographical features and locational exposure to natural calamities. Places that are prone to landslides, floods, tsunamis, earthquakes are considered economically high risk areas given the amount of losses to production, commerce, and other livelihood opportunities when disaster strikes.

The occurrence of natural hazards and disasters does not only impede development gains but also hampers the provision of programs and services that should have improved the living conditions of individuals and communities. Western Visayas have had its share of strong typhoons over the years such as Typhoon Frank (2008), Sendong (2011), Quinta (2012), and Yolanda (2013), the latter especially causing catastrophic damages and massive devastation.

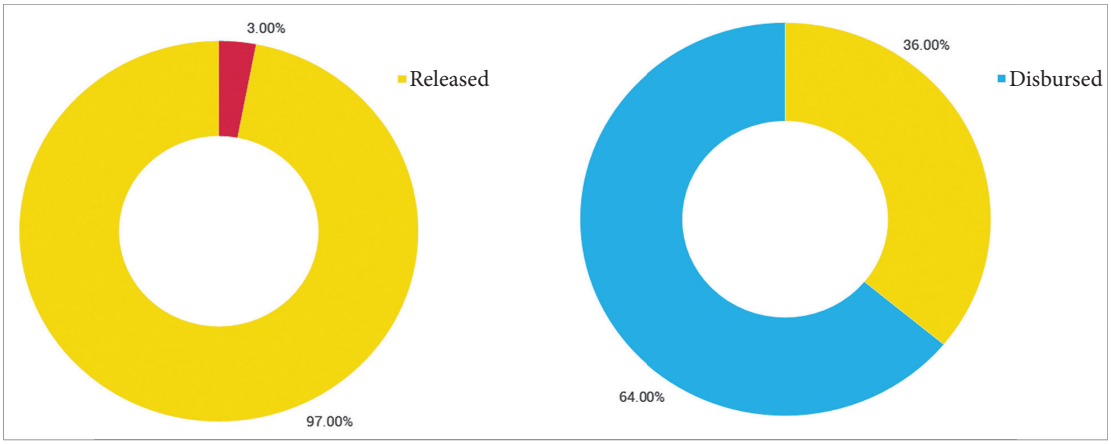
Resiliency of individuals and families. It should be noted that the region's economic performance experienced a big slump in the aftermath of the devastating effects of Typhoon Yolanda in 2013-2014. Reducing vulnerabilities and building resilience are thus imperative to ensure inclusive growth and sustain the region's economic progress.

The devastating havoc wrought by Typhoon Yolanda in November 8, 2013 cost billions of damages to infrastructure, agriculture and fisheries, as well as, physical, mental and psychological trauma to the affected individuals. An estimated 610,511 families composed of 2,724,347 persons were affected. There were 215 persons declared dead, 461 injured and some 20 persons missing.[3]

The Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan (CRRP) was formulated which provided the overall strategic vision and laid down integrated rehabilitation and recovery programs and projects for the affected communities.

Total project cost for the rehabilitation and recovery programs, projects and activities for Western Visayas, including Negros Occidental, amounted to P35 billion. As of October 2016, P32 billion was already released, of which P19 Billion was disbursed or 60 percent utilization rate. Government interventions were clustered into infrastructure, resettlement, livelihood, and social services.

Fig. 12.4 Yolanda Rehabilitation and Recovery Financial Accomplishment as of December 2016



Source: RPMC-VI

The highly centralized rehabilitation processes such as in identifying priority projects for immediate funding and corresponding releases of funds, bidding and procurement impeded the delivery and implementation of much needed services. The timetable for the issuance of related permits, clearances and licenses also need to be reviewed to cut processing time and fast-track implementation of rehabilitation and recovery interventions.

As of the 2016, a total of 9,214 programs, projects and activities have been identified, with 6,065 already completed and 1,606 ongoing. The remaining 1,543 projects have yet to be started.

[3] *Western Visayas Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan (Aftermath of Super Typhoon Yolanda), 2013*

To further address the need of families and the whole community, the Kalahi-CIDSS National Community-Driven Development Program (KC-NCDDP) is continually implementing poverty-reduction programs that focus on providing interventions in areas that were affected by calamities that hit the country since 2013. The Program covers six municipalities in Western Visayas. It has been successful in empowering people to effectively participate in government's plans for rehabilitation and recovery. Furthermore, it looks into other contributory factors for inclusive development such as enabling women and IPs, protecting marginalized families and vulnerable individuals in conflict-affected areas, and popularizing disaster-risk reduction and environmental management in communities.

Resettlement. Typhoon Yolanda rendered more than half a million houses either partially or totally damaged, the majority of which had roofs blown away and destroyed by strong winds leaving many families and individuals homeless.

From 2013 to 2015, some 20,062 families, whose houses were partially damaged by Typhoon Yolanda, were provided financial assistance under the Housing Materials Assistance (HOMA) Program. Emergency shelter assistance, meanwhile, was provided to 505,858 families: 473,092 in 2015 and 32,766 in 2016.

A total of 84 Yolanda resettlement sites are in various stages of construction. Seven resettlement sites were completed, and 4,738 housing were awarded in 2016. As of 2015, the regular NHA resettlement program constructed 355 units of total housing construction for Yolanda affected families.

Identification and acquisition of safe, titled, and affordable land for resettlement is the major issue LGUs are confronted with. During the rehabilitation and recovery phase in the aftermath of Typhoon Yolanda, it was noted that some areas identified for resettlement by LGUs are within the 40-meter no-dwelling zone and considered prone to hazards like flooding and storm surge. Viable land acquisition approaches will be adopted and inventory of lands for socialized housing will be fast-tracked to address the perennial problem of identifying suitable land. For discussions on socialized housing. (see Chapter 19, Accelerating Infrastructure Development).

Governance and Political Risks

Governance and political risks include social and economic effects of policies and regulation, and armed conflict, both local and abroad. Implementation of development projects and some development policies and regulation such as total log ban, closed fishing season, closure of mines, etc. may result in community displacement and termination of stable income of the locals.

The internal socio-political instability brought about by the nation-wide violent, armed movement of the CPP/NPA continue to challenge the peace and order situation in Western Visayas (see Chapter 17, Attaining Just and Lasting Peace.)

Strategic Framework

Beyond developing human capabilities, equalizing opportunities also requires reducing vulnerabilities to various types of risks. In order to do this, the region will pursue strategies to enable individuals and families to deal and cope with risks by decreasing people's exposure to such risks, increasing their adaptive capacities, as well as, building and expanding people's access to safe and secure shelter.

Reducing the vulnerabilities of individuals and families significantly contribute to inclusive development and poverty reduction. Social protection will be enhanced to better enable people to manage and cope with various types of risks and increase socioeconomic resiliency.

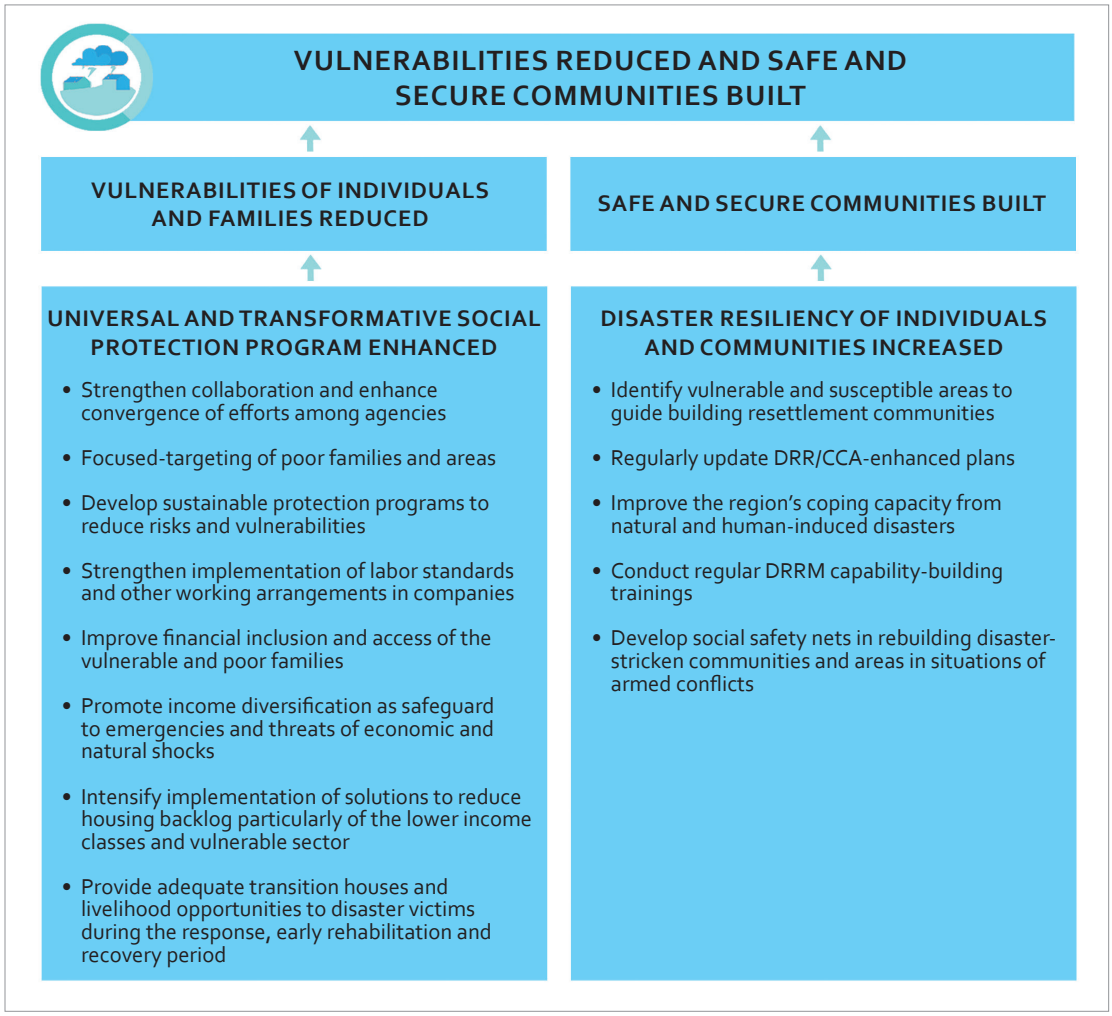
The most vulnerable sector will be identified and focused targeting will be pursued to address their most pressing needs. Collaboration and convergence of poverty-reduction and social protection programs will be strengthened.

As safeguards to threats and to increase economic resiliency, the region will promote financial inclusion and stimulate income diversification. The government will continue to promote greater public awareness of economic and financial issues and provide information to enable households and businesses to make well-informed economic and financial decisions.

Given the region's vulnerability to natural calamities, strategies to develop safe and secure communities will be prioritized. Resiliency of individuals and communities, particularly those highly-vulnerable and prone to hazards will be built. Science-based preventive and mitigating DRRM approaches, along with community awareness and preparedness, will be advocated and included in the formulation and implementation of development plans. Post disaster rehabilitation and recovery mechanisms and policies will be outlined to better facilitate rebuilding of damaged facilities and communities.

With increased susceptibility to disasters, coupled with urbanization, shelter has been associated with vulnerability and has become an important dimension of social development. To address housing needs, strategies will be geared towards strengthening of interventions. Land identification for socialized housing and resettlement will be prioritized to facilitate housing construction. The decentralization of housing and urban development functions will be reinforced and mainstreamed in development plans.

Figure 12.5 Strategic Framework to Reduce Vulnerabilities and Build Safe and Secure Communities, 2017-2022



Targets

- Increase the number of Sustainable Livelihood Program beneficiaries to 161,923.
- Increase the number of Integrated Livelihood Program beneficiaries to 70,849.
- Increase the number of Social Security Protection beneficiaries to 80,838.
- Increase the number of Social Pension beneficiaries to 315,018.
- Increase the number of persons with disability assisted to 2,133.
- Increase number of trafficked persons provided with recovery and reintegration assistance to 300.
- Increase number of street children/families and IPs provided assistance to 1,960.
- Provide assistance to 122,434 families in crisis situations (AICS).
- Reduce social housing backlog by 25 percent.
- Award Yolanda permanent resettlement housing units to 31,063 families by 2018.
- Increase the number of capability-building activities for frontline regional and provincial personnel to 112.
- Conduct 102 DRRM trainings and drills.

Strategies

Outcome 1 - Universal and transformative social protection program enhanced

Strengthen collaboration and enhance convergence of efforts among agencies. Approaches for aligning the different mandates of the agencies towards a focus on poverty reduction and for enhancing mechanisms to reduce individual, economic and environmental risks will be given special attention. Various vulnerability reduction and anti-poverty programs will be intensified through effective and efficient sharing and utilization of resources among implementers. Collaborative efforts with development partners including CSOs, NGOs and private sector will be strengthened.

Focused-targeting of poor families and areas. A system of identifying priority target beneficiaries and areas, such as the National Household Targeting System (NHTS) or Listahanan, so that the region's desired poverty levels will be achieved the soonest possible time will be adopted by all anti-poverty programs. The result of the 2015 Listahan, for example, will be utilized to provide basis for pinpointing which of the most vulnerable groups and areas would most benefit from subsequent program implementation.

Develop sustainable protection programs to reduce risks and vulnerabilities. Social protection (SP) programs will be sustained and transition strategy will be implemented for the beneficiaries graduating from conditional cash transfer and 4Ps. The absorptive capacity of LGUs to implement SP programs will be improved through capacity building trainings and activities. SP services will be made more responsive by developing integrated, systematic and synchronized multi-sectoral approaches to address the beneficiaries' various socioeconomic needs.

Programs that protect workers from economic risks, such as unemployment insurance coupled with aggressive employment facilitation will be put in place. Informal sector workers will be enrolled in social security programs even as they are being transitioned to the formal sector.

Strengthen implementation of labor standards and other working arrangements in companies. An inter-agency monitoring team will be created and a mechanism will be developed to monitor the extent of compliance by agencies in the implementation of RA 6685 which encourages the preferential hiring of local labor by companies operating in the region, and the hiring of 20 percent of local residents of the municipality in infrastructure projects. Prompt action on labor cases will be ensured, such as those involving illegal forms of contractualization, and violations of rights of workers to security of tenure, among others.

Moreover, alternative dispute settlement mechanisms in the work place for both unionized and non-unionized establishments will be promoted; and labor and management will be continuously educated on dispute prevention and settlement.

Advocacy campaigns to remove all forms of gender biases in the workplace, community, and at home will be intensified to provide equal opportunities for men and women to engage in any occupation or career that they wish to pursue. Local business organizations will be tapped to promote gender advocacy and gender-related programs among their members (see also Chapter 11, Enhancing Human Capital Development and Access to Social Services).

Improve financial inclusion and access of the vulnerable and poor families. Continuing capability building program on financial literacy, basic business management, credit management, organization development, risk transfer mechanisms and understanding of different financial services and products will be incorporated in capacity building trainings for family beneficiaries including migrant families to improve self-sufficiency. Awareness on financial savings and investments will be increased, especially the poor and vulnerable mirgrants.

Access of farmers, fishermen and entrepreneurs to microfinance will be expanded and start-up capitals will be incorporated in government livelihood packages. There shall be more projects and programs that provide seed capital to economically active poor families for micro enterprise project, including returning migrants.

MSMEs will continually be updated on available micro-financing facilities of government and private institutions in support of their expansion and diversification plans. Non-government organizations will be mobilized to extend micro financing support for small businesses needing financial assistance.

Promote income diversification as safeguard to emergencies and threats of economic and natural shocks. The Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP), a community-based capacity building program which equips participants to actively contribute to production and labor markets by looking at available resources and accessible markets, will be strengthened for microenterprise development and employment facilitation. More employment and entrepreneurial opportunities will be made available to improve the socio-economic status of poor families.

Farmers will be taught how to become entrepreneurs in order to hasten their emancipation from poverty. Training and education to enhance entrepreneurial capacities of individual farmers, fishers and their organizations will be provided and grassroots enterprise development will be promoted. Women will be trained along home-based livelihood projects in order to augment their family incomes. Cooperatives will be empowered especially on the areas of leadership, entrepreneurship, marketing and financial management.

Intensify implementation of solutions to reduce housing backlog particularly of the lower income classes and vulnerable sector. Access to funds for socialized housing projects of shelter agencies will be enhanced and adequate funds for shelter provision will be explored by LGUs. Vertical development and construction of medium-rise public housing in urban centers will be adopted as option to maximize space and discourage informal settlements.

Provide adequate transition houses and livelihood opportunities to disaster victims during the response, early rehabilitation and recovery period. In line with the national efforts and in close coordination with the RDRRMC, the local government units will collaborate in identifying safe areas for the construction of transition houses and evacuation centers prior to relocation of victims to permanent resettlement areas. Identification of these areas can be based on the risk assessment and hazard maps which have been made available. Structural design will be improved and establishment of women- and children-friendly spaces will be undertaken to safeguard women, children, and indigenous practices of locals.

Outcome 2 - Disaster resiliency of individuals and communities increased

Identify vulnerable and susceptible areas to guide building resettlement communities. The identification of hazard-prone areas will continue to be pursued; hazard maps will guide LGUs in ascertaining areas for resettlement. Livelihood opportunities, along with other necessary facilities, will be ensured in resettlement sites.

Regularly update DRR/CCA-enhanced plans. Availability of Local Shelter Plans for all LGUs will be ensured and shelter policies will be strengthened incorporating holistic disaster risk management at all levels. Land use policies will be updated to integrate hazard mitigation and disaster prevention measures. The DRR/CCA-enhanced Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plans of the provinces and Comprehensive Land Use Plans of cities and municipalities will also be regularly updated to consider population dimension and changing land uses. The Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan will be utilized as primary guide in disaster management. Households will be encouraged to devise their own family emergency plan for disaster preparedness.

Improve the region's coping capacity from natural and human-induced disasters. Strategic and pro-active programs, projects and activities to prevent, mitigate, prepare, respond, rehabilitate and recover from disasters will be organized. Efforts will be towards implementation of more efficient and effective disaster management approaches to reduce the impacts of disasters. Inter-agency collaboration, in close coordination with the NGOs, CSOs, private sector and local partners will be strengthened to develop science-based prevention and mitigation measures, increase community preparedness, develop holistic response mechanisms and build back better after natural and human-induced disasters.

Conduct regular DRRM capability-building trainings. LGUs will continually be capacitated to integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in local plans and in project siting to provide science-based information as bases for local decision-making and in improving capacity in disaster prevention and mitigation and preparedness. Community and individual resilience, especially of the poor and those in vulnerable situations will be built and their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters will be reduced.

Develop social safety nets in rebuilding disaster-stricken communities and areas in situations of armed conflicts Interim mechanisms will be implemented immediately after the occurrence of disasters and calamities to prevent those directly affected from falling into more precarious conditions. Horizontal and vertical communication protocols will be established in assessing needs and providing necessary interventions.

Modalities for relief assistance, temporary and transition shelter and livelihood support for rebuilding assets will be instituted. More efficient measures for emergency assistance, early recovery and rehabilitation will be implemented. Adequate mental health and psychosocial support services and frontline service workers will be reinforced.

Disaster-affected communities will be rebuilt and living conditions improved using science-based approaches. Long-term and sustainable efforts to reduce vulnerabilities, improve coping mechanisms, and develop resilience will be strengthened. Ensuring the livelihood of people particularly the disadvantaged groups and individuals, and continuity of economic and business activities in areas affected by disasters or conflicts will be a primary concern. Living conditions in resettlement sites will be improved, applying GAD, DRR/CCA, and conflict-sensitive and peace- promoting approaches.

Legislative Agenda

Table 12.1 Legislative Agenda to Reduce Vulnerabilities and Build Safe and Secure Communities, 2017-2022

PROPOSED LEGISLATION	RATIONALE
On reducing vulnerabilities in individuals and families	
Philippine Adoption Act for Abandoned and Neglected Children and for Children with Special Needs.	The creation of this law will improve the quality of foster care for aban-doned and neglected children, par-ticularly those with special needs.
Anti-Senior Citizen Abuse Act.	This law will protect the senior citizens from all forms of abuse.
Act Establishing a Disability Support Trust Fund.	This law will enable the support PWDs in terms of rehabilitation services, appropriate assistive devices, technology, education, employment, and other disability support services. It will also involve capacity-building of LGUs in provision of services for PWDs and build their own trust fund.
Amendment of Republic Act 8972 on Benefits and Privileges to Solo Parents and their Children.	The amendment will particularly be on increasing the benefit package for solo parents.
Proposed social security initiatives.	The region will support the review of the SSS Charter to ensure its long-term viability.
Proposal for unemployment insurance or involuntary separation benefit system.	This will provide meaningful jobs, guarantee income security during sudden unemployment, and provide financial assistance linked to active labor market programs.
Proposal providing subsidy on social insurance for the informal sector.	This will facilitate provision of social insurance for the informal sector workers at the same time incentivize their participation in government programs.
Passage of law extending maternity leave benefits.	The existing maternity benefits will be improved, including increasing the leave period from 60 to 78 days to at least 100 days for women in both public service and private sec-tor.
Mandatory establishment of women- and child-friendly spaces in all evacuation centers in the country.	This will enable the protection and promotion of the general welfare of women and children especially during times of disaster.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION	RATIONALE
Passage of the Evacuation Center Act.	This will facilitate the establishment of permanent and typhoon-resilient evacuation centers with the necessary facilities to avoid the practice of using classrooms as evacuation centers during calamities. Centers should also have PWD-friendly and elderly-friendly spaces. The NDRRMC will be in charge of identifying which municipalities and cities will be given priority.
Law on labor standards.	There is a need to revisit and re-view the law on labor standards particularly on sub-contracting arrangements and regularization of employees.
On building safe and secure communities	
Creation of the Department of Housing and Urban Developent.	This will enable integration of all housing and urban development policies, plans, programs, and projects. This department will be the sole planning and policy-making, regulatory, program coordination, and performance-monitoring entity of the NSP.
Creation of the Social Housing Development Finance Corporation (SHDFC).	Its creation will strengthen the role of the previously created SHFC (by virtue of Executive Order No. 272, s. 2007) by redefining the powers and functions of the President, Board of Directors and of the Corporation, providing incentives and enabling the SHDFC to enter into loans and or issue bonds and other debentures to raise funds for housing construction.
Passage of the National Land Use Act (NaLUA).	A national land use framework will be established that will define the indicative priorities for land utiliza-tion and allocation across residential, infrastructure, agricultural, and protective uses, and integrate efforts, monitor developments related to land use, and evolve policies, regulations and directions of land use planning processes.
Passage of the Comprehensive and Integrated Shelter Finance Act (CISFA) II.	This will enact the continuation of CISFA or RA 7835, increasing budget appropriation for the socialized housing program of the government, and significantly increase the provision of housing and tenure security to poor informal settlers in order to attain the SDGs.
Passage of the Idle Lands Tax.	This will promote the productive use of land by rationalizing taxation of idle lands, thereby repealing sections of the RA 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991.
Creation of Local Housing Boards (LHBs) in every city/municipality.	The creation of LHBs will strength-en the roles of the LGUs on the provision of shelter to the households.
Proposed amendments to the NHMFC Charter.	The NHMFC mandate will be strengthened to include development of a secondary mortgage mar-ket for housing-related financial instruments and issuance of housing-related financial instruments and housing-related asset-backed securities.

PART IV

INCREASING GROWTH ("PATULOY NA PAG-UNLAD")

13 Taking Advantage of the Demographic Dividend

Chapter 13

Taking Advantage of the Demographic Dividend

Demographic dividend, as defined by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) means, "the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population's age structure, mainly when the share of the working-age population (15 to 64) is larger than the non-working-age share of the population (14 and younger, and 65 and older)." This means that it is that condition in an economy that is going to happen when there are growing numbers of people in the workforce relative to the number of dependents as a result of declining fertility and decreasing old age population. According to UNFPA, a country with both increasing numbers of young people and declining fertility has the potential to reap a demographic dividend.

This chapter presents how the region will be able to reap the benefits of demographic dividend and the preconditions for its realization.

Assessment and Challenges

The population of Region VI (Western Visayas) is around 7.536 million based on the 2015 Census of Population (POPCEN 2015), higher by 1.296 million compared to 6.240 million in 2000 and by 432 thousand compared to the population of 7.104 in 2010. It accounted for about 7.5 percent of the Philippine population in 2015.

Among the six provinces comprising the region, Negros Occidental (excluding Bacolod City) had the largest population in 2015 with 2.497 million, followed by Iloilo (excluding Iloilo City) with 1.936 million, Capiz with 761 thousand, Antique with 582 thousand, and Aklan with 575 thousand. Guimaras had the least population with 175 thousand.

Iloilo City and Bacolod City, the two highly-urbanized cities in the region posted a population of 448 thousand and 562 thousand, respectively.

The population of Region VI grew at an average of 1.24 percent annually during the period 2010-2015. Aklan was the fastest growing province with an average annual population growth rate of 1.35 percent, followed by Iloilo (excluding Iloilo City) 1.34 percent, Guimaras 1.33 percent, Antique 1.22 percent and Capiz 1.08 percent. Negros Occidental posted the slowest PGR of 0.79 percent (See Table13.1). On the other hand, Iloilo City posted a PGR of 1.02 percent while Bacolod City grew at an average of 1.79 percent.

Table 13.1 Population and Growth Rates by Province/Highly Urbanized City,

PROVINCE/HIGHLY URBANIZED CITY	POPULATION IN THOUSANDS			GROWTH RATE	
	2000	2010	2015	2000-2010	2010-2015
Aklan	451	536	575	1.73	1.35
Antique	473	546	582	1.45	1.22
Capiz	654	720	761	0.96	1.08
Guimaras	141	163	175	1.42	1.33
Iloilo (excluding Iloilo City)	1,589	1,806	1,936	1.48	1.34
Iloilo City	366	425	448	1.49	1.02
Negros Occidental (excluding Bacolod City)	2,137	2,396	2,497	1.15	0.79
Bacolod City	429	512	562	1.78	1.79
Total/Average Growth Rate	6,240	7,104	7,536	1.43	1.24

Source: PSA-VI

The age structure of a certain locality or area has implications on its present and future socio-economic conditions. The 2015 projections show that Western Visayas has a relatively young population: 32.97 percent below 15 years of age; 61.41 percent (between 15 to 64 years old, comprising the working-age or independent population); and 5.62 percent aged 65 and over (Table 14.2). This implies that there will be a continuing increase in population due to large cohorts of young women who will soon be in their childbearing years and expectedly, will add on to the growing number of young dependents.

The United Nations Population Division defined youth dependency ratio as the number of persons 0 to 14 years per one hundred persons 15 to 64 years, the old dependency ratio as the number of persons 65 years and over per one hundred person 15 to 64 years and the total dependency ratio as the sum of youth dependency ratio and the old-age dependency ratio. Therefore, based on the 2015 projected population of Western Visayas, there are 54 young dependents and nine old dependents or a total of 63 dependents for every 100 independent population or persons of working age (15 to 64 years) in the region. Moreover, not all in the working age are into productive activities because some of them are either students or unemployed.

Figure 13.1 shows the region's population pyramid structure with a wide population base and a narrow top. This means that there will still be enough momentum for the population to continue growing in the future, making efforts to slow down population numbers even more challenging. This young population will continue to be vulnerable to economic and social shocks, requiring attention and support from government for basic social services. A high dependency ratio puts a strain to the overall productive capacity of the region

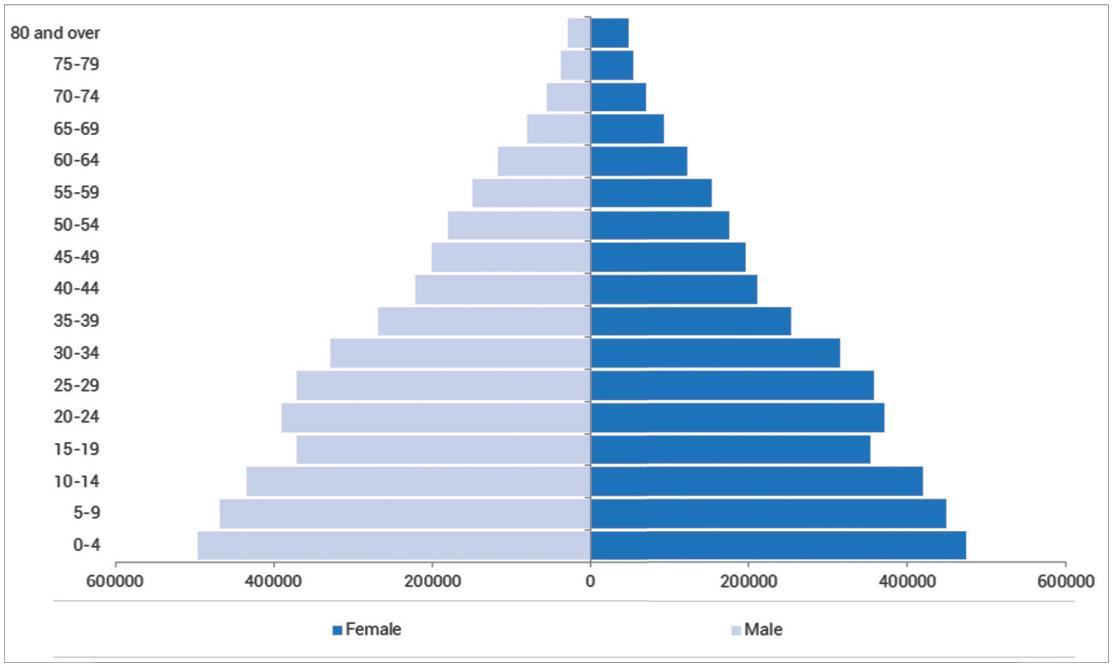
It is interesting to note the distinctive dent in the number of population in male and female aged 15-19 years old which reflects the more intensive population program implemented around the 1990s.

Table 13.2 Projected Population, by Age Group and Sex, 2015

AGE BRACKET	MALE	FEMALE	BOTH SEXES	TOTAL	% TO TOTAL
0-4	496,200	473,800	970,000	2,742,500	32.97
5-9	468,600	449,900	918,500		
10-14	434,300	419,700	854,000		
15-19	370,400	353,000	723,400	5,107,600	61.41
20-24	390,400	371,800	762,200		
25-29	371,200	358,300	729,500		
30-34	327,800	316,200	644,000		
35-39	267,700	254,200	521,900		
40-44	220,700	211,800	432,500		
45-49	199,800	197,000	396,800		
50-54	179,400	176,400	355,800		
55-59	148,600	153,500	302,100		
60-64	116,100	123,300	239,400		
65-69	80,300	93,700	174,000	467,700	5.62
70-74	55,200	70,400	125,600		
75-79	37,300	54,100	91,400		
80+	28,700	48,000	76,700		
All Ages	4,192,700	4,125,100	8,317,800	8,317,800	100.00

Source: PSA-VI

Figure 13.1 Projected Population by Age and Sex Group, 2015



Source: PSA-VI

The demographic transition is influenced by fertility rate. Total fertility rate (TFR) is the average number of children that would be born alive to a woman during her lifetime if she were to pass through all her childbearing years conforming to the age-specific fertility rates of a given year. A high TFR requires quality reproductive health services for women, children, adolescents, and Filipino families in general.

According to the 2013 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), the national TFR average is 3.0 while Western Visayas has a TFR of 3.8. The region, together with ARRM (4.2) and Bicol Region (4.1), are the top three regions in the country with the highest TFR. This means that every woman in this region has one or more children most likely than what they desire and what their counterparts in the other regions would have.

The 2013 NDHS also shows that 20 percent of women of reproductive age in the region had unmet needs for modern family planning. These unmet needs are services that women would want to avail in order to space, limit, or stop pregnancy but cannot because of poor access, fear of side effects, husband/partner's objection or simply the lack of correct information.

The contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) in the region reflected an erratic trend from 2009 to 2015. At 29.7 percent in 2009, it went up to 40.21 percent in 2013, further improved to 43.85 percent in 2014 but declined to 35.96 percent in 2015.

The failure to sustain gains in CPR is attributed to the issuance of a temporary restraining order (TRO) on the use of subdermal implant (SDI) by the Supreme Court in 2015 following a complaint filed alleging that the implant had abortifacient character. The 2015 performance is far below the RDP 2011-2016 end-of-plan target of 65 percent and far lower than the 80 percent CPR of other ASEAN countries.

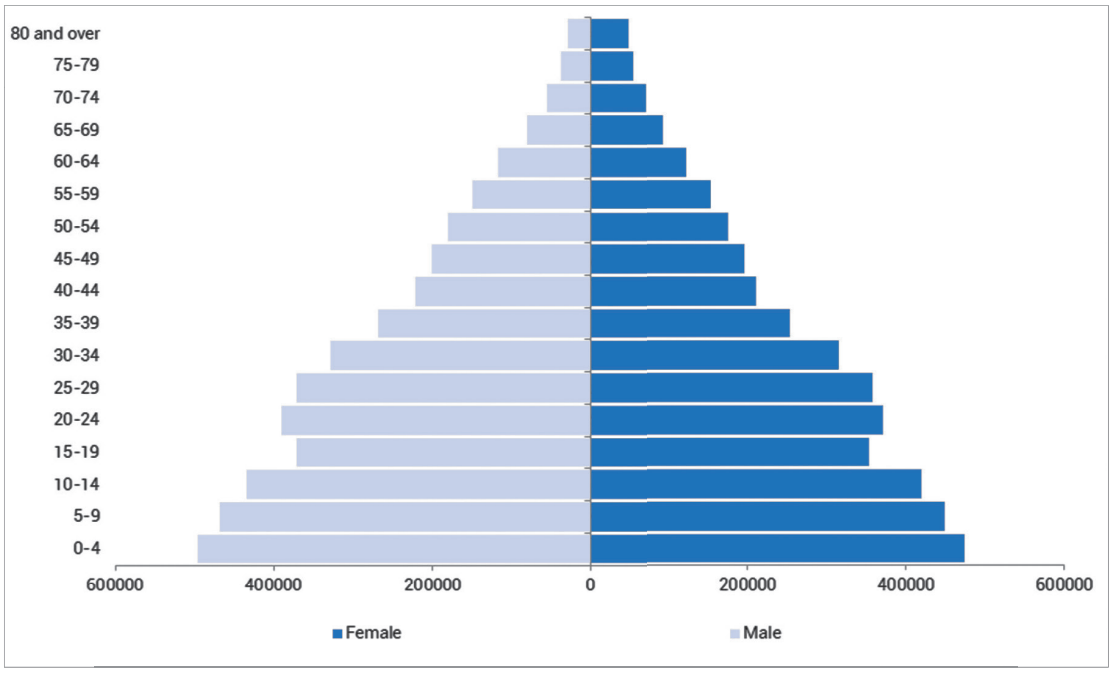
Moreover, according to the latest Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFS), conducted by the Commission on Population among girls aged 15-19 in the region, the incidence of teenage pregnancy continues to rise to an alarming 15 percent level in 2015, way higher than the acceptable rate of only four percent. The region's pregnancy rate is among the top five in the country with 23 teen pregnancies in every 1,000 live births. Teenage pregnancy not only takes the youth out of school but poses risks on their health and contributes to high maternal mortality rate, infant mortality and low birth weights. Among the reasons cited for these unplanned or unintended pregnancies is no access or limited access to reproductive health services and information.

The population growth of the region is below the national average but still needs to be further reduced. Population growth considerably affects poverty and inequality. The number of children or the size of the household significantly impacts on the education and health outcomes of children within the household as more children limits the financial capacity of parents to provide adequately for the needs of the family. An additional child, particularly of unwanted birth, will have a multiplicative influence on child rearing and puts more pressure in the allocation of limited resources of the government.

If the region fails to provide adequate and necessary family planning information and services, it is likely that a steady population growth will remain. This means that the increase in young population in the region will continue until 2020 (Figure 14-2) and will only slightly drop by 2030 (Figure 14-3). It is only by 2040 that the region will shift to a new demographic phase (Figure 14-4). By then, the proportion of young working population will start to expand. With higher working population and fewer people to

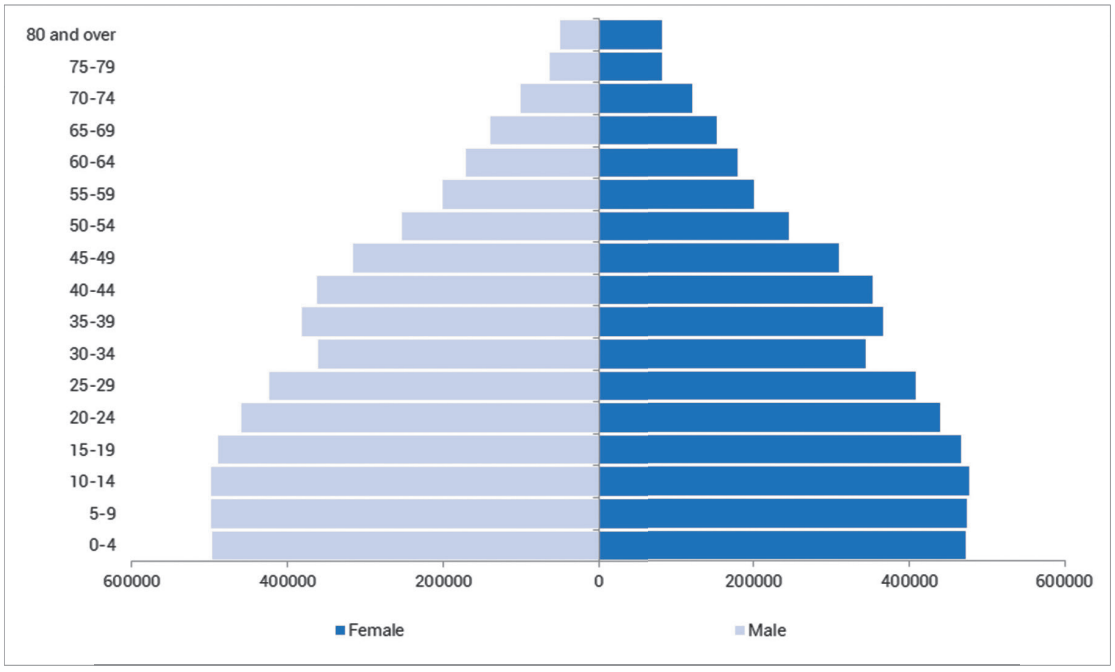
support, Western Visayas can maximize the opportunity for rapid economic growth. However, this transition can come sooner if massive efforts to implement responsible parenthood and family planning programs are put in place.

Figure 13.2 Projected Population by Age Group and Sex, 2020



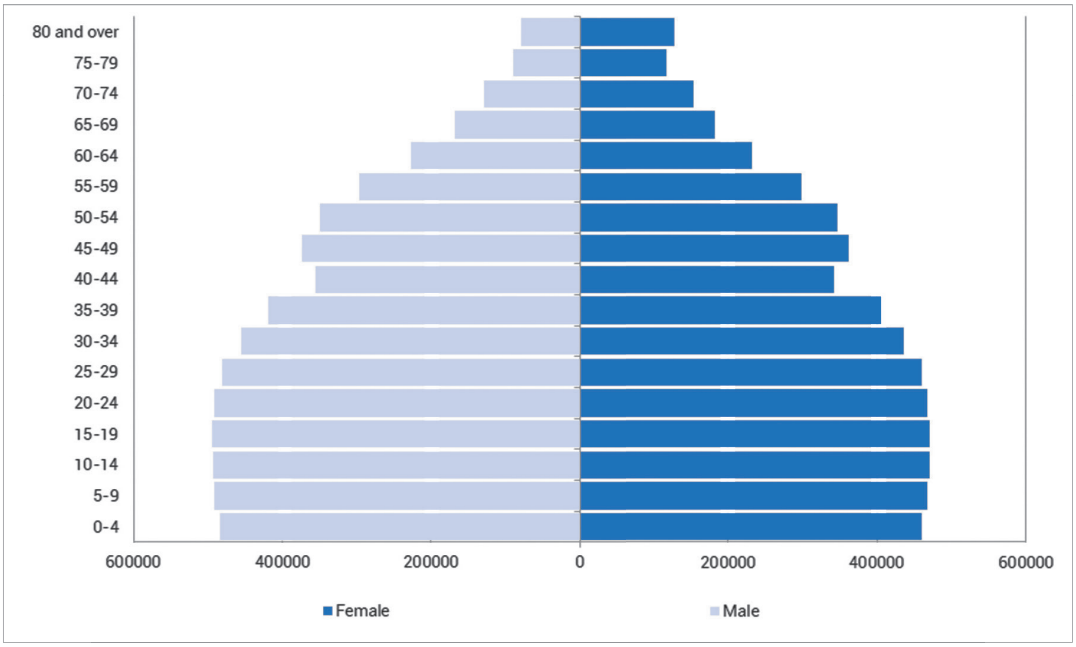
Source: PSA-VI

Figure 13.3 Projected Population by Age and Sex Group, 2030



Source: PSA-VI

Figure 13.4 Projected Population by Age and Sex Group, 2040



Source: PSA-VI

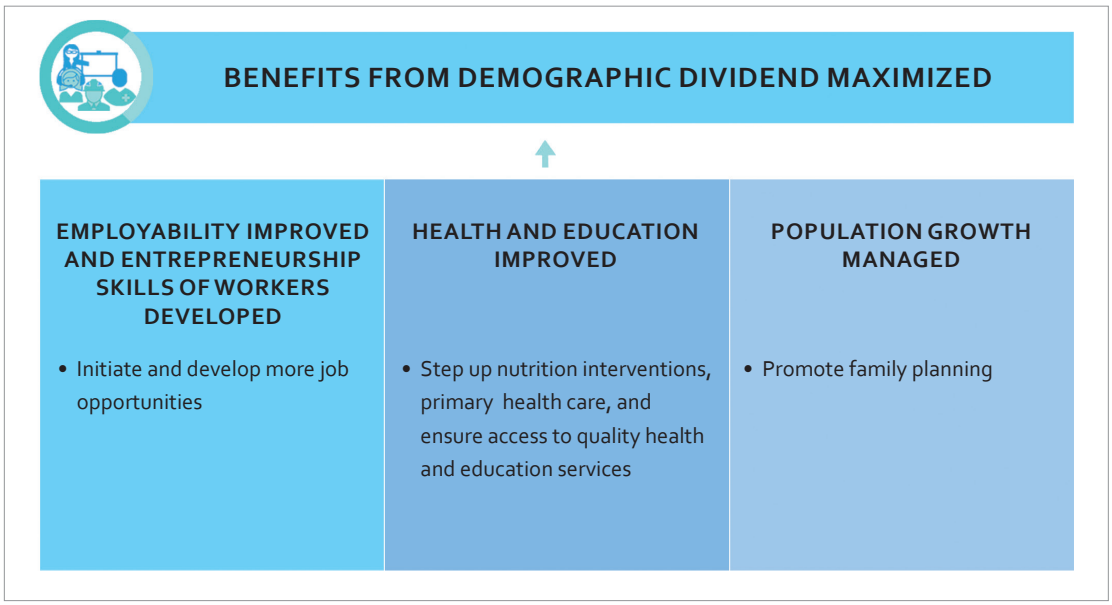
In 2015, Western Visayas had a labor force participation rate of 63.0 percent - the number of people who are either employed or are actively looking for work. Employment rate is estimated at 94.6 percent. Underemployed rate however, is high at 21.3 percent.

Strategic Framework

In the next years, efforts will be geared towards maximizing the benefits that may be expected from a population structure that has an increasingly large proportion in the working ages compared to the non-productive young and old ages. This can be done through the improvement in employability; development of entrepreneurial capability of its workers; improving the health and nutrition status, and access to education; and managing the region's population growth.

More opportunities for jobs, livelihood, and maximizing of workers' know-how will be initiated to mobilize everyone to be part of the growth and progress of Western Visayas. Entrepreneurship, as well as jobs-skills matching will be promoted in the schools' curriculum to encourage college entrants to develop their skills. Parallel to this is the nurturing of healthy, well-nourished, and educated children to pave the way for future productive and competitive labor force entrants.

Figure 13.5 Strategic Framework to Take Advantage of the Demographic Dividend, 2017-2022



Targets

The following are the targets to be achieved by 2022 to maximize the demographic dividend:

- Population growth rate reduced from 1.43 percent in 2015 to 1.2 percent in 2022
- Total fertility rate reduced from 3.8 to 2.0
- Incidence of teenage pregnancy reduced from 15 percent in 2015 to five percent
- Contraceptive prevalence rate ncreased from 35.96 percent in 2015 to 60 percent
- Underemployment rate reduced from 21.3 percent in 2015 to 12 percent

Strategies

Outcome 1 - Employability improved and entrepreneurship skills of workers developed

Initiate and develop more job opportunities. Increasing access to jobs, provision of trainings, career advocacy, coaching and counselling, as well as, values reorientation improve the chances for work of young graduates, workers and professionals. Implementation shall also be intensified of active labor market policies and programs that shall enhance employability of vulnerable workers.

Ensuring globally competitive technical-vocational education and training (TVET) programs will be pursued to support the needed skills in the labor market (See Chapter 11 on Enhancing human capital and access to social services). Aggressive strategies will be pursued to increase investments to generate jobs, especially for the youth (see Chapter 9 on Expanding and developing opportunities in the industry and services). To enhance employability, aggressive skills development will be undertaken; jobs mismatch will be addressed during early higher education years (see Chapter 11), and in the senior years in the K+12 program.

Ensuring globally competitive technical-vocational education and training (TVET) programs will be pursued to support the needed skills in the labor market (See Chapter 11 on Enhancing human capital and access to social services). Aggressive strategies will be pursued to increase investments to generate jobs, especially for the youth (see Chapter 9 on Expanding and developing opportunities in the industry and services). To enhance employability, aggressive skills development will be undertaken; jobs mismatch will be addressed during early higher education years (see Chapter 11), and in the senior years in the K+12 program.

Moreover, the years of experience and skills developed of those in the upper age bracket will be tapped to assist the young population in the labor force.

Outcome 2 - Health and education improved

Step up nutrition interventions, primary health care, and ensure access to quality health services and facilities. While reducing population growth through a responsible parenthood program will be pursued, raising healthy and well-nourished children is crucial to ensure that the region will have a population that will be actively involved in productive activities that will benefit the rest of the dependent population. Efforts to ensure access to quality health services and facilities will be expanded and made available especially for residents in the countryside (See Chapter 11 on Enhancing Human Capital and Access to Social Services).

The implementation of the Philippine Health Agenda, which seeks to create a free, comprehensive and progressive health care founded on equity, social justice, and people's rights will be advocated and supported. Ensuring that children have adequate nutrition from pregnancy through early childhood can have a profound impact on their ability to grow, learn, and participate in the workforce. Investments in education are critical to creating a capable workforce.

Outcome 3 - Population growth managed

Promote family planning. Aggressive promotion of modern family planning methods shall be conducted to minimize unmet needs of women in reproductive ages, and unwanted pregnancies. The Responsible Parenthood and Natural Family Planning Program will be especially advocated to women in reproductive ages. Access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and information will be ensured. Couples, especially among the poor, will be properly guided towards an informed choice on the number and spacing of children.

The implementation by LGUs of the Adolescent Health and Youth Development Program will be monitored, and Teen Centers in schools will be strengthened. An adolescent health referral system, including counselling services, will be established to help cut down the incidence of teenage pregnancy. Massive IEC will be intensified using social media and schools will be encouraged to use effective tools and resources to help reduce sexual risk behaviors especially among adolescents. Health care providers, professionals and school teachers will be trained to improve their competencies in counselling, interpersonal communication, and interdisciplinary care.

Legislative Agenda

Table 13.3 Legislative Agenda to Take Advantage of the Demographic Dividend

PROPOSED LEGISLATION	RATIONALE
Strengthening of the National Population and Development Policy.	A national policy for population and development needs to be strengthened and mainstreamed at all levels to address the fragmentation of government efforts for population and development.
Passage of a legislation that would provide for the establishment and operation of local population offices to ensure effective implementation of population management strategies and measures at the local level.	A cohesive effort to address population and development at the local level is needed.
Passage of the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy Bill to facilitate the development of a National Program of Action and Investment Plan for the prevention of teenage pregnancy.	There is a need for a comprehensive policy to address the alarming levels of teenage pregnancy.

14 Vigorously Advancing Science, Technology, and Innovation

Chapter 14

Vigorously Advancing Science, Technology and Innovation

Science, technology and innovation (STI) plays a pivotal role in a country's economic and social development. It is particularly a very vital catalyst for the long-term economic growth of a country. As such, a viable STI strategy is crucial in promoting productivity improvements in agriculture, industry and services.

This Chapter discusses the priority strategies and outcomes needed to increase the region's growth potential through the generation of new scientific knowledge, development of technologies and the application of innovations. This is expected to build the foundation for a globally competitive knowledge-based economy. Contributory to the national pillar of "pagbabago" or increasing growth potentials, STI will be advanced by a) increasing STI utilization in agriculture, industry and services, b) increasing investments in STI-based start-ups, enterprises and spin-offs, c) enhancing creative capacity for knowledge and technology generation, acquisition and adoption, and d) strengthening collaboration among actors in the STI ecosystem.

Assessment and Challenges

The Regional Development Plan, 2011-2016 is focused on building the capabilities of institutions along research and effectively transferring new knowledge and technologies to targeted recipients, by way of enhancing technological innovation and modernization, supportive of the region's agri-industrial and tourism development thrusts.

The major strategy of the Chapter on Research and Development Thrust was to pursue the commercialization of research results along technologies and improved indigenous products. This involved the strengthening of efforts towards the development of diverse programs for technology commercialization, enhancing the linkages between research institutions and industry, encouraging technological innovations to improve operations and boost productivity and competitiveness, and conducting of extensive research on the integration of technologies for industrial applications.

The reported accomplishment from 2013-2016 show that the delivery of the sector's priority development objectives and targets, especially on the advancement of technologies from experimental to adoption stage and from adoption stage to commercialization stage, was not achieved. Likewise, targets for technical assistance in the intellectual property rights applications and R&D-related projects of research consortia were not met.

Although these priority targets were not achieved, other targeted activities contributory to the advancement of research and development in the region were undertaken as planned. These include 1) technical assistance to micro-, small- and medium enterprises (MSMEs), 2) number of technology transfer and commercialization projects, 3) technical and consultancy services provided, 4) laboratory testing and calibration services provided and 5) technology business incubators, packaging and innovation centers established.

Since the region is envisioning itself to be at the forefront of agriculture-based industrialization and tourism development, it needs to catch up with other regions and be ready for the ASEAN integration in terms of R&D intensity and number of researchers. The government should allocate more R&D spending for the regions and establish a more conducive environment to create better job opportunities for researchers, such as giving incentives and higher salaries, to attract more S&T professionals into research. There should be more science and engineering scholarships and R&D facilities in government schools and R&D institutions should be upgraded to attract more people to do research.

While much has been done by the previous administration in strengthening micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which comprise 99.6 percent of the country's total number of establishments, the productivity of MSMEs is still low because of lack of access to technology and failure to engage in innovation and R&D activities.

There should be purposive efforts in disseminating R&D products to the end-users and for them to appreciate and utilize R&D products and services. With the help of S&T and R&D, agriculture can be a lucrative industry that can foster food security in the region. Through STI, MSMEs can be equipped with the technology that can create globally competitive products to meet the demands of the local and international market quality standards. Similarly, STI can support the manufacturing and industrial sectors to raise productivity, foster the creation of high-value products, and improve the quality of their products.

Overall, there is low level of innovation in the country with the Philippines ranking 5th out of the 7 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) that were included in the survey for Global Innovation Index (GII). In 2016, the Philippines ranked 74th among the 128 economies in terms of overall innovation, with a score of 31.8 out of 100. This is higher compared to the 2015 score of 31.1, ranking 83rd out of 141 economies surveyed. The low level of innovation in the country is reflected in the regions, especially outside of Luzon, where there is generally lack of access to technology and failure to engage in innovation and R&D activities.

The weak performance of the STI sector can be attributed to the following factors:

Low research and innovation productivity. Western Visayas lags behind other regions, especially those regions in Luzon, as far as research and innovation productivity is concerned. No technologies have been reported to have evolved from experimental to adoption stage and to commercialization stage since 2013. The region has low knowledge and technology outputs, measured by the number of patents and other intellectual property rights granted and scientific and technical journals published, as well as the number of personnel involved in research. Since 2013, there were only 10 applicants in the region who applied for intellectual property rights, including application for patents, utility model and trademark, or barely 5 percent of the total 205 local applicants nationwide in 2013.

There were no additional applicants since 2013 until 2015, despite the overall increase in the country's total of 284 in 2015.

Inadequate S&T human resources engaged in STI and R&D. The number of S&T human resources engaged in R&D activities is an indicator to measure the capacity for technology generation. In 2013, the Philippines had 270 per million population S&T human resources engaged in R&D activities. This falls short of the UNESCO's standard of 380 researchers per million population and the 1,020 researchers per million population average across developing economies of East Asia and the Pacific. Of the 26,495 researchers in the country, majority are from the private industry (13,843). Region VI ranked sixth among the regions, in terms of the number of researchers with only 867 researchers from both the government and private sectors or 122 researchers per million population. NCR and Region IV-A account for more than half of the total number of researchers at 59 percent while Region VI accounts for only 3.27 percent of the total. Also, most of the R&D activities are concentrated in the NCR and Luzon, particularly in CALABARZON and Central Luzon.

The low number of researchers in the country shows the tendency of the educational system to produce graduates outside of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programs, which are the disciplines where R&D flourishes.

Difficulty in providing employment opportunities and retaining S&T human capital. While the quality of graduates from STEM-related training in the Philippines is acceptable by global standards, an assessment of the country's innovation system conducted by the United States Agency for International Development - Science, Technology Research and Innovation (USAID-STRIDE) shows that the supply of STEM graduates continues to exceed local demand. This has resulted in out-migration and underemployment of many skilled, locally trained scientists and engineers. The Report also cited shortages of training for critical innovation-driven fields, particularly in the high-demand information technology sector. Firms are thus always on the lookout for workers with the needed skills in these fields.

Moreover, brain drain contributes to the country's declining number of S&T practitioner. The low investments in R&D and S&T has resulted to a struggling industrial and agricultural sectors. This subsequently led to the migration of the country's brightest and highly-trained scientists, researchers and engineers, who are the key actors in the flourishing of an innovation ecosystem, to countries that can provide the conditions conducive to their work, not to mention the rewards for their scientific work. Since knowledge and technologies are mostly embodied in human resources, there is a need to accelerate the development of R&D human resource as well as programs that would encourage them to stay in the country and contribute in nation building.

Low government spending on STI. In 2013, the Philippines spent 0.14 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) for R&D, which is way below the recommended level of at least 1 percent by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the global average of 2.04 percent. The country's low ranking in global innovation index (GII) Report was attributed to weaknesses in human capital and R&D with the Philippines ranking 95th out of 128 economies, garnering only a score of 22.7 out of 100. Expenditures on R&D and innovation activities and support given to the development of human resources in various S&T fields are among the indicators in monitoring and evaluation of STI.

Among the 15 regions, Region VI ranked eighth in terms of R&D expenditures in 2013, and accounted for barely 1 percent (1.16%) of the country's total expenditures of PHP15.9 billion. More than 80 percent of the total expenditures of both government and private sector was spent in the National Capital Region (NCR) and Region 4A or CALABARZON.

Weak collaboration among R&D players in the region. Various regional government agencies, academic institutions, as well as private organizations, have their own R&D budget and expenditures. The existing R&D consortia are being supported by regional agencies with DOST, for example, supporting the Western Visayas Agriculture and Resources Research and Development Consortium (WESVARRDEC), Western Visayas Consortium for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (WVCIEERD) and Western Visayas Health Research and Development Consortium (WVHRDC). However, coordination across sectors is quite weak. There were efforts related to the identification of regional priority R&D areas to address the gaps identified in the previous Regional Development Plan, but the research agenda were quite loose with the consortia still aligning their R&D agenda with that of the national agenda or of the funding agencies. Moreover, there is no mechanism for regional planning and implementation.

Low adoption and application of technology to advance the MSME, agriculture and fisheries sectors. There is low adoption and application of technology to advance vital sectors such as the Micro-, Small-, and Medium-Enterprises, agriculture and fisheries. As observed by Albert, et al. (2011), only a handful of firms recognize the government or public research institutes as sources of knowledge, technology and innovation. The government needs to exert more effort in informing relevant stakeholders, such as firms, of the available information derived from public R&D activities (Albert, et al., 2016). The said available information can be in the form of technologies, processes or services which may be availed to spur innovation.

Despite the enactment of Philippine Technology Transfer Act of 2009 (Republic Act No. 10055), its objectives to fast track the technology transfer, commercialization and utilization of R&D results still have to be realized. Government entities still have to internalize the provisions of the law. They still have to take on technology transfer as their strategic mission and to effectively translate results of government-funded R&D into useful products and services for the benefit of the people.

Moreover, there is low absorptive capacity or the ability to recognize the value of new, external information, assimilate it, and apply it to commercial ends among institutions. Low absorptive capacity can be traced to lack of capable human resource and lack of needed facilities and equipment that can be used to carry out a research or technology transfer activities. Compared to more advanced regions like NCR and CALABARZON, Region VI has fewer researchers and funding support and its S&T facilities need to be upgraded.

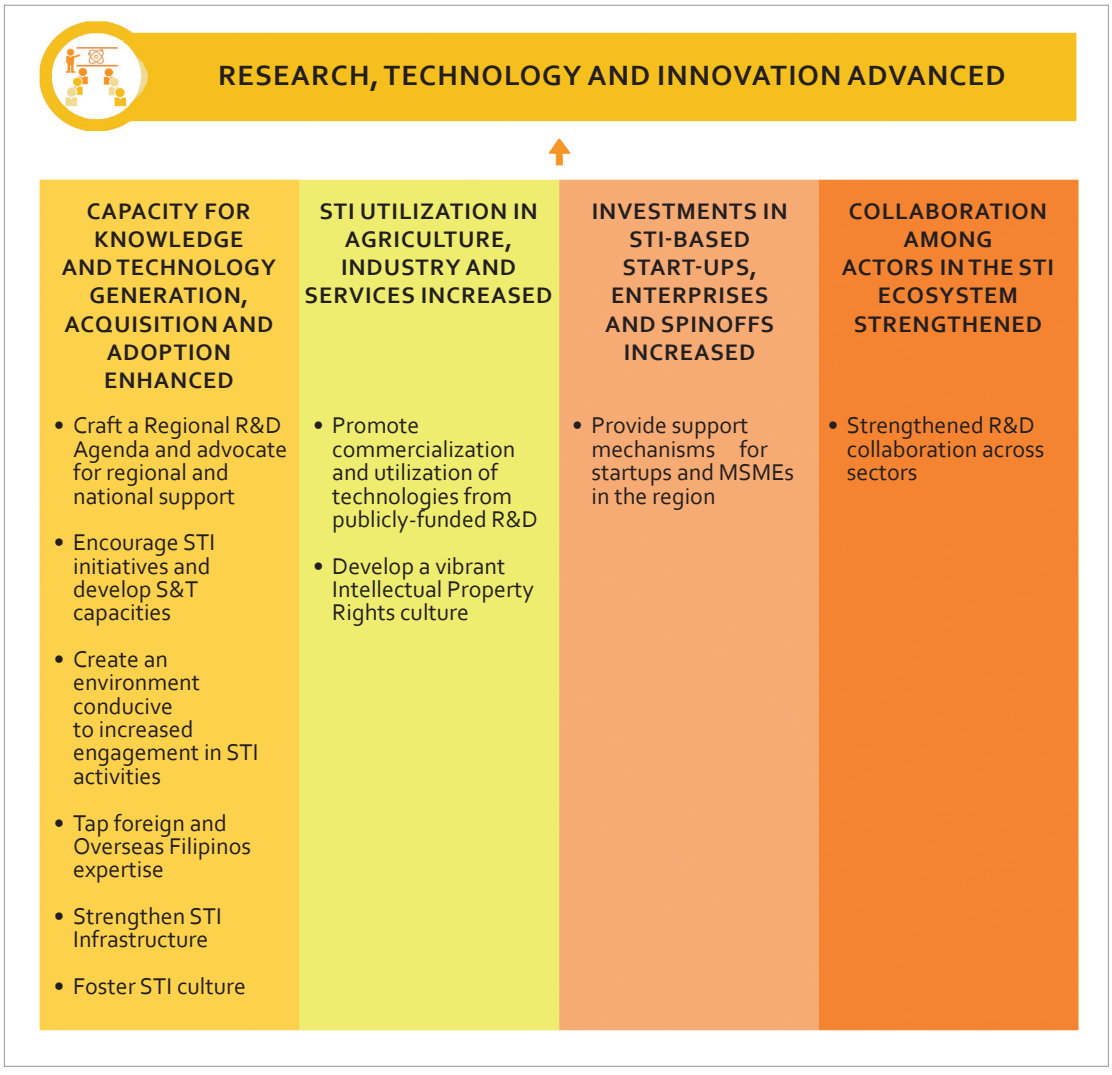
Inadequate STI Infrastructure. The innovative capacity of academe and research institutions should be strengthened by providing the necessary STI infrastructures. There is still lack of these infrastructures especially laboratory facilities, testing facilities and R&D centers. Existing ones need upgrading to improve their services. The USAID-STRIDE report cited that the public institutions failed to provide young researchers with equipment packages, especially those returning from studies abroad with more advanced research agenda.

Moreover, the country's leading research institutions are concentrated in Luzon.

Strategic Framework

The Western Visayas RDP, 2017-2022 will contribute in the achievement of the overall goal of the Philippine Development Plan, 2017-2022 of establishing the foundation for inclusive growth, a high-trust society and a globally competitive knowledge economy. Contributing to the national pillar of "pagbabago" or increasing growth potentials, research, technology and innovation will be advanced by a) increasing STI utilization in agriculture, industry and services, b) increasing investments in STI-based start-ups, enterprises and spin-offs, c) enhancing creative capacity for knowledge and technology generation, acquisition and adoption, and d) strengthening collaboration among actors in the STI ecosystem.

Figure 14.1 Strategic Framework to Vigorously Advance Science, Technology and Innovation, 2017-2022



Targets

Supportive of the national targets, the region will strive to achieve the following targets to vigorously advance science, technology and innovation for 2017-2022:

- Regional Research Agenda supportive of RDP 2017-2022 and National Harmonized Development Agenda prepared
- About 80-85 percent of the total R&D proposals funded
- Number of researchers (in full time equivalent) per million population increased to 124
- S&T-related services provided to 100 MSMEs , 17 technopreneurs, 11 enterprises and 4 spin-offs to 4
- Nine technologies from publicly-funded R&D will evolve from experimental to commercialization stage
- S&T scholarship grants awarded to 225 masteral degree students and 195 doctoral degree students
- Twenty-three R&D centers and two fab-labs established
- One government-industry-academe council established per province

Strategies

Outcome 1- Capacity for knowledge and technology generation, acquisition and adoptions enhanced

Craft a Regional R&D Agenda and advocate for regional and national support. In line with the national government's thrust to invest in building an efficient system of knowledge creation and technology generation, the region, through the Regional R&D Committee of the Regional Development Council, will prepare a harmonized Regional Research and Development Agenda responsive to the development needs of the region as specfied in the RDP and at the same time, supportive of the Harmonized National R&D Agenda (HNRDA). The HNDRA defines the country's priorities and guide public investment in R&D particularly in the areas of agriculture, aquatic, natural resources, health and nutrition, industry, energy and emerging technologies, among others. The region will also advocate for a more rational share in the STI ecosystem budget and infrastructure in support of its regional R&D agenda.

Encourage STI initiatives and develop S&T capacities. STI initiatives for the creative industries, tourism and other service industries will also be encouraged. Innovation activities on the sectors covered by the regional industry roadmap will be supported. The region will strongly urge that the roadmaps consider the utilization of results of researches and their R&D requirements be made part of the HNRDA.

Taking advantage of the priority thrust of the national government to engage in more collaborative R&D activities and investment in infrastructure buildup, the region will develop capacities to maximize the use of the following core and emerging technologies: a) information and communications technology; b) biotechnology for industry, agriculture, health and environment; c) nanotechnology; d) genomics, e) nuclear science for energy, health, agriculture and industry; f) artificial intelligence; g) space technology; and h) disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and mitigation.

Create an environment conducive to increased engagement in STI activities. Increasing the number and quality of researchers, scientists and engineers is a basic strategy for the establishment of a vibrant STI ecosystem. This means increasing the number of researchers from the current 867 researchers in the region in support the government's target to achieve or even surpass the UNESCO's norm of 380 researchers, scientists and engineers per million population. The right incentives shall be provided to attract young people to pursue higher education in S&T disciplines with the availability of ongoing S&T scholarships such as; a) Expanded Specialized Science Secondary Education Scholarship; b) Expanded Undergraduate S&T Scholarships for Inclusive development; c) Expanded S&T Graduate (Masters/PhD) Scholarships.

Government agencies and local government units will be encouraged to create a competitive work environment and research as a career will be promoted to help motivate competent human resource to stay in the country.

Tap foreign and overseas Filipinos expertise. With mechanisms already in place, the region will aggressively encourage overseas based Filipino experts to volunteer and share their knowledge and specializations with the academe and industry, by leveraging the use of information and communication technology, among others. Volunteerism shall be the core modality to harness the potential role of OFs in developing the region's STI capability. Brain gain programs like the "Balik Scientist" should be strengthened and pursued down to the regions to systematize the skills and technology exchange/transfer between overseas Filipinos and their home country and communities. The hiring of foreign scientists and experts will be explored in areas where expertise is locally unavailable to build capacities in the field. Institutional linkages through OFs, especially in ASEAN, will be fostered to induce more R&D collaboration and capacity building.

Strengthen STI Infrastructure. The development of STI infrastructure will be undertaken in order to address region-specific concerns. Niche centers for R&D will be established to capacitate regional academic institutions and improve industry competitiveness. Modernization of existing R&D facilities and other STI infrastructures, both in public and private HEIs, will be pursued to enable them to carry-out higher level R&D activities. Investments will also be in the establishment of product development centers, materials and products testing facilities, and disaster risk reduction facilities.

Improvement of internet connectivity by putting in place a robust ICT infrastructures, particularly the national broadband, will be given priority to boost productivity of research and other STI activities. The government is currently laying the groundwork for the rollout of the fiber optic cable network under the "Convergence Program" to link national government agencies in a fiber-optic network and through shared resources.

Innovation hubs will be established in strategic locations in the region to include food innovation centers and shared service facilities. The region will take advantage of the country's positioning as the global hub for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Specifically, it will benefit from the platform that will be provided for technologies, lessons and best practices in responding and recovering from natural disasters. Likewise, it will provide support for the creation of incubation centers for MSMEs and startups.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) will coordinate closely with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and other government agencies, the academe, the private sector and the people's organizations on the necessary investments in scientific and technological research, as well as government support for science and technology parks and local R&D and training.

Foster STI culture. The culture of creativity and inventiveness will be promoted in all sectors and as early as possible. Programs to boost the interest of young students to pursue STEM courses and the creative arts as viable career options will be pursued. Communicating STI through various media and in partnership with different stakeholders will be carried out to increase public awareness and interest on the importance of STI in daily life.

Also, STI culture shall be institutionalized in the academe. Academic institutions should provide incentives that would allow faculty members to focus on research, such as reducing teaching loads. Also, STI culture will be inculcated upon policy makers and government officials and employees for more effective decision-making. Being a major user and consumer of products and services, government can serve as showcase and promoter of innovative and STI-based solutions. The government will also support LGU-led innovation activities.

Outcome 2 - STI utilization in agriculture,industry and services increased

Promote commercialization and utilization of technologies from publicly-funded R&D. The dissemination, transfer, commercialization, and utilization of knowledge, technologies, information and processes derived from publicly-funded S&T activities shall be promoted and accelerated without prejudice to intellectual property rights. Technologies with high commercial potential shall be given priority assistance. The application of these knowledge, technology, information, and processes to agriculture, industry and services sectors will be given priority to improve productivity that will translate to increase in incomes and jobs, especially in the countryside. The development of networks and markets will be cultivated and effective marketing strategies through extensive use of the quad-media and the organization of fora, fairs and exhibits will be undertaken.

Develop a vibrant Intellectual Property Rights culture. Initiatives to improve the number of patent applications will be strengthened through the Patent Incentive Package. Also, the Philippine Technology Transfer Act of 2009, particularly on the ownership and revenue sharing, will be institutionalized. The appreciation and understanding of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) shall be undertaken through aggressive and sustained advocacy in order to leverage intellectual property protection as an essential component of the innovation system. Information campaigns will be conducted on the importance of IPR to enhance public awareness and eventually create an intellectual property culture among Filipinos.

Outcome 3 - Increased investments in STI-based start-ups, enterprises and spin-offs

Provide support mechanisms for startups and MSMEs in the region. The government will strengthen the policy and regulatory environment, and introduce new mechanisms to support technopreneurs, startups, spin-off companies, and MSMEs. To encourage uptake of innovation-based entrepreneurship, platforms for technology commercialization will be provided. These will include establishment of new technology business incubators in the region in partnership with the private sector and HEIs, promote available technologies and extend consultancy and other services for productivity improvement.

The Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SET-UP) will be expanded to enable more MSMEs to access government assistance such as provision of innovative and cost-effective facilities, provision of technical support for compliance to product and quality standards, packaging and labeling, and training and consultancy services.

In addition, the Startup Ecosystem Development Program will be pursued to usher in a new breed of businesses that will thrive in an innovation economy. Under the program, support for startups will be bolstered through government services, capital and resources.

Outcome 4 - Strengthen open collaboration among factors in the STI ecosystem

Strengthen R&D collaboration across sectors. To enhance collaboration among the various research consortia, government agencies and other actors in the STI ecosystem, the Regional Development Council established the Regional Research and Development Committee (RRDC) as its special committee. The RRDC will be responsible to prepare a harmonized R&D agenda responsive to the development needs of the region, identify opportunities for collaboration among the research consortia, monitor the implementation of R&D projects and monitor technology adoption or commercialization of R&D results, among others.

Institutional bottlenecks to joint research activities among universities, industry and government will be addressed. These include the burdensome processes and administrative procedures, particularly on the case of public higher education and research institutions. The government will also leverage public R&D grants, tax, and other incentives to increase productivity in agriculture, industry and services.

Legislative Agenda

Table 14.1 Legislative Agenda to Vigorously Advance Science, Technology and Innovation

PROPOSED LEGISLATION	RATIONALE
Outcome 1 - Promoted and accelerated technology adoption	
An Act Establishing the Science for Change Program	Aims to achieve a higher standard of S&T, by prescribing the basic policy requirements for the promotion of S&T comprehensively and systematically promoting policies for the progress of S&T
An Act Strengthening the National Measurement Infrastruture System amending RA 9236, also known as the National Metrology Act of 2003 and fr other purpose	Aims to establish a National Metrology Institute under the DOST; provide capacity building programs through competency trainingto strengthen the local metrology authorities at the local level; and set up a Metrology Training program to undertake the proficiency testing, advocacy education and training on metrology
Outcome 2 - Stimulated Innovation	
An Act Adopting Innovation as a Vital Component of the Country's Development Policies to Drive Inclusive Development Promote the Growth and National Competitiveness of MSMEs, and for other Purposes	Intends to generate and scale up action in all levels and areas of education, training, research and development towards promoting innovation and internationalization activities of MSMEs as drivers of sustainable and inclusive growth
An Act Strengthening the Balik Scientist Program and Appropriating Funds therefor	Seeks to strengthen the scientific and technological human resources of the academe, public institutions, and domestic corporations, through the promotion of knowledge sharing and accelerate the flow of new technologies into the country
An Act Creating the Philippine Space Agency	Seeks to legislate a Philippine Space Development and Utilization policy and create a Philippine Space Agency that would be tasked with providing the country's space technology-related need from weather imaging to telecommunications
An Act Providing for a Comprehensive Nuclear Regulation, Creating for the Purpose the Philippine Nuclear Regulatory Commission (PNRC),, and Appropriating Funds therefor	Seeks to legislate an independent regulatory framework that will decide on issues affecting public health and safety, protection of the environment and nuclear security and safeguards, beyond the reach of entities with self-motivated interests. The resolution of issues within an autonomous regulatory structure will generate a higher level of trust and confidence in the application of nuclear technologies. The PNRC shall exercise authority over all aspects of safety, security involving nuclear materials and other radioactive materials, facilities and radiation-generating equipment.

PART V

ENABLING AND SUPPORTIVE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

15 Ensuring Sound Macroeconomic Policy

Chapter 15

Ensuring Sound Macroeconomic Policy

This chapter assesses the macroeconomic environment of the region and present relevant fiscal, economic, and external trade policies supportive of the regional goals of achieving a progressive regional economy that ensures sustainable growth and inclusive development.

Assessment and Challenges

Regional Economic Performance

Gross Regional Domestic Product

From 2010 to 2015, the gross regional domestic product of the region grew at an annual average of 5.8 percent, lower than the region's annual growth rate target of 6.2 percent and the GDP growth rate, also of 6.2 percent registered during the same period. Among the three sectors, the Industry sector was the fastest growing with an average annual growth of 12.18 percent, followed by the Services sector at 6.23 percent. The growth of the Industry sector was primarily driven by the Construction sub-sector.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries did not perform as well. From being the fastest growing sector at 14.1 percent growth in 2011, AHFF's growth rate plummeted by 14 percentage points in 2012 to negative 0.1 percent, due to low production of commercial and municipal fisheries and substantially reduced farm production affected by unfavorable weather conditions. The growth of AHFF further decelerated to negative 3.1 percent in 2013 resulting in the substantial decrease in the production of palay, sugarcane and livestock. AHFF's contraction lessened from negative 2.3 percent in 2014 to negative 0.6 percent in 2015. On the average, the annual growth rate of the AHFF sector was only 1.2 percent.

Table 15.1 Gross Regional Domestic Product Growth Rates, by Sector, 2010 to 2015 (at constant 2000 prices)

INDUSTRY/YEAR	GRDP GROWTH RATE (%)						AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE (2010-2015)
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
GDP	7.6	3.6	6.8	7.1	6.2	5.9	6.20
GRDP	4.5	6.2	7.2	3.4	5.2	8.3	5.80
AHFF	(3.3)	14.1	(0.1)	(3.1)	(2.3)	(0.6)	1.20
Industry	9.2	(0.9)	19.9	9.4	13.5	22.0	12.18
Services	6.9	4.8	7.6	5.7	5.5	6.9	6.23

Source: PSA-VI

Table 15.2 Gross Regional Domestic Product Distribution by Industrial Origin, 2012-2015 (at Constant 2000 Prices)

INDUSTRY/YEAR	GRDP PERCENT DISTRIBUTION			
	2012	2013	2014	2015
I. Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry & Fishing	25.2	23.5	21.9	20.0
a. Agriculture and Forestry	19.7	18.4	17.2	15.9
b. Fishing	5.5	5.1	4.6	4.1
II Industry	17.8	18.8	20.3	22.9
a. Mining and Quarrying	2.1	1.9	2.3	2.1
b. Manufacturing	7.4	7.9	8.3	7.9
c. Construction	7.3	8.0	8.7	11.8
d. Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0
III Services	57.0	57.6	57.8	57.1
a. Transport, Storage & Communication	11.0	11.2	11.6	11.5
b. Trade and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles, Personal and Household Goods	13.4	13.7	13.6	13.3
c. Financial Intermediation	6.6	7.3	7.4	7.1
d. R. Estate, Renting & Business Activities	8.4	7.8	7.6	7.3
e. Public Administration & Defense;				
Compulsory Social Security	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.2
f. Other Services	13.4	13.2	13.3	13.7
Gross Regional Domestic Product	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: PSA-VI

A gradual shift may be observed in the economic structure of the region in the years 2012-2015. Industry, which used to be the lowest contributor, has consistently gained in share of the region's GRDP from only 17.8 percent to 22.9 percent, while AHFF's share declined from 25.2 percent to 20 percent. The share of the Services sector remained steady at 57 percent and remains to be biggest source of the region's economic output.

The declining contribution from the agriculture sector indicates increasing population pressure and shifts in land uses in the past years, giving way to increasing investments in the industry and services sectors, especially along real estate development and trading, among others.

From 2010 to 2015, Region VI was one of the top performing regions, ranking 4th in 2011, 6th in 2012 and 2nd in 2015. Growing at an average of 5.8 percent, the region's economy was the eighth fastest growing during the six-year period. In 2015, Region VI contributed 4 percent to the national GDP, making it the 5th largest contributor among the regions.

Table 15.3 Gross Domestic Product and Gross Regional Domestic Product Growth Rates, by Region, 2010-2015

REGION	GDP/GRDP GROWTH RATE						AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE (2010-2015)
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
PHIL	7.6	3.6	6.8	7.1	6.2	5.9	6.2
NCR	7.4	3.1	7.3	9.2	5.9	6.6	6.6
CAR	6.5	1.3	1.0	5.4	3.3	3.7	3.5
I	6.8	2.4	5.2	6.8	6.4	5.0	5.4
II	-0.8	5.6	8.2	6.2	7.2	3.7	5.0
III	10.0	7.1	6.3	4.4	9.3	5.3	7.0
IVA	11.7	1.7	7.0	6.7	5.1	5.9	6.3
IVB	-0.3	3.1	4.2	1.3	8.3	1.7	3.1
V	3.5	1.9	7.1	8.1	4.3	8.4	5.5
VI	4.5	6.2	7.5	3.4	5.2	8.3	5.8
VII	12.9	6.8	9.3	7.4	7.8	4.8	8.2
VIII	3.0	2.1	-6.2	4.5	-2.4	3.9	0.8
IX	1.4	0.1	12.4	4.1	6.6	7.2	5.3
X	6.5	5.8	7.4	5.3	7.1	5.5	6.3
XI	5.6	3.7	7.4	6.7	9.3	7.9	6.8
XII	2.2	5.3	8.1	8.4	6.2	3.3	5.6
XIII	10.7	8.5	10.6	8.1	9.4	4.2	8.6
ARMM	6.7	-0.3	1.2	3.8	3.0	-0.8	2.3

Source: PSA-VI

Prices

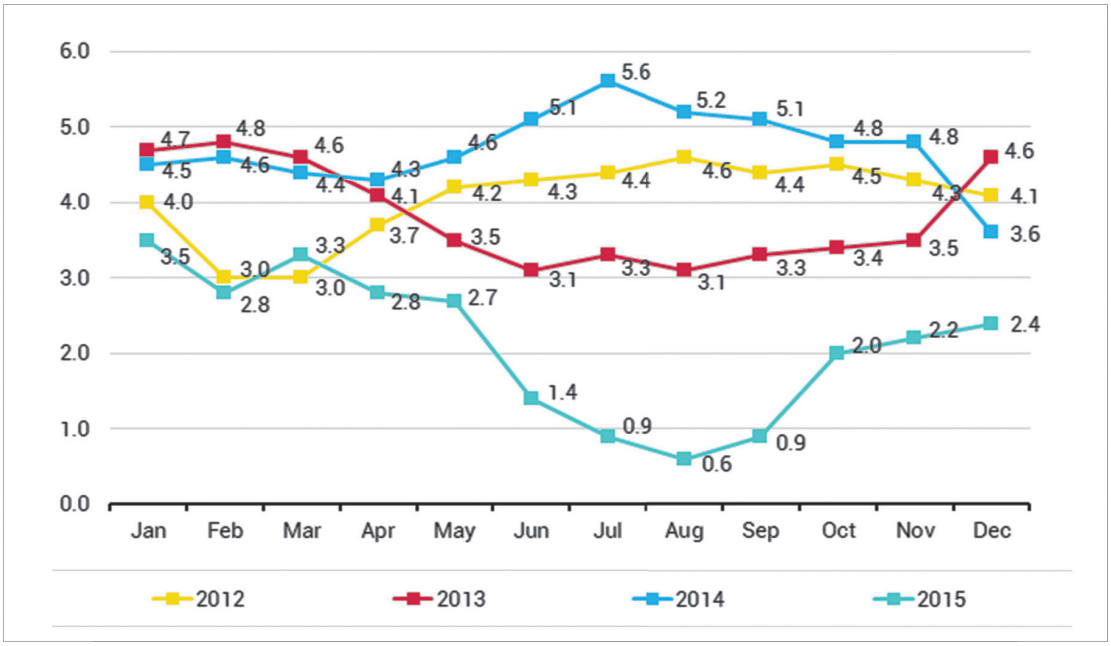
There was a marked drop in the inflation rate from June to September in 2015, registering as low as 0.6 percent in August. Average annual inflation rate in 2015 was only 2.30 percent, lower compared to the annual average of 4.7 percent in 2014. The abundant supply of key food products brought down prices of food items and inflation rate decreased by 48.8 percent from 2014 and 2015. Furthermore, the roll back in domestic pump prices of gasoline, diesel, kerosene and liquified petroleum gas (LPG) resulted in lower transportation costs and reduced prices of electricity. With the Sin Tax Law taking effect, alcoholic beverages and tobacco registered double digit rates in 2013, but these have since gone down to 3.0 percent in 2015.

Table 15.4 Regional Contributions to GDP Growth: 2014 and 2015, (at Constant 2000 Prices)

REGION	% CONTRIBUTION TO GDP AND RANK AMONG REGIONS			
	2014	RANK	2015	RANK
PHILIPPINES	100.0		100.0	
NCR	36.3	1	36.5	1
CAR	1.8	13	1.8	13
ILOCOS	3.1	8	3.1	8
CAGAYAN VALLEY	1.8	14	1.8	14
CENTRAL LUZON	9.3	3	9.3	3
CALABARZON	17.2	2	17.2	2
MIMAROPA	1.6	15	1.6	15
BICOL	2.0	12	2.0	12
WESTERN VISAYAS	3.9	6	4.0	5
CENTRAL VISAYAS	6.5	4	6.4	4
EASTERN VISAYAS	2.0	10	2.0	11
ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA	2.0	11	2.1	10
NORTHERN MINDANAO	3.7	7	3.7	7
DAVAO REGION	3.9	5	4.0	5
SOCCSKSARGEN	2.8	9	2.7	9
CARAGA	1.3	16	1.3	16
ARMM	0.7	17	0.7	17

Source: PSA-VI

Figure 15.1 Monthly Inflation Rate, 2012-2015



Source: PSA-VI

Table 15.5 Average Annual Inflation Rates, by Commodity Group, 2011-2015

INFLATION RATE	ANNUAL INFLATION RATE (%)					AVERAGE (2011-2015)
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
All Items	4.6	4.0	3.8	4.7	2.3	3.88
I. Food and non-alcoholic beverage	4.4	3.8	3.1	7.0	3.3	4.32
a. Food	4.4	3.9	3.1	7.5	3.4	4.46
b. Beverage	3.5	3.0	2.8	1.6	1.0	2.38
II. Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	8.3	5.0	30.3	5.7	3.0	10.46
a. Alcoholic Beverages	8.8	3.1	10.2	3.1	1.5	5.34
b. Tobacco	7.4	8.1	60.3	8.5	4.5	17.76
I. Non-Food	4.6	4.2	2.9	2.5	1.3	3.10
a. Clothing	4.2	4.5	2.7	1.2	1.9	2.72
b. Housing, Water, Electricity. Gas and Other Fuels	4.9	6.1	4.0	3.6	1.0	3.92
c. Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine House Maintenance	3.7	5.2	3.9	1.7	2.0	3.3
d. Health	2.9	2.0	1.9	3.2	2.4	2.48
e. Transport	5.1	1.9	0.9	0.7	0.3	1.78
f. Communication	-0.1	-0.3	-0.7	-0.8	0.0	-0.38
g. Recreation and Culture	3.9	2.2	2.1	1.0	0.5	1.94
h. Education	4.8	5.5	4.4	3.9	3.8	4.48
i. Restaurants and Miscellaneous Goods and Services	5.0	3.0	2.3	2.2	1.4	2.78

Source: PSA-VI

Across regions, Western Visayas is among the regions that experienced high inflation rates at 3.8 and 4.7 percent in 2013 and 2014 respectively, ranking 6th in both years. Compared to the other two Visayas regions, however, it registered the lowest inflation rate - Region VII, at 5 percent, and Region VIII at 6.5 percent in 2014.

Among the provinces, Antique, Aklan, and Iloilo experienced higher than the regional average inflation rate of 3.73 from 2010 to 2015. The increase in the prices of commodities in Antique in 2012 can be attributed to higher government spending for infrastructure and the expansion of the coverage of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program which poured more money in communities. In 2013, inflation rates in the Provinces of Aklan (4.6 percent) and Antique (6.4 percent) were pushed by increases in the prices of alcoholic beverages, tobacco and rentals for housing.

Table 15.6 Average Annual Inflation Rate, by Province, 2010 to 2015

REGION	ANNUAL INFLATION RATE (%)						AVERAGE (2010-2015)
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Region VI	2.9	4.6	4.1	3.8	4.7	2.3	3.73
Aklan	2.6	5.3	3.6	4.6	4.0	NDA	4.02
Antique	4.4	2.6	4.5	6.4	6.8	3.2	4.65
Capiz	4.9	7.6	2.8	1.4	4.0	0.8	3.58
Guimaras	1.4	5.7	3.7	3.5	5.0	1.7	3.5
Iloilo	5.1	3.9	4.1	3.1	4.9	2.9	4.0

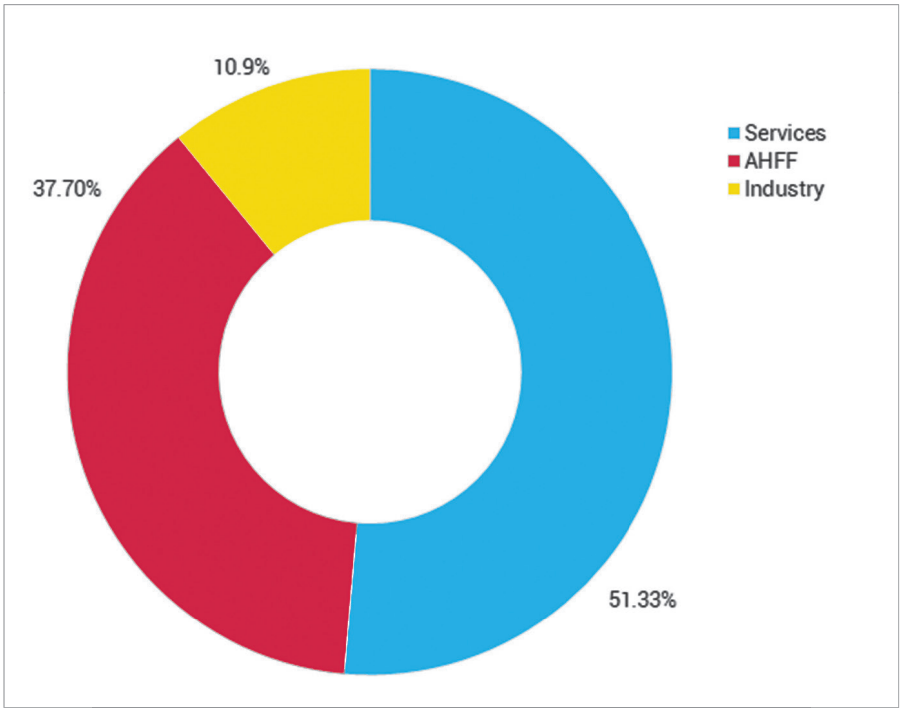
Source: PSA-VI

Labor and Employment

The region's employment rate dropped from 93.4 percent in 2009 to 93.1 percent in 2013 but improved to 94.6 percent by 2015. Employment rate has steadily increased since 2013, surpassing the annual plan targets. More jobs were created in the construction, IT-BPM, cyber services / business process outsourcing (BPOs), hotels and restaurants, health and wellness, wholesale and retail, and tourism-related establishments which are considered the major employment drivers of the region.

Correspondingly, both unemployment and underemployment rates declined. Unemployment rate fell from 6.9 percent in 2013 to 5.4 percent in 2015; while underemployment rate steadily declined from 24.6 percent in 2010 to 21.3 percent in 2015, also exceeding plan targets.

Figure 15.2 Persons Employed, by Industry, 2012-2015 (in Percent)



Source: PSA-VI

The number of jobs generated likewise surpassed the annual plan targets in the years since 2012 – 2015. The Services sector accounted for over 50 percent of total persons employed from 2012 to 2015, followed by Agriculture 37.7 percent, and Industry 10.89 percent. Of the total persons employed in Services, majority were engaged in wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (17.04%), In AHFF, employment was found mostly in agriculture and forestry; in Industry, manufacturing and construction provided the most number of jobs.

Table 15.7 Employed Persons, by Industry, 2012-2015 (percent share)

INDUSTRY	Percent Share of Employed Persons				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	AVERAGE
Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry and Fisheries (AHFF)	**37.70**	**36.89**	**37.73**	**38.77**	**37.73**
Agriculture hunting and forestry	31.94	30.99	31.57	30.51	31.57
Fishing	5.83	5.90	6.16	5.80	6.16
Industry	**10.73**	**10.93**	**11.80**	**10.09**	**10.89**
Mining and Quarrying	0.23	0.30	0.28	0.25	0.27
Manufacturing	5.36	4.90	4.81	4.66	4.93
Electricity Gas, Steam, and Air Conditioning Supply	0.20	0.30	0.28	0.10	0.22
Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities	0.10	0.17	0.13	0.10	0.13
Construction	4.83	5.26	6.31	4.98	5.35
Services	**51.50**	**52.18**	**50.47**	**51.15**	**51.33**
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	17.29	17.69	16.90	16.28	17.04
Transportation and storage	6.96	6.90	6.56	6.62	6.76
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	4.26	4.33	4.38	4.46	4.36
Information and Communication	0.67	0.53	0.60	0.54	0.59
Financial and Insurance Activities	0.97	0.97	1.06	1.01	1.00
Real Estate activities	0.30	0.17	0.20	0.22	0.22
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	0.40	0.30	0.28	0.34	0.33
Administrative and Support Service Activities	1.60	1.83	1.48	2.03	1.74
Public Administration and Defense; Compulsory Social Security	5.33	5.40	5.43	5.71	5.47
Education	3.66	3.70	3.52	3.66	3.64
Human Health and Social Work Activities	1.13	1.33	1.28	1.28	1.26
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	0.63	0.60	0.63	0.47	0.58
Other Service Activities	6.76	6.97	6.67	8.03	7.11

Source: PSA-VI

Poverty Incidence

Poverty incidence among families and population moderately improved in the past three years. Poverty incidence among families in the region is still high at 22.8 percent in 2012 and 16.6 percent in 2015 compared with the national average for families in 2012 (19.7%) and 2015 (16.5%). Among population, poverty incidence in Region VI stood at 29.1 in 2012 and declined to 22.4 by 2015, while the national average was placed at 25.2 percent in 2012 and 21.6 percent in 2015.

Including Negros Occidental, the magnitude of poor population in Region VI was estimated to be 1,728,397 in 2015 or 22.9 percent of the 2015 regional population estimated at 7,536,383.

Human Development Index

A slight improvement in the Human Development Index (HDI)1/ of the region was achieved in 2012 since 2009. As of 2012, the average HDI of the provinces in Region VI is 0.613, higher than the average HDI of 0.523 in 2009, and the RDP target for the year of 0.54. In particular, life expectancy and education indices were high with an average of 0.75 and 0.88, respectively, but the income index had the lowest average at 0.344.

The value of HDI ranges from 0 to 1; and an HDI very close to 1 means that a high level of human development has been achieved while lower than 0.50 means a low level of human development

Summary

In the past plan period, the region achieved high economic growth, becoming the second best performing economy in 2015. The share of the AHFF, however, continued to decline while that of the Industry sector continued to increase. The share of the Services sector remained steady at 57 percent in the last five years.

About 38 percent of employed persons were engaged in agriculture and fisheries and a little over 50 percent worked in the services sector. Prices were generally stable and remained at single-digit, with annual inflation rates on all items halved from 4.6 in 2011 percent to 2.3 by 2015. Inflation rates are highest in Antique and Capiz.

Poverty incidence slightly decreased but the magnitude of poor population, even discounting Negros Occidental, is still high which is estimated to be 861,256 or 19.2 percent of the regional population in 2015.

Global and National Trends in Economic Policies

Despite a relatively good performance during the previous plan period, current international and national policy trends, especially on monetary, fiscal and international trade would likely affect the region's economic stability in the next six years.

Slowdown in international trade. A slowdown in international trade is seen to persist given the subdued global economic outlook which may eventually affect the prices of the country's export products, including, but not limited to: coal, cane sugar, and marine products. The challenge is to take advantage of renewed ties with China and the ASEAN countries and explore where the region can respond to emerging demand for commodities not yet being produced in the region in commercial quantities, but which it is very capable of doing so.

Intensification of competition in the global market. The Philippines would likely face stiffer competition in international markets given that the country's competitiveness remain impeded by the high cost of doing business due to inadequate infrastructure, high cost of electricity, etc.

Inefficiencies in the current tax system. The inefficiencies in the current tax system have led to revenue erosion and large scale leakages. These include non-indexation, special treatments and exemptions, and barriers that hinder tax administration, such as the bank secrecy law.

Low absorptive capacities of national government agencies. While improvements in the fiscal space allowed for significant increases in budgetary resources for the social, economic and infrastructure sectors, yet the absorptive capacities of national government agencies remain low. Among the factors that affected budget utilization were weaknesses in project design and preparation, procurement difficulties, and implementation bottlenecks due to structural weaknesses, and capacity constraint among line agencies.

LGUs' dependence on internal revenue allotment. Overall, LGUs remain dependent on the internal revenue allotment (IRA). On the average, 61.5 percent of LGUs income come from the national subsidy. In Region VI, the average dependency ratio of the provinces is 79.7 percent. Aklan is the least dependent at 58 percent while Capiz has the highest dependency at 92 percent. LGUs need to fully maximize their own revenue-raising powers under the Local Government Code.

Persistent barriers in accessing financial services Historical data for Western Visayas on bank deposit liabilities show that it consistently ranked fifth among all regions from 2010 to 2014. Total bank deposits in 2014 reached PHP 216.811 billion. Universal and commercial banks account for the biggest share of deposits at PHP 196.944 billion (91%), followed by thrift banks with PHP 14.419 billion (6.6%) and rural and cooperative banks with PHP 5.447 billion (2.5%). Bank coverage in most parts of the region remain concentrated in major urban centers.

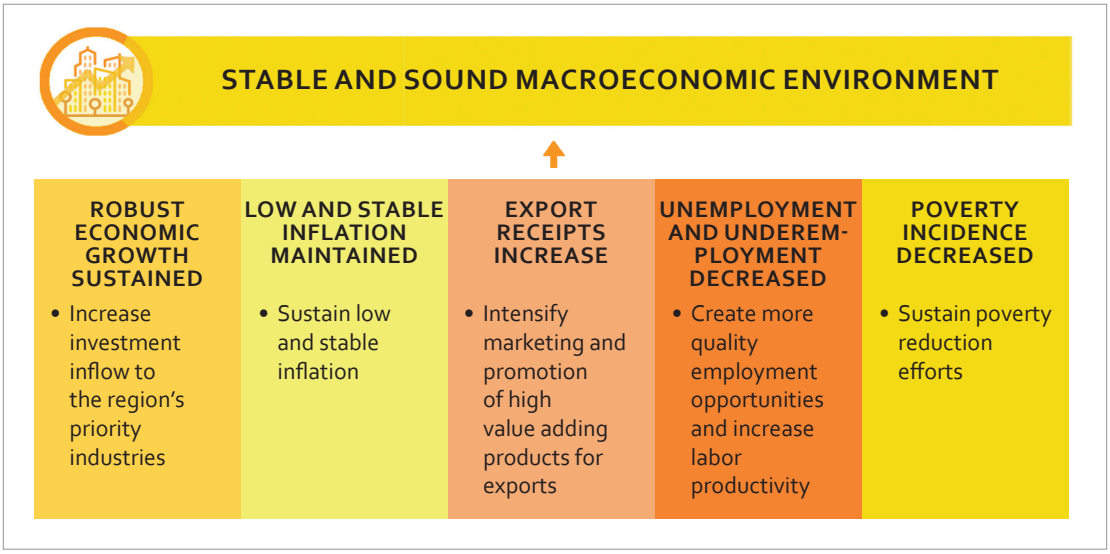
Access to financial services remains limited due to persistent geographical, human, institutional, and infrastructure-related barriers. Results of the National Baseline Survey on Financial Inclusion by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas indicate that only 4 out 10 Filipinos save. Of those who save, about 30 percent save in banks while nearly 70 percent keep their money at home. Those adults who save but are not saving in banks cited limited knowledge and capability to manage an account, and distance of the bank.

Only 30 percent of Filipinos have access to micro-insurance and insurance penetration reached only 1.8 percent of the GDP, which is below the average in ASEAN (3.3% in 2014), in emerging markets (2.7%) and in the world (6.2%). The archipelagic setting of the country leads to spatial obstacles and market segmentation. Human barriers include limited household knowledge and capability, while institutional constraints include cost to avail of banking services, tedious processing requirements and distance to the banks. Incomplete financial infrastructure also hinders access to available financial products and services.

Strategic Framework

Efforts will be geared towards a stable and sound macroeconomic environment which is a necessary condition to reducing inequality and increasing potential growth in the region. This will be attained through robust growth of the regional economy, increased exports receipts, maintained low and stable inflation, decreased unemployment and underemployment and reduced poverty incidence in the region.

Figure 15.3 Strategic Framework to Ensure Sound Macroeconomic Policy, 2017-2022



Targets

Supportive of the national targets, the following targets to sustain a sound, stable, and supportive macroeconomic environment for 2017-2022 have been set:

- GRDP growth increased from 6.1 percent in 2016 to 9.8 to 11 percent by 2022
- GVA for Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry increased from negative 1.9 in 2016 to 1.0 to 1.5 percent
- GVA for Industry increased from 11.5 percent in 2016 to 16.3 to 18.5 percent
- GVA for Services increased from 6.7 percent in 2016 to 7.9 to 8.2 percent
- Inflation rate for all items maintained within 2.0 to 4.0 percent
- Poverty incidence among population decreased from 22.1 percent in 2015 to 18.8 percent
- Poverty incidence among families decreased from 16.6 percent in 2015 to 13.3 percent
- Total deposit liabilities increased from P216.811 billion in 2014 by 12 to 15 percent
- Bank density improved from 5.8 percent to more than 6.0 percent
- Lower unemployment and under-employment rates

Strategies

In order to achieve a stable and sound macroeconomic environment, the following strategies will be implemented in the region:

Outcome 1 – Robust growth of the regional economy sustained

Increase inflow of local and foreign investments to the region's priority industries. The region will implement necessary interventions that will enhance linkage between the AFF sector and the Industry and Services sectors. Tourism development will be linked to the agriculture and rural sector as well as with the MSMEs. Industry clustering strategy will be used as mechanism to boost the competitiveness of the region, accelerate agri-industrialization, develop the manufacturing subsector and prepare the region for ASEAN Economic Community integration. Industry roadmaps will be prepared for the top five priority commodities of the region. Specific strategies were identified in Chapters 8 and 9 which are focused on expanding and developing opportunities in order to achieve a strong and competitive agriculture, fishery and forestry sector and Industry and Services sectors.

To sustain its economic performance, the region will support and advocate an enabling and supportive policies to level the playing field among businesses (Chapter 16), ensure appropriate education and skills for its manpower (Chapter 10), provide adequate, reliable, sustainable and disaster-resilient infrastructure system (Chapter 19), advance the application of low-cost but sustainable technologies (Chapter 14), in a clean and natural environment (Chapter 20) and ensure a safe and secure society (Chapter 18).

The region will adopt fiscal, monetary and trade policies in the Philippine Development Plan, 2017-2022 that will boost the regional economy, provide a stable environment conducive to investment, support growth, improve access to economic opportunities, enable local enterprises to compete in the global market and provide employment opportunities.

Outcome 2: Stable inflation rate maintained

Sustain low and stable inflation rate. Inflation rate is among the indicators of economic dynamism and a low and stable inflation reflects that there is less uncertainty and more savings, and has a positive effect on the region's competitiveness. To attract more investors and improve competitiveness, the government will enhance its efforts to sustain the low and stable inflation in the region and its six provinces. Tax collection and government spending will be managed, as detailed in Chapter 5.

Outcome 3 : Export receipts increased

Intensify marketing and promotion of high value adding products for exports. The government will focus its programs and projects in developing, promoting and expanding high-value adding commodities for exports, such as mangoes, sugar and seafood products. Appropriate infrastructure support and facilities, machineries and equipment will be provided for high-value agriculture and fishery products. The region will also intensify marketing and promotion of regional investments and trade potentials especially of the manufacturing subsector. Promotion and marketing activities will include sustained brand awareness campaign programs to promote the regional products, and social media campaign, among others. Details of these strategies are discussed in Chapters 8 and 9.

Outcome 4 – Unemployment and Underemployment decreased

Create more quality employment opportunities and increase labor productivity. The government will undertake strategies that will improve the region's underemployment rate. These will include investment in providing better education and skills especially among women, and small farmers and fisherfolk (Chapter 10). Support will be given to reallocation of labor from less to more productive activities. Access of the poor to more productive jobs will likewise be enhanced. Among the strategies to improve and sustain productivity of farmers and fisherfolks will include the adoption of appropriate production inputs, farming systems and technologies that are adoptive to the adverse effects of natural disasters and other agri-related hazards. The development and strengthening of human capital through employment facilitation and continuous capacity building as well as prioritization of courses included in the mutual skills recognition mechanism of the AEC will be undertaken to improve productivity in the Industry and Services sectors. The details of these strategies are discussed in Chapters 8 and 9.

Outcome 5 - Poverty Incidence decreased

Sustain poverty reduction efforts. The government will continue to provide social protection programs and projects that are necessary to alleviate, if not totally eradicate poverty. The region will develop sustainable protection programs to reduce risks and vulnerabilities. It will pursue strategies to enable individuals and families to deal and cope with risks by decreasing people's exposure to such risks and increasing their adaptive capacity. The coverage and benefits of said programs will be expanded to ensure that the most vulnerable sectors, especially women, farmers and fisherfolks, are provided with appropriate interventions. Collaboration will be strengthened and convergence of efforts will enhanced among agencies and LGUs. The details of this strategy are discussed in Chapter 12.

Legislative Agenda

Table 15.8 Legislative Agenda to Ensure Sound Macroeconomic Policy, 2017-2022

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE
Fiscal Sector	
Tax Reform Program	Amend the National Internal Revues Code of 1997 to achieve a simpler, fairer, and efficient tax system.
Institutionalize the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative	Improve transparency in revenue payments and sharing in the mining, gas and oil industries.
Unified Pension Reform Bill	Arrest the large and unsustainable fiscal impact of the ballooning pension requirements of the military and uniformed personnel
Government Rightsizing Bill	Promote effectiveness and efficiency in government operations to ensure the quality of public service that is responsive to the changing needs of the population.
Budget Reform Bill.	Institutionalize good public financial management (PFM) practices which include a) shift to cash-based budgeting from the current obligation basis; b) reducing the validity of appropriations to one year from the current two years.
Real Property Valuation and Assessment Reform Act	Institute reforms in real property valuation and assessment.
LGU Income Classification Bill	Institute income classification of provinces, cities and municipalities and for other purposes.
LGU Property Insurance Bill	Amend RA 656 (Property Insurance Law) to make it mandatory for all LGUs to insure its properties (e.g., buildings, roads, bridges, plants, machineries and equipment)
Amendment of the Local Government Code of 1991.	Amend a) expenditure assignment; b) revenue assignment and LGU taxing powers; c) inter-governmental fiscal transfer; d) credit financing for LGUs; e) inter-LGU cooperation through alliances; f) creation of new LGUs; and g) local fiscal administration.
Financial and Monetary Sector	
Enactment of the Payment Systems Act	Promote the digitization and interoperability among payment systems, including the supervisory oversight of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.
Amendment of the Anti-Money Laundering Act	Expand its organization and transaction coverage, including granting of additional powers.
Amendment to the Provisions of RA 1405 (Law on Secrecy of Bank Deposits) and RA 6405 (Foreign Currency Deposits Act	Exempt government officials and employees, whether elected or appointed, from the coverage of the Bank Secrecy Law.
Filipino Identification System Act.	Pursue a national identification system for the effective delivery of government services.
Secured Transactions Bill.	Establish a comprehensive legal framework on lending transactions involving personal property as collateral.
Enactment of the Collective Investment Schemes Law	Anticipate participation of middle to low-income individuals in the CIS opportunities.
External Trade Sector Key legislative measures that will promote and support the sector will be supported including those that will streamline export and import procedures and reduce import and licensing fees as well as related legislations listed in Chapter 9 on expanding and developing opportunities in Industry and Services.	

16 Supporting and Advocating the National Competition Policy

Chapter 16

Supporting and Advocating the National Competition Policy

Market competition is a strategy that allows firms to compete with alternative suppliers or create a positive rivalry among market players because there is no assurance that firms, in a monopolistic environment, will act to the best interest of consumers. Through an effective market competition, industry players are encouraged to innovate, increase productivity and growth, resulting in consumers enjoying a wider range of choices at affordable prices. With these conditions, the overall economy becomes more vibrant and, in the long run, eventually helps reduce poverty. Specifically, among the benefits of business contenders trying to outdo one another are the following:

This Chapter presents the priority areas and strategies to encourage market competition among businesses within and across sectors as promoted and advocated by the Philippine Competitiveness Commission. It discusses efforts to further enhance the competitiveness of local government units given their performance in the Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI) tool developed by the National Competitiveness Council.

Assessment and Challenges

Regional Economic Performance

Competition Initiatives in the Philippines

The Philippine Competition Act (Republic Act No. 10667) was passed into law in July 21, 2015 and established the quasi-judicial Philippine Competition Commission to enforce the act. The act is intended to ensure efficient and fair market competition among businesses engaged in trade, industry, and all commercial economic activities. It prohibits anti-competitive agreements, abuses of dominant positions, and mergers and acquisitions that limit business players, prevent, and restrict competition.

The Philippines has entered into several trade agreements that allow for lower tariffs and improved market access for qualified products from Japan, the ASEAN countries, Australia, New Zealand, India and Korea. This impacts competition by giving privileges to these countries to export goods into the country at a lower cost. Meantime, there are still several state-owned enterprises competing with the private sector in the provision of goods and services. The guiding principle is – the participation of the state in doing business is justified only when the private sector cannot provide the goods and services.

The PDP 2017-2022 avers that despite the passage of the PCA, there are other laws and issuances that hinder competition thus, the country's competitiveness remains weak. According to the Global Competitiveness Index for 2016-2017 the Philippines ranked 86th in business dynamism, 99th in product market efficiency and 31st in market size out of 138 economies assessed.

Competitiveness Principles and Initiatives Along Local Governance

Local government units play an active role in attracting investments by providing an enabling environment that will generate and enhance economic activities in their areas. One of the evaluation instruments developed to gauge the performance of local government along this area is the Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI).

The CMCI is an annual survey run by the National Competitiveness Council (NCC) in coordination with the Regional Competitiveness Committees. It started in 2013 with three pillars: Economic Dynamism, Government Efficiency, and Infrastructure. In 2017 a new pillar on Resiliency was added to measure competitiveness with sustainability in the face of global climate change. With the opening up of economies, upbeat trading, and regional cooperation, the index is also a strategic tool used by the NCC to raise national consciousness on global competition to attract domestic and foreign direct investments in local communities.

The survey result is a ranking of the country's LGUs in various categories: 1) provinces, 2) highly urbanized cities, 3) component cities, 4) first and second class municipalities, and, 5) third to sixth class municipalities. Plaques of recognition are given annually by the NCC to the top three LGUs for each category and for top three placers per CMCI pillar (except for provinces) as well as for the most improved cities and municipalities. The provincial index was generated starting 2015 with at least 60 percent of population covered by no less than 90 percent of its participating component LGUs.

Presently, the CMCI is composed of four pillars with ten indicators, each being generated by the local government units (LGUs). As such, it is a measure of the developmental performance of the LGUs and the region where they belong. In Region VI, the Regional Development Council (RDC) passed Resolution No. 82, series of 2015 recognizing with Plaque of Commendation the LGU which lands in the top ten of the nationwide survey. The list of LGUs have been recognized by the NCC and RDC is shown in Table 16.1.

The number of participating LGUs increased almost five times from only 285 cities and municipalities in 2013 to 1,389 in 2016. All 144 cities have participated in 2016 together with 74 out 81 provinces nationwide. This caused the fluctuating awards received by the LGUs in Region VI. Since the time that all Metro Manila cities joined in the survey in 2014, the competition for HUCs has become tougher. This is also true for municipalities with only 101 municipalities or around 7 percent left to be covered by the survey. These imply that under the CMCI, LGUs who take the survey more seriously tend to get high scores as they really focus on their weak areas borne by the CMCI indicators.

Looking at the ranks of various LGUs in the region based on 2016 CMCI survey, one can see that most provinces and municipalities belong to the bottom third in their respective categories. Sixteen municipalities have yet to participate in the survey.

Table 16.1 Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Ratings of Selected Local Government Units

LGU	ANNUAL CMCI AWARDS			
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Iloilo City	No. 2 Overall HUC Category) No.1 in Government Efficiency Pillar	No. 6 Overall No. 2 in Government Efficiency Pillar	No. 10 Overall No.1 in Government Efficiency Pillar	No. 8 Overall No.3 in Government Efficiency Pillar
Bacolod City	No. 5 Overall (HUC) No.2 in Government Efficiency Pillar			
Province of Aklan				No. 8 Overall
Municipality of Kalibo (Aklan)		No. 3 Overall (1st & 2nd Class Category) No.1 in Government Efficiency Pillar	No. 5 Overall	
Municipality of Sta. Barbara (Iloilo)			No. 8 Overall (1st & 2nd Class) No.1 in Government Efficiency Pillar	
Municipality of Jordan (Guimaras)			No. 9 Overall (3rd to 6th Class Category)	
Municipality of Malay (Aklan)				No. 4 Overall (1st & 2nd Class) No. 2 in Infrastructure Pillar

Source: www.competitive.org.ph

Table 16.2 Summary of Cities and Municipalities Competitive Index Ranking, 2016

LGUs	NO. IN THE BOTTOM THIRD	NO. IN THE MIDDLE THIRD	NO. IN THE TOP THIRD	TOTAL
Province	5	-	1	6
Cities	7	8	1	16
Municipalities*	46	37	18	101
Total for Region VI	58 (47%)	45 (37%)	20 (16%)	123

Source: www.competitive.org.ph

*Iloilo and Guimaras have already 100 percent participating LGUs starting 2016.

*No. of municipalities that have not yet participated - 16 (12%)

Strategic Framework

The region will fully support the formulation and enforcement of national competition-related policies, especially those that have bearing on the key priority thrusts of the region through, among others, advocacy and awareness building.

Efforts will be exerted to develop the capacity of the LGUs along the four pillars of competitiveness index - economic dynamism, government efficiency, infrastructure and resiliency to improve their competitiveness ranking in the CMCI. Also, the role of RI3C of the RDC will be strengthened to ensure fair play in business transactions and increase the competitiveness of Western Visayas as a region in attracting more investments/ venture to be established in the region. In addition, local counterparts of RI3C will be established and activated in the provinces to ensure that all LGUs create a business environment that is characterized by fairness, transparency and predictability.

Figure 16.1 Strategic Framework to Support and Advocate the National Competition Policy, 2017-2022

Targets

In support of, and consistent with, the national competition policy framework of the country, all policies espoused at the national level will be supported and advocated in the region.

On the other hand, as a development indicator for the region in the RDP, the CMCI will be used as a general measure of LGUs becoming more progressive by being more competitive. This will be shown by the annual increase in the overall index of LGUs as they make their economies more dynamic, manage governance more efficiently, provide better infrastructure, and create more resilient communities.

The improvement in competitiveness of Region VI will be targeted in terms of 100 percent LGU participation in the CMCI by CY 2022 and the number moving from their positions in the category ranks from the bottom to the middle third and onwards to the top third based on the annual survey.

However, to make it more realistic, the baseline should start with the 2017 results wherein the CMCI covers already the four pillars. On the other hand, should the NCC decide to generate regional competitiveness indices different from the CMCI formulation, then that should be the appropriate data or indicator to be used to measure the achievement of the RDP.

Strategies

Outcome 1 – Enforcement of National Competition Policies promoted and advocated

Provide support and inputs in the review of potentially anti-competitive legislation and policies that may substantially prevent, restrict or lessen competition. Examine competition issues and provide recommendations to the existing policies and issuances that are considered anti-competitive and are no longer relevant to current realities.

Support and promote national and regional competition-related policies and best practices. The region will support the enforcement of national competition-related policies through, among others, advocacy and awareness building.

Outcome 2 – Competitiveness level of LGUs increased

Conduct capacity-building for government agencies and improve capacities of LGUs along the key indicators of the competitiveness index. The capacity of the LGUs along the four pillars of competitiveness index - economic dynamism, government efficiency, infrastructure and resiliency shall be developed. Strengthening the absorptive capacity of the LGUs would require support in planning, investment programming and implementation, data management and in monitoring and evaluation by relevant agencies.

Strengthen the role of the Regional Investment and Competitiveness Coordinating Committee (RI3C). The RDC will strengthen the role of this committee to ensure fair play in business transactions and increase the competitiveness of Western Visayas that will result to more investors establishing their ventures in the region.

Legislative Agenda

Table 16.3 Legislative Agenda to Support and Advocate National Competition Policy, 2017-2022

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE
Amendment to Public Service Act.	Repealing or amending certain provisions that limit foreign participation in certain economic activities to encourage foreign direct investments or FDI.
Passage of the Regulatory Management System Act.	A law to improve the country's regulatory management system for a more competitive and coherent regulatory environment is needed.
Enactment of local ordinances to promote competition at the local level.	A local policy to promote competition at the local is needed to boosts economic growth, facilitate technology transfer and provide wider choices for the consumers.
Institutionalization of the Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index.	A policy to institutionalize and strengthen the CMCI mechanism is necessary to improve the service delivery system of the local government units, as well as, to encourage them to participate in the annual survey .

PART VI

FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

17 Attaining Just and Lasting Peace

Chapter 17

Attaining Just and Lasting Peace

This chapter presents the thrusts and priorities for ensuring security, public order, safety and attaining lasting peace. Communities that experience armed conflict are most often the poorest in the country. Without durable and enduring peace, economic growth cannot be sufficiently buoyant, sustained nor inclusive. While much has been achieved in the government's relentless pursuit of peace through intensified development and other peace-building initiatives, so much more remains to be done in these conflict-affected and vulnerable communities.

Assessment and Challenges

The 3rd Infantry Division (3ID), Philippine Army under the operational control of the Central Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is primarily responsible in the suppression of the insurgency or conduct of internal peace and security operations in Western and Central Visayas regions, covering the provinces of Aklan, Antique, Guimaras, Iloilo and Negros Occidental in Western Visayas and Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental and Siquijor in Central Visayas.

For almost five decades, Western Visayas had been experiencing internal socio-political instability brought about by the violent, armed movement waged by the Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army (CPP/NPA) throughout the country. In 2015, as a manifestation of the collective desires of the political leadership and their constituencies to live peacefully and progressively, these provinces declared themselves as Peaceful and Ready for Further Development (PRFD).

The rapid rural appraisal conducted in 2016 by the AFP and the Bayanihan Teams, in close coordination with the local government units, show that the provinces of Aklan and Guimaras in Western Visayas are now categorized as normalized, insurgency-free provinces. This means that these provinces experienced peace and stability for more than five years with insignificant or non-existence of armed elements and violent incidents perpetrated by the CPP/NPA.

Legal and non-violent means such as public rallies continue to occur. Although Antique may not yet be totally insurgency-free, its normalization had been observed in the last three years; the presence of armed elements is becoming more insignificant and no violent incidents have occurred. On the other hand, the provinces of Capiz and Iloilo, and Negros Occidental in Western Visayas, and the province of Negros Oriental in Central Visayas continue to be considered as armed conflict-affected by the armed movement of the CPP/NPA.

Continuing poverty in conflict-affected areas. A total of 98 barangays in Negros Island and 50 barangays in Panay Island are still considered as insurgent-affected by the CPP/NPA armed units. The areas that are most affected are the communities or sitios situated in the hinterlands, mountainous boundaries between provinces.

The high poverty incidence, very low agricultural productivity, indecent, pitiful living and housing conditions, and lack of access to financing make people in affected areas highly vulnerable to the CPP/NPA agitation and propaganda. These subpar conditions contribute to making the armed struggle impervious to government law enforcement and military operations. Extremist groups have launched a series of terrorist activities in furtherance of their social, economic and political objectives. Violent extremism undermines government efforts on peace and security, respect for human rights and sustainable development.

Despite government efforts to achieve political settlement with armed groups and steps to address the conflicts, the conflicts have persisted. These affected the delivery of basic services and implementation of programs and projects such as construction of roads and schools, thereby widening development gap between the conflict-affected areas and the rest of the region.

While peace talks are being pursued to provide solution to the persistent insurgency problem, the cause of conflict must be addressed at the same time. Peace talks must be pursued alongside the delivery of basic services to the marginalized communities, institution of good governance and policy reforms, among others. Support for the reintegration of rebel returnees to their communities should be sustained to prevent them from going back to armed struggle.

A closure agreement with the Rebolusyonaryong Partidong Mangagawang Pilipinas – Revolutionary Proletarian Army–Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPMP-RPA-ABB) is pending. As of date, there is no closure agreement with the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front-New People's Army. In 2000 however, a peace agreement was drafted by the Government of the Philippines and the Tabara-Paduano Group (TPG)-Rebolusyonaryong Partidong Mangagawang Pilipinas – Revolutionary Proletarian Army –Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPMP-RPA-ABB) on the basis of mutual interest "to pursue the peaceful settlement of the armed conflict under the principle of peace with honor, dignity and justice for all and to hasten the progress and development of the country" (OPAPP).

Pending the signing of the draft Closure Agreement, the inter-agency preparatory work at the national and regional levels has proceeded to ensure that the implementing agencies, local government units, the TPG of the RPMP-RPA-ABB, and the various stakeholders on the ground will be ready to operate once the agreement is signed. Meanwhile, the TPG has transformed itself from an armed group to a lawful and legitimate legal personality, which recently won a seat in the House of Representatives.

Limited coverage of the Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan (PAMANA) Program. The government's peace and development convergence program extended development interventions to communities in isolated and hard-to-reach conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable areas. Through the PAMANA Program, PhilHealth insurance, scholarship grants and livelihood opportunities were provided. Also, water system level 2, road improvement, and development of resettlement sites enhanced the access of communities to facilities and improved security conditions.

However, the challenge is to further enhance and strengthen the PAMANA Program because services provided are still inadequate to cover the affected barangays to alleviate the living conditions of the people there. Improving human security conditions through the delivery of basic socioeconomic services in a timely, conflict-sensitive and peace-promoting manner is the only way for peace dividends to be felt by the long-time conflict-affected communities.

Increasing threat of terrorism and extremists. Recent conflicts and war in Mindanao presents some threat to the peace and stability that is very much sought for in the region in order to achieve its medium-term development goals. The capture of relatives of terrorists enroute to the region highlights the need for extra vigilance among responsible entities at the entry points of the region to deter negative elements out to disrupt the tranquility generally enjoyed by Western Visayas.

Strategic Framework

A progressive and secure Western Visayas Region can be achieved by attaining just and lasting peace and by ensuring durable security, public order, and safety. To attain this, the region will provide support in the implementation of national initiatives that include negotiation and implementation of peace agreements with all internal armed conflict groups. While engaging in peace talks, it will also ensure that communities in conflict-affected and vulnerable areas are protected and developed.

Figure 17.1 Strategic Framework to Attain Just and Lasting Peace, 2017-2022

Strategies

Outcome 1 - Peace agreements with internal armed conflict groups successfully negotiated and implemented.

The following initiatives and activities will be undertaken to ensure the success of the peace process:

Accelerate the signing and implementation of the final peace agreement with the CPP-NPA-NDF. It is imperative that the high level of confidence between the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and CPP-NPA-NDF as well as public interest and support shall be maintained when the two parties agree to resume the formal talks and accelerate negotiations for a final peace agreement.

The strategy will entail engaging the CPP-NPA-NDF in accelerated negotiation and related support processes to complete the three remaining substantive agenda of the talks: socioeconomic reforms; political and constitutional reforms; and end of hostilities and disposition of forces. The final peace agreement with the CPP-NPA-NDF will be composed of the comprehensive agreements on these three reform areas and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

Related support processes will be initiated in creating a favorable environment to keep the negotiations on track towards achieving the final peace agreement. These include intensified internal advocacy on critical reform issues, strategic communication, and peace constituency building to ensure inclusivity and transparency in the peace process.

Immediately conclude the peace process with the RPMP-RPA-ABB. The government hopes to complete the peace process before the end of 2022 to facilitate the return of former RPMP-RPA-ABB members, their families and communities to productive and normal lives. The closure of the RPMP-RPA-ABB track will employ the following strategies:

- Signing of the agreement toward the group's disposition of arm and force
- Multi-stakeholder convergence and support towards the full implementation of socioeconomic interventions
- Release of alleged political offenders for humanitarian reasons
- Sustained local development support.

Outcome 2 - Communities in conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable areas protected and developed

Implement peace-promoting and catch-up socioeconomic development in conflict-affected areas. The PAMANA program will be strengthened based on an enhanced peace and development framework to support the Six-Point Peace and Development Agenda. This will focus on the implementation of peace-promoting and catch-up socioeconomic development programs and projects in conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable areas. It will:

- Address the issue of injustice and improve community access to socioeconomic interventions
- Improve governance by building the capacity of national government agencies and local government units to undertake a development approach that promotes peace and is sensitive to conflict, culture and gender
- Empower communities and strengthen their capacity to address issues of conflict and peace.

Counter insurgency strategy involves the promotion of competition of ideas, ideologies and socio-political movements. Hence, the aid of mass media, with the cooperation of the civil society organizations, the business community and the religious sector, is imperative in disseminating and transmitting messages that influence the shaping of public opinion and denouncing of false impressions to the public. For sustainable peace to be achieved, all the stakeholders must be effectively harnessed into counter insurgency campaign that will make the activities of the insurgents unpopular.

The DOLE, in coordination with the local government unit concerned, shall facilitate and provide appropriate livelihood projects such as, food catering services, therapeutic massage and cosmetology, nail care services, mechanization of bio-organic fertilizer production, restoration of the goat and native chicken industry, and other skills training which aim to provide or augment the income of the rebel returnees and their families. The DILG will accelerate its assistance to former rebels under its Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP).

Additional assistance for capacity-building, skills training, provision of shelter, and legal remedy can be availed of by former rebels from other partner institutions or agencies.

Empower communities and institutions by increasing their capacity to address conflicts and reduce their vulnerabilities. Structures and mechanisms that will help the communities avert the emergence of conflict and prevent the escalation of existing ones will be supported. These include strengthening local or traditional conflict resolution and management mechanisms, as well as establishing formal and informal avenues for continuing dialogue and broad-based participation of peace stakeholders, such as the peace and order councils, local development councils, and Katarungang Pambarangay. Appropriate systems and tools for conflict monitoring will also be established.

Mainstreaming of peace education programs and the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence will also be pursued in formal and non-formal settings. In formal education institutions, the Total-School Approach to peace education will be adopted to promote peace and conflict sensitivity.

The integration of former combatants will be conducted by focusing not only on their reconnection to mainstream society, but also their total healing and reconciliation with their communities.

An effective integrated community defense and protection system (ICDPS) that is less reliant on actual military and police presence in the villages will be instituted. This system shall complement the community protection patrols of the military that will be conducted to respond to cases requiring capabilities not available to the ICDPS. The Special CAFGU Active Auxiliary (SCAA) will be capacitated to assist in securing the community.

Make government more responsive to peace, conflict, and security issues. Conflict sensitivity and peace promotion in the work of national government agencies, local government units, and other government mechanisms such as the peace and order councils, local development councils, and disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) councils will be mainstreamed.

The protection of women's rights in conflict situations will be safeguarded and their role in the peace process will be expanded.

Programs and initiatives of government on the peace concerns arising from internal armed conflict will be harmonized with other equally important concerns. These other issues include protection of rights and promotion of interests of vulnerable groups (e.g., women, indigenous peoples, children, elderly, internally displaced persons, persons with disability, and former combatants) in situations of armed conflict, observance of human rights and international humanitarian law, and interfaith and intercultural dialogue. The integration of DRRM in the peace process pursuant to RA 10121 or the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act shall be pursued.

Promote general vigilance among residents and agencies concerned. The region will espouse among all residents, officials, and entities a sense of responsibility in reporting to authorities any unusual incidents and behavior that may compromise the peace and security of their communities. This vigilance will be promoted in schools, the workplace, commercial and tourism establishments, in terminals, and during special events without being too paranoid.

Non-government, civic, and professional organizations will be drawn to support this cause by way of promoting the advocacy for general vigilance to ensure the maintenance of peace, order, and security in the region.

Legislative Agenda

Amnesty and pardon are part of the confidence-building measures that will be undertaken in the peace tables with the armed rebel groups. To strengthen the effectiveness of the strategies, a legislative action on the proclamation of amnesty for the release of all detained political prisoners is needed.

18 Ensuring Security, Public Order, and Safety

Chapter 18

Ensuring Security, Public Order and Safety

This chapter presents the thrusts and priorities for ensuring security, public order, and safety. National security and public order are essential elements in building the foundation for sustainable and inclusive growth, a high trust and resilient society, and a globally competitive economy. Along with just and lasting peace, security, public order, and safety constitutes the core of the 0 to 10 point socio-economic agenda of the Duterte administration.

Assessment and Challenges

While several socio-economic targets in the previous Regional Development Plan were met, more attention should now be directed toward the eradication of crime, illegal drugs, and corruption. The government should further upgrade the capabilities of law enforcers to significantly reduce criminality and terrorism, and to ensure the safety and security of citizens.

Solving crimes is a challenge in law enforcement as it is affected by several factors beyond the control of law enforcement agencies. These factors include people's willingness to testify as witnesses, the effectiveness of law-enforcement agencies, and the efficiency of the criminal justice system.

Peace and order situation of the region improved, but efforts need to be strengthened given the magnitude of the problem. The relatively safe and secure environment in the region was made possible with the upgrading of law enforcement skills and equipment, adoption of information and communication technology for crime data system, and the continued and purposive pursuit of peace and security efforts. The average monthly crime rate (AMCR) for every 100,000 people was reduced from 21.74 in 2010 to 8.44 in 2012 and from 181.20 in 2013 to only 111.86 in 2015. The plan targets used the initial indicator system of the Philippine National Police which was based on the recorded incidents in the police blotters.[1] Later on, the accounting of crime incidents was changed to account for all crime incidents reported in the barangay and other law enforcement agencies. Thus, whether the plan targets were met cannot be accurately measured.

Although total crime volume, decreased by about 6 percent in 2016, index crimes increased by almost 2 percent. Crime solution efficiency (CSE) improved from 9.54 percent in 2013 to 50.16 percent in 2015. Recorded crime incidents reduced from 163,408 in 2013 to only 104,747 in 2015.

[1] *The crime reporting system was changed to correct dysfunctions and lapses while formulating a uniform procedure for the PNP to report and collect crime data across all agencies involved in the Criminal Justice System and use the same as working basis for policies and programs on various anti-criminality measures. The new reporting system used since 2013 required all police units to submit the Unit Crime Periodic Report (UCPER) to the PNP National Headquarters for consolidation into the National Crime Reporting System (NCRS). All crime incidents, whether reported by the victims, witnesses or third parties were recorded in the Police Blotter including all other agencies with law enforcement functions.*

The improvement in CSE can be attributed to the PNP's strategy in enhancing crime information sharing with the institutionalization of the e-Crime Incident Reporting System (e-CIRS) in all PNP Regional Offices and Police Stations. The PNP also upgraded its investigative equipment to give timely, fast and reliable information on criminals. Police and law enforcement operations were modernized for efficient and effective investigative functions through ICT-assisted crime data systems.

The PNP adopted and operationalized the e-Rogue Gallery System and the e-Warrant System. The e-Rogue Gallery System is a web-based information system with data entries and storage of details and pictures of the arrested persons, which enables the PNP to easily and quickly identify wanted persons especially thru their stored pictures. On the other hand, the e-Warrant System is a web-based information system with data entry and storage of details of warrants of arrest received by the PNP issued by competent courts. The database enables the PNP to easily and quickly verify names of persons with warrant of arrest. In addition, the PNP has established a GIS system that focuses on mapping out incidents, identifying hot spots or places where the most crime occurs, and analyzing the spatial relationships of targets and these hot spots.

The PNP is faced with difficulty in recruitment. Actual recruitment of police personnel is still below the annual plan target of 1,354; only 654 police personnel were recruited in 2013 and 535 in 2015. Nevertheless, the average police to population ratio in the highly urbanized City of IIoilo improved slightly from 1:606 in 2013 to 1:585 in 2015. In the provinces, average police to population ratio improved somewhat from 1:920 in 2013 to 1:855 in 2015, but was still below the plan target of 1:581. It should be noted, however, that this is within the ideal ratio of 1:1000 for a province. Recruitment was hindered by the policy on recruitment quota for the region which is determined at the national level of the agency.

The Philippine Army reports that conflict with insurgents have persisted in the region. A number of barangays with communities or sitios situated in the hinterlands and mountainous boundaries between provinces are still considered as insurgent-affected barangays. (see Chapter 17)

Persistence of illegal drugs trade and emergence of cybercrime. The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) has reported that the use of illegal drugs is prevalent in the country with about four million drug users and 47 percent of the barangays throughout the country being drug-affected in 2016. In Region VI, PNP data show that drug affected barangays comprise almost 60 percent of total barangays in the region. The challenge, therefore, is in reducing these drug affected areas, and eventually eradicating the use of illegal drugs.

Although the government has started adopting a holistic approach in addressing criminality and illegal drugs, the capability of both the military and law enforcement agencies to address these problems need upgrading. Confounding the problems of criminality and illegal drugs are the new threats to national security such as cybercrime and violent extremism.

As intensification of initiatives is expected to result in high incidence of apprehension, the government must also upgrade the 16 jail facilities managed by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP): 12 district jails, 1 city jail, 1 municipal jail and 2 female dormitories. Drug rehabilitation centers, moreover, should substantially increase to accommodate the increasing number of apprehended and surrendered drug abusers.

In all activities to address criminality, the human rights of suspects and convicts shall be upheld and observed at all times. Mechanisms for reporting and addressing human rights violations shall also be streamlined and handled efficiently to ensure prosecution of violators.

Inadequate attention to public safety.

Firefighting. Western Visayas, along with NCR and CALABARZON, recorded the most fire incidents in 2013 - 2015. A big factor is the lack of firemen, with the current ratio below the standard of one fireman for every 2,000 population. Although firefighter to population ratio improved from 1:8,884 in 2011 to 1:7,049 in 2015, it is still below the plan target of 1:6,770 and far below the ideal ratio 1:2,000. Moreover, mid-term plan targets for firetruck to firefighter ratio in 2013 - 2015 were not met. In 2015, there were only 169 firetrucks and 1,180 firefighters, or a ratio of 1 firetruck to 7 firefighters.

Human trafficking. Another concern is on human trafficking which involves mostly women and young girls, especially from rural areas. In 2015 there were 22 cases involving 31 suspects. There were 46 victims, 90 percent of whom were females – 8 minors and 35 adults. Although the percentage of female victims of human trafficking decreased to 70 percent in 2016, total victims increased to 53. Majority of these female victims were recruited for sexual exploitation, prostitution, pornography or forced labor.

Traffic congestion and vehicular accidents. Traffic congestion is a growing problem in urban centers. One of the main reasons of congestion is due to more cars on the road. (see Chapter 3) Reckless imprudence resulting in damage to property increased by about 3 percent and reckless imprudence resulting in homicide up by 9.3 percent. In the first semester of 2016, the Iloilo Provincial Police Office recorded 2,095 traffic accidents, 77 of which were cases of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide, 1,156 cases resulting in physical injuries, and 862 road accidents resulting in damaged properties.

Other issues that need to be addressed include the need to install a reliable emergency response, humanitarian assistance and disaster response, including the procurement of necessary equipment, tools, and vehicular support to assist communities and individuals iin times of accidents, natural calamities, and manmade catastrophes.

Smuggling is a growing concern. There are various ways that have become convenient means of evading import duties. Technical smuggling could take place either by misdeclaration of imported items, undervaluing the shipment, or misclassification of an imported article under a different tariff. The many sides of the smuggling problem urgently need the installation of a more effective system of checks-and-balances to support the Bureau of Customs in its anti-smuggling task. No structure has been established to enable agencies and the private sector to be involved in fighting smuggling. To thwart the proliferation of smuggling, importers will have to immediately file an import entry and pay duties and taxes upon importation into Philippine territory even if the final destination is another port

OFs need guidance and protection. Given the different sociocultural practices in host countries, geopolitical tensions, and natural and economic shocks, the safety, security and welfare of overseas Filipinos (OFs) is of paramount concern of government. The government extends legal, financial and counseling assistance to many OFs through its embassies and consulates. Rapid Response Teams are also in place to respond to the needs and facilitate the immediate

repatriation of OFs in countries in crisis. The study on migration situation in Western Visayas confirmed some of the concerns the migrants raised to their families which include problems in the workplace, migrants' health and relationships with other migrants. Most of the workplace related problems communicated by the migrants to their families are about the dangers associated with migrants' work place, problems with employers and difficulty in fulfilling work responsibilities. They also raised problem on low salary, loneliness and problems/ lack of knowledge about contract and OFW right, including policies and laws of the country of employment.

Strategic Framework

The freedom to pursue daily activities in a safe environment, without fear of violence is an aspiration of the citizenry. Personal safety is an immediate concern which needs the participation of the community and the civil society organizations.

Security, public order, and safety must be ensured to create the environment of an empowered people and progressive economy. The sub-sector desired outcomes are: significant reduction in criminality and Illegal drugs and enhanced public safety.

Figure 18.1 Strategic Framework to Ensure Security, Public Order and Safety, 2017-2022

Targets

By 2022, the following targets should have been achieved:

- Total crime volume decreased by 27 percent from 69,154 in 2015
- Crime solution efficiency improved to 55 percent from 26 in 2015
- Fire incidents decreased by 10 percent annually from 2,156 incidents in 2016
- Number of drug-affected barangays reduced to zero from 1,978 in 2015
- Police to population ratio improved to 1:385 from 1:662 in 2016 for HUCs and to 1:446 from 1:921 for the province
- Firetruck to firefighter ratio improved to 1:8 from 1:4 in 2016
- Firefighter to population ratio improved to1:2000 from 1:7049 in 2016

Strategies

Outcome 1 - All forms of criminality and Illegal drugs significantly reduced

I***ntensify law enforcement operations, including military support, to fight criminality.*** The PNP will strengthen its efforts to reduce all forms of criminality through enhanced police presence, law enforcement and anti-criminality, intelligence, case recording and tracking, detection and investigation services, case filing and arrest, capacity building, operational readiness, and disaster and emergency response. Partnership with the community will be forged, complemented by information, education campaigns and community organization and mobilization to suppress crimes and lawlessness.

The transformation program currently being implemented in Region 6 by the PNP must be sustained to professionalize the uniformed and non-uniformed personnel and strengthen their collaboration with the community in eliminating the sources of disorder and criminality. The program aims to support the goal of enhancing delivery of peace and order and public safety services within the context of an improved public trust and confidence in our criminal justice system to provide speedy, impartial, and accessible justice.

Enhance the capability of police, coastguard, military, and other law enforcers to address internal security threats. Capacity-building activities coupled with necessary support for procuring equipment, tools, vehicles, including the setting up of vital laboratories for investigative work, forensics, etc. will be pursued. The continuous equipping of law enforcers is required to fight internal security threats posed by local and transnational terrorist and criminal groups, and new and emerging security threats such as cybercrime.

Launch a holistic program to combat criminality, illegal drugs, corruption and trafficking. Patterned after the national anti-illegal drug strategy, the region's approach will focus on suppressing the flow of illegal drugs supply through sustained law enforcement operations and reducing consumer demand for drugs and other substances through drug rehabilitation and massive preventive education and awareness programs. Through counter-intelligence operations, the arrest and prosecution of police personnel involved in the use and trade of illegal drugs is essential to this strategy.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency's campaign plan Bandila defines the strategies and mechanisms to address the drug problems. The implementation of the Barangay Drug Clearing Program, a multi-stakeholder strategy to clear the barangay of illegal drug activities and personalities will be done through partnerships between local enforcement officers and the barangay. They will determine the presence of illegal drug activities and provide the illegal drug users with treatment and rehabilitation, skills training, and support for their reintegration to society. Family members of surrenderers and the community will likewise be provided with counselling and support services.

The delivery of mail and parcels will be monitored to check for illegal drugs or contraband. Law enforcement personnel shall be provided with devices to prevent, detect, and monitor the use of cellular phones and other clandestine communications in all jail facilities.

Complementary to this strategy is the DILG's Mamayan Ayaw sa Anomalya-Mamayan Ayaw sa Illegal na Droga (MASA-MASID), the government's platform for stronger collaboration between the LGU, community, and national government to fight criminality, corruption and illegal drugs. It institutionalizes volunteerism in the community, intensifies advocacy and education, and creates an enabling environment that encourages collaboration among community partners to effectively implement a community-based rehabilitation program. To ensure the integrity of the campaign, mechanisms to validate information will be put in place. With support from the national government and local government units, rehabilitation and treatment hubs for drug dependents will be established in strategic areas of the region.

A halfway house will be constructed in the Province of Guimaras to provide livelihood trainings to newly released prisoners or under parole. The facility will also be used as the regional center for rehabilitating drug addicts.

On human trafficking, the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) and its member agencies will sustain and further strengthen enforcement, to include detection, rescue, investigation, prosecution, and assets forfeitures, as well as support services for victim-survivors. Towards this end, the government at all levels will institute polices and provide the necessary resources, capacity building, and public information services. Advocacy activities will be undertaken to solicit support from the citizens in reporting human trafficking activities. Ports of entry and airports will be closely guarded to ensure that illegal activities such as human trafficking will be closely monitored.

Smuggling problems will be addressed by having a structure composed of relevant government agencies and the private sector that could enforce the laws, promote the welfare of the victims of smuggling and serve as a system of checks-and-balances.

The local peace and order councils will continue to ensure coordination of government efforts and the active participation of the people in the conduct of the campaign against criminality and insurgency. The councils shall monitor the implementation of peace and order programs and projects and other counterinsurgency programs and activities at the provincial, city or municipal levels. Likewise, the regional, provincial and city and municipal advisory councils shall be strengthened to support the transformation and development of the police force.

Outcome 2 - Public safety enhanced

Responsive, highly professional, and competent public safety organizations will be developed that will ensure the safety of the citizenry. The capacity of local governments will be enhanced as they play a crucial role in maintaining public order, especially on issues related to traffic, illegal settlers, sidewalk dwellers and vendors. The following strategies will be implemented to raise the standards for public safety:

Increase police visibility. The PNP will enhance its police presence and professionalism. Patrolling will continue to be the backbone of policing and the avenue for establishing and maintaining police presence in the barangays. Strategically-placed checkpoints, foot and mobile patrols, and focused and intelligence-driven operation against most wanted persons will be organized and maintained. The barangay tanod brigade - as one of the implementing mechanisms of the Barangay Peace and Order Committee (BPOC) - plays an important role in the development and progress of the barangay.

Peace and order in local communities translates to a sense of a shared feeling of security among the citizens. People who have this sense of security are more likely to participate in community activities that aim to improve the livelihood and well-being of all. In this sense, the maintenance of peace and order is part of the foundation for genuine, community-based development.

Develop non-traditional systems for responding to crime and emergencies. To effectively respond to crimes and emergencies, emergency hotlines will be established and social media platforms for crime and emergency reporting will be promoted at the community level.

Improve capability of fire protection services and other security forces. The capability of fire protection services and other security forces will be enhanced to ensure the protection of people's lives and properties and vital and critical government infrastructure.

Firetrucks and other necessary equipment and personnel to meet the standard ratio of 1 firefighter to every 2,000 population will be provided. The capability of the security sector for humanitarian assistance and disaster response will also be enhanced; gender sensitivity in the exercise of disaster response and protection services will be promoted.

Ensure that law enforcement and military operations comply with the requirements set by the international human rights standards. These include all standards prescribed in international human rights and domestic laws, including the Constitution which provides safeguards against human rights violations. The human rights offices, desks or units in all police and military headquarters will be strengthened and expanded. The Commission on Human Rights will intensify its monitoring of compliance with human rights standards by the security sector. Law enforcement operations will ensure that the rights of women and children are promoted, protected and fulfilled.

Ensure security and safety of overseas Filipinos. Sufficient information and safety nets will be provided to OFs prior to their travel on business, leisure, temporary employment, or in search of permanent residency abroad. Sufficient assistance-to-nationals will be provided such as legal assistance and consular services. Technology will be improved for online and mobile application platform for legal aid, guidance, and counseling for migrants, and monitoring of victims of illegal recruitment and trafficking.

Local government units will be capacitated to respond to migrant-related issues at the local level. In close coordination with migrant-serving agencies, LGUs will be commissioned to provide assistance to distressed return migrants.

Legislative Agenda

Table 18.1 Legislative Agenda to Ensure Security, Public Order and Safety, 2017-2022

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE
Defense Procurement Act	Introduce amendments to RA 9184 (Government Procurement Reform Act) for a specialized procurement process for defense capabilities considering the classified nature of assets to be acquired
PNP Reorganization and Modernization Act	Further improve its system capability in providing better police services for crime prevention, suppression and investigation
Amendment of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002	Enhance certain provisions to address the present drug situation in the country, particularly in the enforcement of the law, the functions of concerned government agencies, and the organization of the PDEA. The amendment will support and complement the active and holistic approach being implemented in addressing the drug problem in the country.
Amendment of the Philippine Immigration Act	Aims to strengthen, among others, the legal and institutional framework, capability on border controls at ports of entry; and regulation and registration of foreign nationals within the country
Mandatory Reserve Officers' Training Corps	Based on the Constitutional provisions empowering the Government to call upon its citizens to defend the state and render personal military service and recognizing the vital role of the youth in nation-building. This will inculcate patriotism and nationalism, and encourage youth involvement in public and civic affairs. The DND envisions to create a pool of trained reservists by making the ROTC mandatory again in order to generate the needed human resources in times of war, calamities and disasters, and in support of the government's enhanced anti-crime strategy.
Amendment of Disaster Risk Reduction Management Act	Establish an independent Disaster Risk Reduction Authority with sufficiently high level of authority to lead the coordination, monitoring, oversight and implementation of disaster risk reduction and management.

19 Accelerating Infrastructure Development

Chapter 19

Accelerating Infrastructure Development

This chapter presents the thrusts and priorities in providing better infrastructure to facilitate connectivity, ensure the availability of power and water supply, ensure reliable information and communications technology, and provide good quality and disaster-resilient social infrastructure for the region's economy and its population.

Assessment and Challenges

Infrastructure is vital to development because it allows for access and mobility of goods and services within and outside the region. Western Visayas experienced a surge in infrastructure development in 2014-2016 spurred by developments in Iloilo City. Despite that, the quality of roads and bridges in Western Visayas is assessed as poor condition based on international roughness index. Ports and airports needed upgrades in their facilities and expansion to accommodate increasing number of tourists, both domestic and international. Access to electricity and water has to be addressed, especially in some remote and island barangays. Same is true with social infrastructure in addressing the needs of some households for housing, education and health. Waste management remain a major problem for local government units as well as resiliency of vulnerable communities to disasters and climate change.

The major challenges of the infrastructure sector include the uncoordinated planning of roads and utilities, especially with regard to utilizing the road right-of-way (ROW); the slow preparation of proposals, feasibility studies, and engineering designs; delayed implementation of funded projects; the very lax enforcement of existing laws and policies (e.g. overloading of trucks, informal settlers in ROW, non-compliance in setting up warning signages by contractors during construction, etc.), and non-compliance for provision of special features of infrastructure projects that will respond to the needs of persons with disabilities, the elderly, pregnant women, etc.

The challenges for each subsector are:

Transport

Land Transportation

Need to improve the quality of roads and bridges. Ninety-eight percent or 2,944.87 kilometers of the national roads in the region are paved (75% concreted and 25% asphalted). The remaining unpaved roads total 60.36 kilometers (60.13 gravel and 0.23 earth). Negros Occidental accounts for 33 percent of total paved roads.

Regional road density, which refers to the ratio of the length of the total road network to its land area, increased from 14.16 kilometer per sq km in 2012 to 15.10 kilometer per sq km in 2016. Iloilo City has the highest road density with 122.2 kilometer per sq km while Aklan has the least with 9.4 kilometer per sq km.

Table 19.1 National Road Length by Surface Type and Functional Classification, 2016

DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE/ FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION	PAVED		PAVED TOTAL	UNPAVED		UNPAVED TOTAL	GRAND TOTAL	LAND AREA (SQ. KM)	ROAD DENSITY (KM/SQ. KM)
	CONCRETE	ASPHALT		GRAVEL	EARTH				
Region VI	2,199.55	746.33	2,944.87	60.13	0.23	60.36	3,005.23	20,794.2	14.5
Aklan	86.86	83.52	170.38	0.09	-	0.09	170.47	1,821.4	9.4
Secondary	78.25	83.52	161.78	-	-	-	161.78		
Tertiary	8.60	-	8.60	0.09	-	0.09	8.70		
Antique	249.04	83.12	332.16	7.96	-	7.96	340.11	2,729.2	12.5
Secondary	160.60	80.03	240.63	-	-	-	240.63		
Tertiary	88.44	3.09	91.53	7.96	-	7.96	99.48		
Capiz	316.8	27.97	344.77	-	-	-	344.77	2,594.6	13.3
Primary	47.74	4.89	52.65	-	-	-	52.65		
Secondary	107.68	18.99	126.67	-	-	-	126.67		
Tertiary	161.38	4.07	165.46	-	-	-	165.46		
Guimaras	118.32	10.51	128.82	0.14	-	0.14	128.96	604.6	21.3
Secondary	118.32	10.51	128.82	0.14	-	0.14	128.96		
Iloilo	572.63	257.99	830.61	17.98	0.23	18.21	1,697.65	5,000.9	33.9
Primary	32.76	21.55	54.32	17.98	0.23	18.21	108.63		
Secondary	192.24	178.40	370.61	-	-	-	741.25		
Tertiary	347.63	58.04	405.68	17.98	0.23	18.21	847.77		
Iloilo City	49.80	45.89	95.70	-	-	-	95.70	78.3	122.2
Primary	2.21	12.82	15.03	-	-	-	15.03		
Secondary	18.48	20.78	39.26	-	-	-	39.26		
Tertiary	29.12	12.30	41.42	-	-	-	41.42		
Negros Occidental	759.53	207.93	967.45	0	0	52.38	1,019.83	7,802.5	13.1
Primary	232.94	102.25	335.19	0	0	-	335.19		
Secondary	231.13	74.23	305.34	20.82	0	20.82	326.16		
Tertiary	295.47	31.45	326.92	31.57	0	31.57	358.49		
Bacolod City	46.58	29.42	75.99	-	-	-	75.99	162.7	46.7
Primary	15.33	12.28	27.61	-	-	-	27.61		
Secondary	15.22	8.85	24.07	-	-	-	24.07		
Tertiary	16.02	8.28	24.31	-	-	-	24.31		

Source: www.dpwh.gov.ph

* National roads are classified into: a) Primary roads – roads that connect major cities with population of at least 100,000, b) Secondary roads – other roads which complement the national primary roads to provide access to main population and production center of the country, and c) Tertiary roads – other existing roads under DPWH which perform local function.

Table 19.2 Summary of Existing National Bridges by Type and District Engineering Office, 2016

DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE	PERMANENT BRIDGES LENGTH (in lm)			TEMPORARY BRIDGES LENGTH (in lm)			GRAND TOTAL
	CONCRETE	STEEL	TOTAL	BAILEY	TIMBER	TOTAL	
Aklan	1,220	587	1,807	-	-	-	1,807
Antique	4,998	2,209	7,207	41	-	41	7,248
Capiz	2,554	810	3,364	0	0	0	3,364
Guimaras	357	230	587	16	-	16	604
Iloilo	5,753	2,558	8,312	0	0	0	8,312
Iloilo City	1,277	436	1,713	-	-	-	1,713
Bacolod City	700	200	900	-	-	-	900
Negros Occidental	6,515	2,384	8,901	12	0	12	8,913
Total	23,374	9,414	32,791	69	0	69	32,861

Source: DPWH-VI

Efforts have been made to curb traffic congestion through various road construction. Among the major projects completed were the Iloilo Circumferential Road, the Sen. Benigno Aquino, Jr. Avenue, and the widening of sections of the Strong Republic Nautical Highway from Caticlan, Aklan to Iloilo City. Iloilo City has also invested in improving its bypass roads, wider pavements, cycle and footpaths and esplanades which gave importance to both commuters and pedestrians.

For bridges, the region has a total of 744 permanent bridges, of which 587 were concrete and 157 were steel. As of December 2016, the province of Antique has the highest number of bridges with 136 bridges. There are 5 temporary bridges left which needs to be made permanent. They are located in Antique (3), Guimaras (1) and Negros Occidental (1).

The average international roughness index for Western Visayas, as of 2016 was 5.22 (poor condition) as against the national average of 4.62 (fair condition). Good and fair road conditions for the region is about 13.84 percent to total paved road length while about 11.55 percent are considered poor and bad conditions. More than half of these poor and bad condition roads are located in Negros Occidental.

Of the total 749 bridges, 349 are in fair condition, 299 in good condition, 76 in poor condition and 19 in bad condition. Majority of the bridges in poor condition are in Negros Occidental (42), followed by Iloilo (24). Those in bad condition are mostly in Iloilo.

In 2015, about 75,943 vehicles were added or an average of 208 additional vehicles per day, putting a strain on limited roads within urban areas and contributing to traffic congestion.

There are vulnerable roads like in Sigma, Capiz, which are rendered impassable because of flooding during heavy rains.

Delays in the implementation of road improvements. Road widening and drainage systems improvements are delayed due to problems of road ROW and right-of-way encroachment. The presence of informal settlers along ROW as well as the natural and physical obstructions, such as water and power transmission lines and trees along road networks, causes delays in road construction. Delays in the implementation of road improvements are also cited as one of the major reasons for traffic congestion.

Security and safety risks on road projects. Motorists and pedestrians are exposed to security and safety risks in road projects because of lack of lighting facilities in main roads and non-removal of obstruction or utility posts (electricity, telecoms, etc.) on the widened roads. Lack of proper signage and warning signs exacerbate the risks. For the most part, the provisions in the contracts for contractors are not strictly enforced.

Poor traffic management. Traffic congestion is an emerging problem in urban centers. Trisikads and tricycles use the national roads of capital towns and urban centers which cause road accidents and delays. Improper entry and exit of vehicles in bus and van terminals with entry and exit along the highway cause clogging in certain areas. Undisciplined drivers add to traffic management problem.

LGUs have not been able to update their traffic codes. Also, resolutions to traffic management need technical expertise and these have not been sought. LGUs need technical and skills training along traffic planning and management, particularly those requiring inter-jurisdiction decisions.

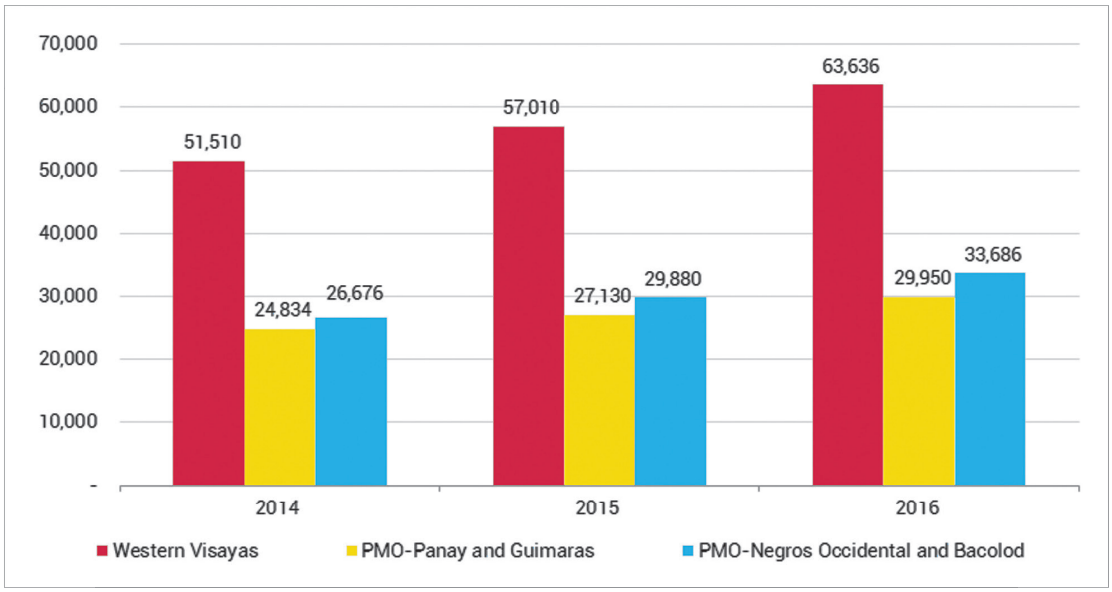
Sea and Air Transport

The water transportation sector still needs to double efforts to achieve targets in number of passengers and sea vessels plying the Guimaras, Panay and Negros Occidental route. This is despite the significant increases achieved in number of sea passengers from 6,623,959 in 2014 to 8,598,463 in 2016.

Shipcalls, both domestic and foreign, increased from 51,510 in 2014 to 63,636 in 2016. The region accounted for an annual average 59.27 percent of the total foreign vessels coming in the Visayas area, and four percent for the whole Philippines.

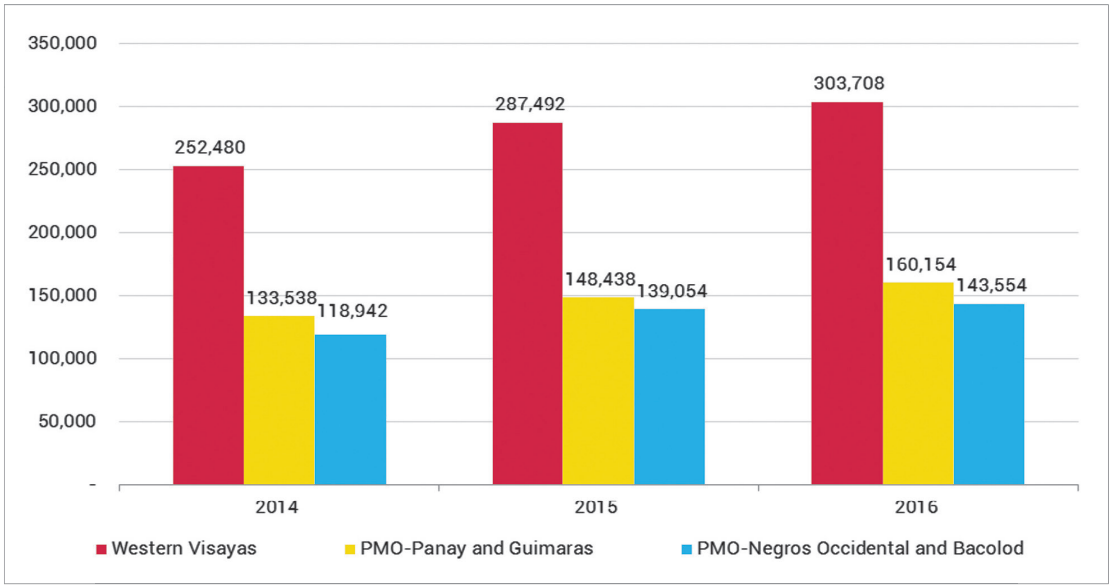
Consequently, containers handled (in T.E.U), increased from 252,480 in 2014 to 303,708 in 2016, which was 74.67 percent of those coming in the Visayas area alone, and 4.75 percent of the whole country. In terms of cargo throughput, the region accommodated a total of 21.08 million metric tons in 2016 with 11.14 million metric tons in domestic and 9.95 million metric tons in foreign vessels. Western Visayas' share in cargo throughput was 7.78 percent of whole Philippines but averaged 59.77 percent of cargoes coming in the Visayas areas.

Figure 19.1 Shipcalls, Containers Handled and Cargo Throughput, 2014-2016



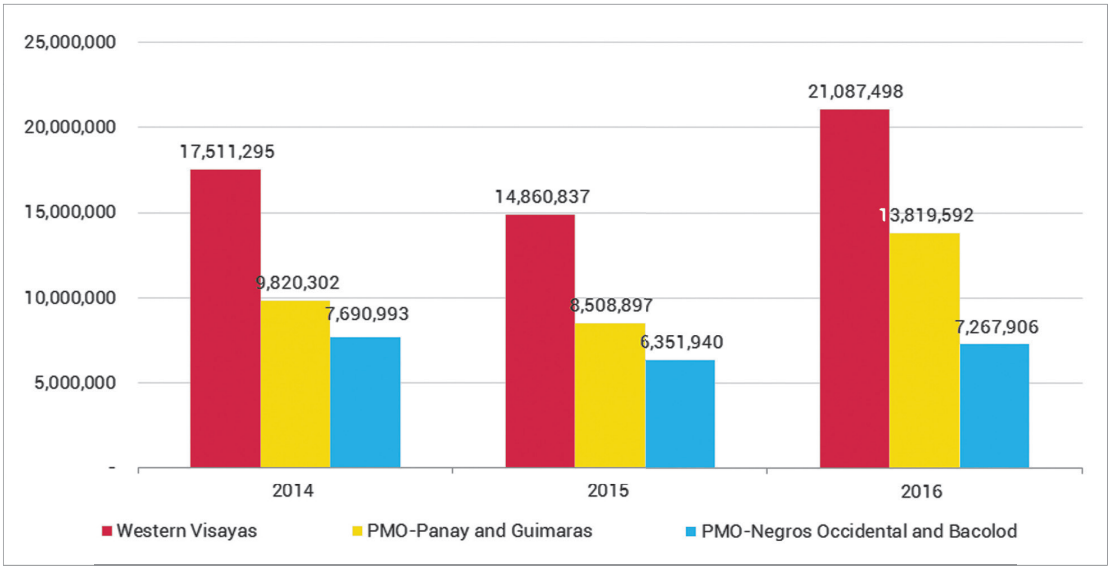
Source: 2015 and 2016 Annual Reports, www.ppa.gov.ph

Figure 19.2 Containers Handled, 2014-2016 (in twenty-foot equivalent unit)



Source: 2015 and 2016 Annual Reports, www.ppa.gov.ph

Figure 19.3 Cargo Throughput, 2014-2016 (in metric tons)



Source: 2015 and 2016 Annual Reports, www.ppa.gov.ph

The PPA, aside from repairing and rehabilitating the port facilities damaged by Typhoon Yolanda, also undertook expansion, upgrading and maintenance of various port facilities in the region. A total of 11 seaports were upgraded, rehabilitated and expanded at a cost of PHP1.148 billion. From March 2011 to June 2016, two new ports under the jurisdiction of the municipalities of Hamtic and Barbaza in the province of Antique, namely Hamtic Port and Barbaza Port, were completed costing PHP22.633 million.

Air transport, on the other hand, experienced a boom especially in 2015. Air passenger traffic reaching 7,156,747 has doubled the 2009 base year data. The actual 9.68 percent annual average increase from 2013-2015, far exceeded the target 7 percent. The increase could be attributed to the all-out promotion of Western Visayas as tourist destination as well as the hosting of national conventions, including the APEC. Also, the "tanim bala" incidents at NAIA opened the airports in Western Visayas as a safer option for some passengers.

More effort is needed however, to increase the number of flights especially domestic flights. Domestic flights registered an annual average decrease of 3.96 percent from 2013-2015 (from 61,650 to 55,708 flights). In contrast, international flights increased annually by 12.58 percent (from 6,574 to 8,330), far above the 7 percent plan target. The decrease in domestic flights may be due to the fact that Air Philippines, Zest Air and Air Asia stopped plying some of the airports in the region, particularly the Iloilo International Airport. The increase in international flights, on the other hand, may be attributed to the opening of direct foreign routes by different carriers.

Two new community airports in Negros Occidental were started by the city governments - Kabankalan City Domestic Airport and San Carlos City Community Airport. The modernization of the Caticlan Airport in Malay, Aklan into a regional international airport and the upgrading of the Kalibo International Airport and Roxas City Airport are ongoing. The extensive development of the Iloilo International Airport and Bacolod-Silay Airport are on the pipeline with possible funding from government and ODA funds.

While sea and air transport indicators showed increasing trends, several challenges need to be addressed:

Congested and underutilized ports. Given its strategic location connecting Central Luzon to the Visayas, the Caticlan Port in Malay, Aklan is one of the most congested ports in the region. It has only two functioning RORO ramps to accommodate vessels transporting buses, vehicles, and passengers coming to the region.

The Iloilo Port is likewise a congested port with a number of constraints, such as heavily silted seabed and limited cargo loading facilities. Its location near the central business district does not help in decongesting the port area.

Meanwhile, a number of ports are underutilized, in particular those of the Estancia and Concepcion, at the northern part of Iloilo province. If these ports are improved, the region can take full advantage of economic opportunities presented by the development of "Isla de Gigantes" group of islands and Sicogon Island, a soon-to-be major tourist destination in Iloilo. Links can, moreover, be made between Northern Iloilo and Cebu and other major ports through the said ports.

San Jose Port in Antique is also one of the underutilized ports. Safety problems hinder the use of port. It faces the open sea which poses problems especially during heavy rainfall and storms. Alternate ports have been identified such as the Port of Buruanga in Aklan & Port of Lipata, in Antique.

Lack of port logistics and facilities. The Iloilo Commercial Port Complex (Iloilo City) and Dumangas Port, currently being developed as transhipment hubs, need to improve on their port logistics facilities and set-up a more efficient and systematic operations. To date, they lack the necessary machinery and transport facilities such as gantry crane and forklifts to handle more cargoes.

Seamless and hassle free flow of passengers and cargoes from port to port is envisioned. Some ports, especially those operated by LGUs, do not have passenger terminals (e.g. Carles, Concepcion and Estancia in Iloilo, and Banica in Roxas City, Capiz). The security of cargoes and passengers also need to be ensured.

Other existing seaport terminals need upgrade, such as the extension of berthing areas, docking areas, access platforms, transit sheds, open storage areas, staging areas, breasting dolphins.

Fish port concerns. Region VI is a major producer of marine products but according to the study conducted by the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) and Department of Agriculture in 2010, most of the fish ports were developed in the mid 1980s and early 1990s, thus, most of the port infrastructures, including the berthing and fish landing facilities, fish market halls, ice making plant and associated refrigeration machineries including freezers and store rooms and relevant utilities are already dilapidated and therefore require immediate rehabilitation, and/or improvement.

Need to phase out small wooden bancas along navigational routes that expose passengers and vessels to security risks. Many navigational routes are traversed by small wooden bancas which need to be upgraded to fiberglass or better materials. Tourists may be deterred from travelling to the islands of the region because of hazards in sea travel. There is a need to enforce strictly the MARINA guidelines for short and long routes to ensure the safety of passengers and to set standards in transporting people and goods to their destinations.

Need to upgrade facilities, including terminals of airports. The airports in the region need to improve on its facilities. Iloilo International Airport, in particular, needs to expand its terminals and increase the number of hangars to accommodate more airplanes. Security measures such as quarantine centers, walk-through metal detectors, and human and baggage scanners are not adequate enough.

The Roxas City Airport and Evelio B. Javier Airport need night landing and take-off lights and landing facilities. Also, airport vicinities need illumination for the security of passengers, especially those travelling at night.

Information and Communications Technology

Poor coverage in rural areas, weak signals, and high cost of internet service providers. The use of cellular mobile telecommunications service is now the common mode of access to the internet which covers almost all cities and municipalities in the region. The cumulative number of cell sites established in 2015 was 3,033. The construction of cell sites is dependent on the telecommunication companies, which goes through the approval process of the National Telecommunications Commission. Fixed broadband internet connection is limited and available mainly in the urban areas. Average download speed is between 4-5 mbps which is much lower compared to other Asian countries that average between 9 to 11mbps. This has adverse effects on the productivity and competitiveness of workplaces and households.

In terms of affordability of fixed broadband services, the Philippines registered the lowest affordability level among Southeast Asian countries at 7.53 percent of gross national income (GNI) per capita: Singapore 0.63 percent, Malaysia 1.11 percent, and Thailand 3.89 percent. The affordability threshold set by the International Telecommunications Union is five percent. This means that expenditure for other essentials such as water and electricity are compromised.

Telecommunication companies have not been transparent with products they market, imposing higher fees for advertised higher mpbs when in some areas, it can only accommodate a maximum of 5 mpbs.

Absence or poor communication systems in rural areas. The importance of communication systems for the development of the countryside cannot be over emphasized. Moreover, reliability of communications during disasters has to be guaranteed, which requires uninterrupted power supply.

In setting up communication systems and construction of telecommunications infrastructure, the providers have been faced with issues such as right-of-way and government bureaucracy.

In 2013, a total of 338,793 capacity lines and 131,245 telephone loads were provided by major telecommunication operators, mostly located in the urban areas. The real condition of the communication sector, however, could not be determined because of lack of data and information. The data from 2013 have not been updated. It is known, however, that internet connectivity is mostly available even in rural areas.

Energy and Water Resources

Power

High cost of power. In September 2016, the Panay Electric Company, the franchisee of power distribution in Iloilo City, charged PHP10.585 per kilowatt hour, next to Cebu City's Visayan Electric Co. (VECO) with PHP10.9922/kWh. High cost of power adds to the overhead of business establishments which pass the burden to consumers. High power cost also holds back large-scale investments. The above rate includes not only generation rate but also transmission and distribution charges, universal charges, value-added taxes, and system losses. Taxes for power facilities and distribution posts levied by the local government units are also passed-on to consumers. The current Feed-in Tariff Allowance (FIT-All), a form of universal charges, is incorporated in the electric bills starting in 2015 to encourage investment in renewable energies, in order to augment energy needs in off-grid areas. By 2016 an increase in wind and solar capacities was expected, in order to achieve a more-balanced energy mix.

Table 19.4 shows the FIT-Rate generation cost and not the actual cost to be paid by the consumers. The consumers paid only the FIT-All rate approved by the ERC. The 2014-2015 Approved FIT-All Rate is PHP0.0406, but due to the increase in targets and RE applications, the FIT-All rate built-up and from April 2016 to present the new approved FIT-All rate is PHP 0.1240/kwh charged to all grid connected consumers. This makes electricity from renewable energy more expensive.

Renewable energy projects are private sector driven. Unfortunately, private companies wanting to invest in renewable energy projects face hurdles such as numerous requirements set by DOE, ERC & LGUs, and the current moratorium imposed on land conversion.

The private sector, however, chooses to invest in coal plants because of the shorter gestation period and lower rates. Also, coal is considered stable and carries no intermittent issues unlike solar and wind and it can cover the base load capacity requirement of the region.

Table 19.3 Comparative Monthly Electricity Rates, 2010

REGION/CITY	DISTRIBUTION UTILITY	PER KWH RATE, IN PESOS
Region VI-Western Visayas (Iloilo City)	Panay Electric Company (PECO)	PHP10.585/kWh (Sept. 2016)
Region VI-Western Visayas (Province of Iloilo)	Iloilo I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ILECO I)	PHP9.3960 /kWh (Sept. 2016)
National Capital Region	Manila Electric Co. (MERALCO)	PHP8.4574/kWh (Sept. 2016)
Region VII-Central Visayas (Cebu City)	Visayan Electric Company (VECO)	PHP10.9922/kWh (Sept. 2016)
Region VIII-Eastern Visayas (Tacloban City)	Leyte 2 Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEYECO 2)	PHP8.0749 /kWh (Sept. 2016)
Region XI-Davao Region (Davao City)	Davao Light & Power Co. (Davao Light)	PHP8.9177/kWh (Sept. 2016)
Region VI-Wesyern Visayas (Bacolod City)	Central Negros Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CENECO)	PHP8.7744 /kWh (Sept. 2016)
Region XII-SOCCSKSARGEN (General Santos City)	South Cotabato Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SOCOTECO II)	PHP8.6091 /kWh (Sept. 2016)

Source: NTC-VI

Table 19.4 Adjusted FIT Rate, PHP/kWh

RENEWABLE ENERGY	2015 BASE FIT RATE	2016 ADJUSTED FIT RATE		INSTALLATION TARGETS
		2014-2015 ENTRANT	2016 ENTRANT	TOTAL TARGET 1400 MW
Biomass	6.6300	7.0508	7.0508	250 MW
Hydro	5.9000	6.4601	6.4601	250 MW
Solar FIT 1	9.6800	9.9067		
Solar FIT 2	8.6900	8.6900	8.6900	500 MW
Wind FIT 1	8.5300	8.9006		
Wind FIT 2	7.4000	7.4000		400 MW

Source: NEA, PIOUs Website & PECO Billing Dept.

Absence of electricity or power in some remote areas or sitios. Based on the 2010 census the total number of households in Western Visayas was 924,701, 93.4 percent of these (or 863,878) were energized as of July 2016. This is above the 90 percent target for the Department of Energy's Household Electrification Development Plan. The 106,438 unserved households will be energized in the succeeding years through new electrification programs. The remaining unserved households are either located in remote off-grid or in urban squatter areas.

The sitio energization program has energized a total of 9,535 sitios out of 10,452 potential sitios, leaving 917 sitios to be energized, as of December 2016. This is equivalent to 91 percent energization level by electric cooperatives in Western Visayas. For Negros Occidental, 80 percent of the total 6,433 sitios were energized, leaving 1,353 sitios still to be energized.

Limited island-to-island interconnection. Transmission lines expansion and upgrading are needed for the load growth and entry of new generating facilities. Upgrading and construction of new transmission lines is also important for system reliability. The installation of the 472 circuit kilometers transmission lines by the NGCP has not been completed; the project includes the construction of a 230kV Cebu-Negros-Panay Backbone which can be used to export surplus power from Panay Island to other regions. The NGCP has prioritized transmission projects for implementation based on the Transmission Development Plan (TDP) which is approved by the ERC within the 5-year regulatory period. Some plant operators, instead of waiting for NGCP, finance the construction of transmission lines themselves.

Lastly, resiliency of the transmission system against natural calamities needs to be improved and maintained as transmission lines are the first to be affected when super typhoons beset an area.

Table 19.5 Household Electrification Level by Province, July 2016

PROVINCE	TOTAL HH	SERVED HH	UNSERVED HH	HH ELECTRIFICATION LEVEL %
Aklan	122,200	117,231	4,969	95.9%
Antique	118,500	111,263	7,237	93.9%
Capiz	166,800	156,773	10,027	94.0%
Guimaras	33,700	30,263	3,437	89.8%
Iloilo	483,501	448,348	35,153	92.7%
Total - Region VI	924,701	863,878	60,823	93.4%
Negros Occidental	578,700	533,085	45,615	92.1%

Sources: DOE-EPIMB-VI and NEA-VI
Notes:
- The Household Population Number was projected and provided by NSO based from the 2010 Census
- Served Household figure was sourced from the consolidated Distribution Development Plan (DDP) 2016-2025 of all the Distribution Utilities (DU) and National Electrification Administration's (NEA) Status of Energization Reports (As of July 2016)
- The data for the PIOUS and LGUOUs are assumed to have the same electrification level from the previous year (As of December 2015).
- NPC-SPUG Electrification Efforts are assumed to be included in concern Electric Cooperatives Household Energization Report

Table 19.6 Status of Energization, Sitio Level by Electric Cooperative, 2016

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES	POTENTIAL	ENERGIZED	%	UN-ENERGIZED
Aklan Electric Cooperative, Inc.	1,031	960	93	71
Antique Electric Cooperative, Inc.	1,504	1,195	79	309
Capiz Electric Cooperative, Inc.	1,266	1,123	89	143
Iloilo I Electric Cooperative, Inc.	1,910	1,803	94	107
Iloilo II Electric Cooperative, Inc.	2,517	2,430	97	87
Iloilo III Electric Cooperative, Inc.	1,577	1,453	92	124
Guimaras Electric Cooperative, Inc.	647	571	88	76
Total - Region VI	10,452	9,535	91	917
Northern Negros Electric Cooperative, Inc.	2,849	2,404	84	445
Central Negros Electric Cooperative, Inc.	501	320	64	181
Negros Occidental Electric Cooperative, Inc.	3,083	2,356	76	727
Total – Negros Occidental	6,433	5,080	80	1353

Source:: NEA-VI
Note: PECO is not included in SEP project

Water Supply

Need to develop new water supply sources. Challenges that confront water supply include population growth, rapid urbanization, climate change, and abusive use of water. The government has to develop new water supply sources to increase coverage area and to cope with the above challenges. For 2013-2015, the 1,348,160 households with access to safe water have exceeded the end of plan target of 1,315,279 households. The proportion of households with access to Levels I and II water supply increased from 23.77 percent in 2013 to 57.48 percent in 2015. Similarly, the percentage of households with Level III connection increased from 29.39 percent in 2013 to 42.53 percent in 2015. They all exceeded the end-of-plan target of 40 percent. However, there are roughly 256,163 households that still do not have access to safe water supply.

Some parts of Region VI experience insufficiency of water from surface water sources especially during drought and dry season. Shallow aquifers extend between five to 35 meters with static groundwater level that varies from four to 20 meters below ground level. Previous reports from NWRB and MIWD indicate declining water level from 1987 to 1996 in six MIWD wells located in the alluvial plain. Similar studies in other provinces should be done.

Need to regulate groundwater extraction. Groundwater is mainly utilized for domestic purposes. The 2013 groundwater study conducted by NWRB shows that most of groundwater infrastructures are poorly maintained and operated. Technologies to enhance storage capacity of groundwater reservoirs are lacking. There is absence of regular monitoring of groundwater withdrawal, water level and quality. Utilization of groundwater, for domestic or household and industrial and commercial purposes, remains unregulated. A lot of business enterprises use water extensively such as water refilling stations, car wash stations and laundry outlets. Most of these, if not all, utilize groundwater supply.

High cost of water supply. Most of the water districts, especially in the northern part of Iloilo impose high minimum charge (1-10 cum); yet they still lack the needed finances to cover operating and maintenance cost. In 2015, the regional average was PHP194.27; Iloilo and Guimaras recorded the highest cost at PHP207.00 and PHP207.93, respectively.

Water districts face the following issues: inadequate clean water supply, lack of technical capability of small water utilities, institutional bottlenecks, lack of available land for water supply and wastewater treatment facilities, right of way problem for sewer lines, and presence of solid wastes in the effluent.

Insufficient water for irrigation use. The region has 230,359 hectares of potential irrigable area, primarily devoted to rice and corn. The coverage area of irrigation facilities increased from 117,845 hectares in 2009 to 127,105 hectares in 2016 which is below the end of plan target of 144,598 hectares. Only 55.18 percent of irrigable areas are irrigated.

Surface water is mainly used for agriculture, especially for farmers in upland areas that rely mostly on rain. The denudation of the watersheds, occurrence of drought, unavailability of water during dry season, and rapid soil erosion, all affect the supply of water for irrigation use. Shortage of water supply for irrigation makes frequent rehabilitation of the irrigation canals and drainages necessary, in turn making them costly to operate and maintain in the long run.

Exacerbating the situation is the poor performance of irrigation systems. The NIA and Irrigators' Associations do not have adequate capacity to maintain the systems; funds are also insufficient to cover maintenance. Release of funds is often delayed, which delays construction or rehabilitation of irrigation dams.

Flood Control, Drainage, Sewerage and Septage

Flooding or inundation of large tracts of lands during heavy rains. Large areas in Western Visayas are highly susceptible to flooding due to overflowing of rivers. Major thoroughfares in the city and nearby municipalities are flooded during heavy rains, which bring into question the effectiveness of the drainage system constructed and the apparent lack of an area-wide and river basin drainage planning & management.

DPWH has constructed flood control projects in order to mitigate flooding and flash floods. The Iloilo Flood Control project is in operation and Panay River Flood Control project is still under construction. Negros Occidental proposed for the Ilog-Hilabangan Flood Control Project and Bacolod City Flood Control Project. The maintenance of the flood control projects is of paramount importance. There seems to be no clear guidelines that define the responsibilities of the LGUs and the DPWH in terms of planning and design, operation and maintenance.

Absence of or poorly operated sanitation and sewerage management system in major urban centers. The protection of water supply from contamination and groundwater pollution should be a major concern. The plan targeted 1,195,708 households to have access to complete basic sanitation and only 875,271 households were provided. The province with the least percentage of households having access to complete basic facilities is Capiz with only 38.47 percent followed by Iloilo and Negros Occidental with 54.68 and 51.52 percent, respectively. Iloilo City has only 48.4 percent of households with access to complete basic sanitation facilities. Guimaras has the highest with 85.1 percent of households having access to said facilities. The drainage system is utilized as sewerage which causes clogging, and problems on health and sanitation.

The region lacks comprehensive development plans especially on sewerage and septage in major urban centers as well comprehensive drainage system with appropriate outfalls and measures for desilting of creeks.

Very low compliance of LGUs on provision of sanitary landfills. The implementation of safe closure and rehabilitation of open and controlled dumpsite have been deficient due to lack of equipment, manpower and technical capabilities, and budget. There is only one sanitary landfill in Panay, which is located in Malay, Aklan; none in Guimaras, six in Negros Occidental, which are located in the cities of Bago, Sagay, San Carlos and Sipalay. Majority of the LGUs do not have the technical capability and financial capacity to establish a sanitary landfill for the final disposal of their residual waste. There is lack of suitable land owned by LGUs for sanitary landfill.

The region has no treatment storage disposal facility for the disposal of used oils, liquid & toxic substances and chemicals.

Social Infrastructure

Housing

Provision of housing is one of the most expensive programs to implement since it requires huge amount of capital, available land converted for settlements, numerous procedures and documents related to land and development from various agencies, both national and local, and social preparation of the household beneficiaries. It is then, not surprising that many challenges are being encountered in the delivery of housing and its related services. Common challenges include the following:

Increasing housing need due to increasing population and rural to urban migration. The influx of households in urban centers has strained the capacity of providers of housing and related services such as sanitation, potable water, adequate and legal power connection, and many more. This has resulted in congestion and squalid conditions.

By the end of 2016, there were 31,644 housing lots produced and registered with HLURB in a mixture of socialized, low-cost, medium-cost, open market, and residential condominium projects. (Table 19.7) Of these, 7,447 units are socialized housing. Added to these are the 43,892 units produced by the NHA and the 3,266 units funded by the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) (Table 19.8) which are all socialized but are exempted from registration with the HLURB.

The shelter agencies were collectively able to provide shelter to 51,776 households from 2013 to 2016. These are produced through the major programs, namely the Resettlement Program, PNP/AFP Housing Project, Yolanda Permanent Housing Program, Community Mortgage Program, the Localized CMP, and the Retail Financing of Pag-IBIG Fund. The accomplishment ballooned in 2015 and 2016 due to many houses built by NHA for the Typhoon Yolanda victims.

Table 19.7 Registered Residential Subdivision Lots, 2013-2016

TYPE OF SUBDIVISION	NO. OF SUBDIVISION LOTS MADE AVAILABLE BY YEAR				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	TOTAL
Socialized Housing	3,042	3,000	279	1,126	7,447
Low-cost Housing	4,440	4,796	1,496	1,981	12,713
Medium Cost	1,033	-	5	56	1,094
Open Market	1,902	2,606	1,022	794	6,324
Residential Condominium	203	869	2,857	137	4,066
TOTAL	10,620	11,271	5,659	4,094	31,644

Source: HUDCC-VI, HLURB-VI

Table 19.8 Socialized Housing Units Produced, by Program/Agency, 2013-2016

AGENCY/PROGRAM	NUMBER OF UNITS/FAMILY BENEFICIARIES BY YEAR				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	TOTAL
NHA = 43,892					
Resettlement Program	1,811	918	1,372	1,000	5,101
PNP/AFP Housing Projects	2,508	-	113	6	7,728
Yolanda Permanent Housing Projects	-	-	8,641	22,422	31,063
SHFC = 3,266					
Community Mortgage Program (CMP)	336	958	1,421	89	2,804
Localized CMP	462	-	-		462
HDMF (Pag-IBIG Fund) = 4,618					
Retail Financing	1,482	1,890	1,246	1,640	4,618
TOTAL					51,776

Source: HUDCC-VI

The targeted number of units to be provided is 27,431 in order to meet the 13 percent reduction of the housing backlog between 2013 and 2016. With the 51,776 units produced by the shelter agencies in coordination with the LGUs and the private sector developers, the housing backlog in 2012 was reduced by almost 23 per cent by 2016. Despite surpassing the target, there remains an estimated 162,691 units of backlog which is a huge challenge for the shelter sector to conquer and needs to be responded to during the plan period.

Low affordability of and access to government housing programs by the underprivileged. Most of those that need government intervention are the underprivileged that belong to the informal segment of society. They have marginal and irregular income, and do not have collateral in order to apply for government housing financing.

Low priority given by the LGUs to housing. There was low utilization of the funding assistance offered to the LGUs by the housing agencies such as the grant from NHA under Resettlement Program, the loan from Pag-IBIG Fund for LGU Pabahay Program, and the Localized CMP of the SHFC. The counterpart required of the LGU in order to participate in the NHA and Pag-IBIG programs is land, titled in the name of the LGU, to be developed into a housing project. The counterpart of the LGU in accessing the Localized CMP, where SHFC will extend to them a PhP50 million funds to administer, is the cost for land development.

Despite these funding supports, very few LGUs have applied because they either do not have land, no budget allocated to develop or buy land as collateral, and simply no interest to comply with requirements and implement a housing project. Many local chief executives also do not want to implement housing projects because they are cost-recoverable. They seem to prefer dole-out projects because collecting payments from constituents lowers their popularity among voters.

Lack of access to available suitable lands for housing. There is no shortage of land but there is shortage of available suitable lands. The constraints in making suitable lands available may be traced to poor land governance in the country, resulting in lands without titles, which exclude these from being considered for government housing development. Moreover, the moratorium on land conversion has also hindered the access to land for housing. There are also environmental constraints that limit the usage of land. All these put together make land scarce and as a consequence, has escalated the price of available suitable land in the market.

Partnering between government and NGOs is not maximized. It is important to look at best practices like Gawad Kalinga. Socialized housing has not been successful in some areas because of lack of convergence of resources among government, civic organizations and the private sector. These interventions include livelihood, values information, community mobilization, etc.

Approval process for socialized housing is too centralized. Interventions have been slow especially during rehabilitation and reconstruction after major disasters because the approval process is too centralized. There is a need to review the process for possible streamlining and decentralization, especially in emergency cases.

Health facilities

Inadequate bed capacity, health equipment, facilities and laboratories especially in district hospitals. In 2015, the Department of Health, through the Health Facilities Enhancement Program, has improved or rehabilitated 32 government hospitals and 29 infirmaries in the provinces and municipalities. However, barangay and rural health centers need to be equipped in order for the poor and the marginalized sector of the society to have access to quality health care. Hospitals, especially Levels 1 and 2 have to be upgraded in terms of bed capacity and equipped with modern facilities, equipment, and laboratories to make them more responsive.

Inadequate rehabilitation centers for the treatment of drug dependents. With the massive campaign against drugs and continued buy-bust operations in the region, there have been considerable numbers of drug dependents who have surrendered to authorities who need treatment. Thus, the region needs drug rehabilitation centers aimed at nursing back to health and reintegrating recovering drug dependents back into society.

Education

No access to clean water and sanitation facilities in public schools. Past accomplishment showed an annual average of 85.36 percent of elementary schools and 60.39 percent of secondary schools have water and sanitation facilities. There are areas especially in northern Panay with no access to water.

Lack of seating facilities for elementary schools and classrooms for students. The seating facilities for elementary was only 66.22 percent or about 78,477 of 118,501 seats needed. In contrast, the seating facilities for high school exceeded plan target by 205 percent because DepEd provided additional 60,240 seats on top of the 127,073 seats initially provided.

There is an apparent lack of classrooms for students with special needs. These are specialized needs that requires corresponding facilities. So far there are only three such classrooms that exist in the region.

Some schools are located in hazard prone areas. Typhoon Yolanda highlighted the vulnerability of schools in the face of natural disasters. LGUs are now challenged to identify alternative locations for schools located within hazard prone areas and to study the appropriate mitigating measures to be applied. DepEd and DPWH are challenged to design new school buildings that are climate change resilient and can withstand wind velocity of at least 250 kilometers per hour.

Classrooms should not be used as evacuation centers or sleeping quarters of players and performers during national and regional sports competitions and other activities so as not to disrupt classes. Moreover, there are schools on grid but are still not energized.

Some schools are within untitled lands or do not have proof of ownership of property which is needed in processing of permit for building construction. The DENR has started providing special patents for school sites within untitled lands or those lands that were donated. In 2015, there were 22 special patents awarded for school sites; 40 more are scheduled for release. Still, some LGUs are reluctant to donate untitled public lands to schools, which is a prerequisite in the issuance of special patents.

Institutional Buildings

Dilapidated and congested jails. There are 35 BJMP-manned facilities in the region and all are congested. In 2015, the congestion rate is 199 percent.

Jail population density increased to three inmates per four square meters because of the increase of inmates from 5,998 in 2012 to 6,822 in 2015. Ideal rate is one inmate per 4.7 square meters.

Table 19.9 Jail Congestion Rate, 2015

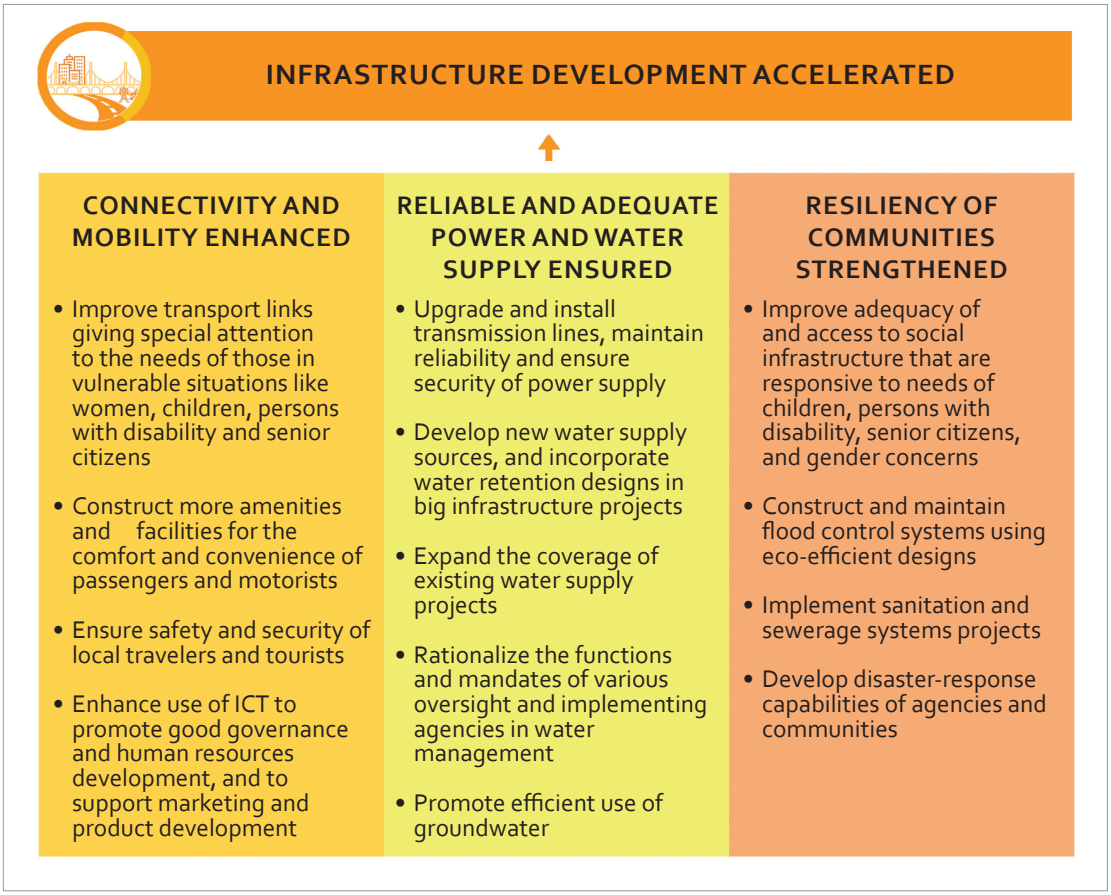
BJMP-MANNED JAILS			CONGESTION RATE (at 4.7 square meter/inmate)
District jails	23	Number of jails	35
City jails	5	Total floor area (m2)	19,199
Municipal jails	2	Cell area (m2)	10,727
Female dormitories	3	Ideal capacity	2,282
Other jail classification	2	Jail population	6,822
TOTAL	35	Variance	4,540
		Congestion Rate	199%

Source: BJMP-VI

Strategic Framework

The goal of the sector is to provide the necessary infrastructure support and facilities to sustain human development outcomes and minimize the vulnerabilities of communities to natural disasters. The intermediate outcomes are enhanced internal and external connectivity, reasonable power and water supply ensured, and resiliency of communities strengthened. These expected outcomes will be realized through the provision of efficient air, sea and land transport system; ICT and communication system; power and water supply; flood control, drainage and sewerage; and disaster resilient social infrastructures.

Figure 19.4 Strategic Framework to Accelerate Infrastructure Development, 2017-2022



Targets

The targets for infrastructure development by subsectors are as follows:

- Increase total length of paved roads by 75 kilometers annually or from 195.92 kilometers in 2015 to 646 kilometers in 2022.
- Increase length of permanent bridges along national arterial roads by 750 linear meters annually or from 399.67 linear meters in 2015 to 5,650 linear meters in 2022.
- Increase number of registered motor vehicles by three percent annually or from 514,938 in 2016 to 614,863 in 2022.

- Increase number of tourism signages established from 119 in 2015 to 409 in 2022.
- Increase number of rest areas along major highways with facilities responsive to people with special needs improved/ established from 38 in 2015 to 53 in 2022.
- Increase number of sea passengers by 7 percent annually or from 8,598,463 in 2016 to 12,903,974 in 2022.
- Increase number of vessels by 7 percent annually or from 63,636 in 2016 to 95,500 in 2022.
- Increase number of air passenger traffic by 7 percent annually or from 7,156,747 in 2015 to 9,773,406 in 2022.
- All government agencies, including hospitals and schools are connected to e-government system with fiber optic connections.
- A total of 845 public Wi-Fi sites installed by 2022.
- Increase the number of sitios energized from 9,535 in 2016 to 10,452 in 2022.
- Increase the number of households energized from 863,878 households to 924,701 households in 2022.
- A total of 67 water districts provided with assistance by 2022.
- A total of 231 new irrigation systems established by 2022.
- Reduce housing backlogs by 2 percent annually or from 162,691 units in 2016 to 144,119 units in 2022.
- Increase the number of households with access to safe water by 5 percent annually.
- 90% of pupils enrolled in primary schools provided with basic drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene services.
- 1:35 and 1:38 classroom-to-pupil ratio achieved for primary and secondary, respectively.
- Increase the number of seating facilities to 100,845 and 42,435 in 2022 for elementary and secondary schools, respectively
- 11 government hospitals upgraded/ rehabilitated.
- One flood control project constructed.
- Eight sanitary landfills constructed.
- 131 LGUs with operational materials recovery facility.
- Reduced jail congestion from 3 per 4.7 sq m in 2016 to 1 per 4.7 sq m in 2022.

Strategies

Outcome 1- Connectivity and Mobility Enhanced

Improve transport links, giving special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations like women, children, persons with disability and senior citizens.

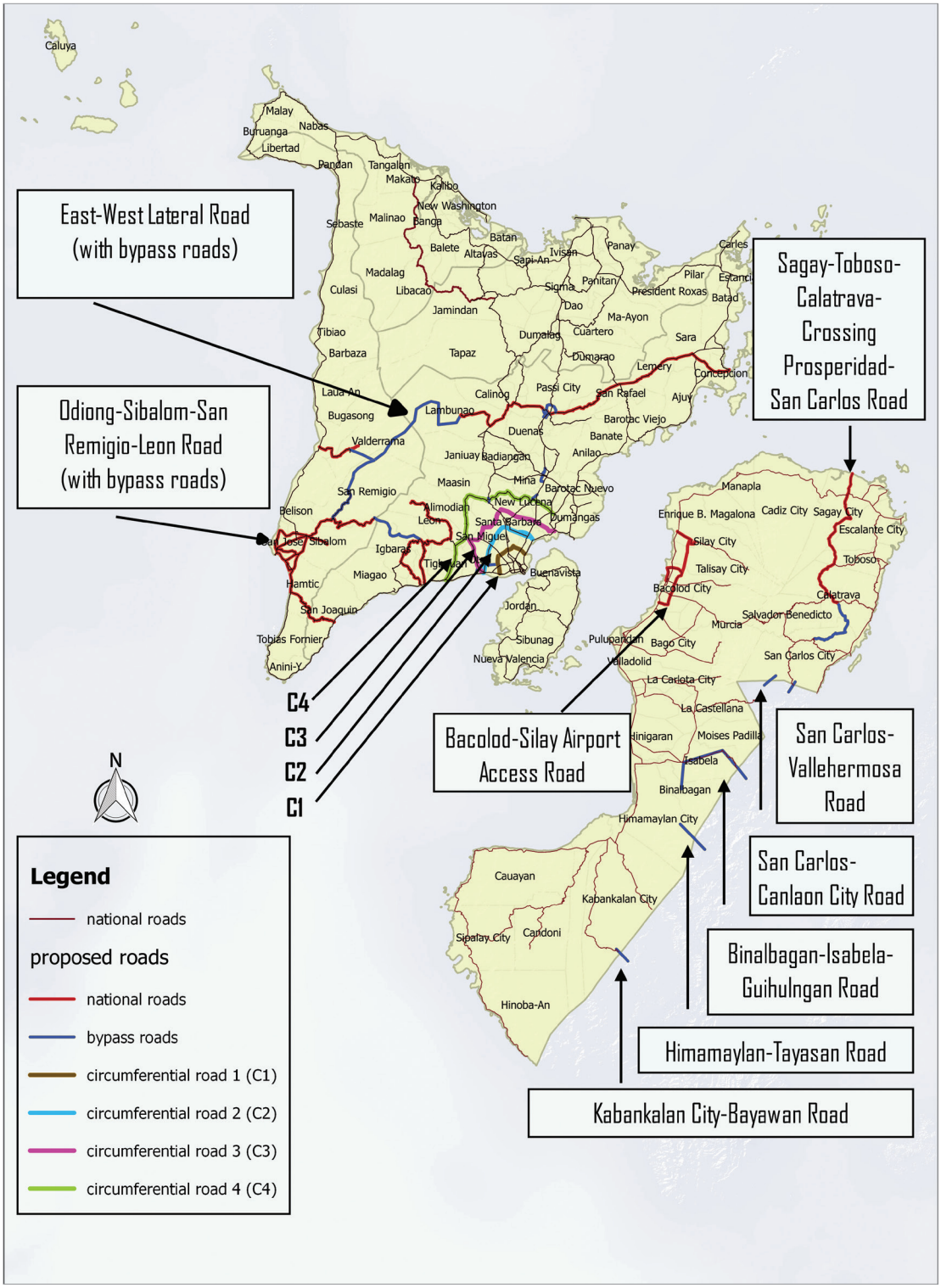
Roads and Bridges

The quality of road networks should be improved. While aiming for expansion of the transport network to reach more areas, the physical state of existing ones should be maintained at levels that facilitate rather than hamper economic and social activities. Additional weighbridge stations will be installed in strategic areas and cargo loading limits will be strictly implemented in order to preserve the structural integrity of the road network. Moreover, prohibiting overloaded trucks and trailers will minimize the occurrence of accidents and congestion.

Bridges along national roads will be retrofitted. Temporary bridges will be made permanent and weak bridges rehabilitated. By-passes, diversion roads to connect to national roads, flyovers, interchanges, underpasses, and off-carriageway improvement will be constructed.

- Widen all national road sections into four-lane roads connecting the Strong Republic Nautical Highway ports and roll-on/roll-off ports, including bridges along them, specifically the:
  - Port of Caticlan, Aklan (SRNH port) to the Port of Dumangas, Iloilo (SRNH port)
  - Port of Caticlan, Aklan (SRNH port) to Port of Culasi, Capiz (RoRo) port
  - Port of Culasi to Port of Concepcion, Iloilo (Central Spine RoRo port)
  - Port of Concepcion to the Port of Dumangas, Iloilo (SRNH port)
  - Port of Caticlan, Aklan (SRNH port) to the Port of Libertad, Antique (interisland port), passing by Port of Alegria.
  - Port of Libertad caters to ferry boats going to or coming from Caluya Island, Semirara Island and Caminawit, Mindoro)
  - Port of Libertad to Port of San Jose, Antique passing by Port of Lipata, to Port of San Jose, which will soon open Ro-Ro trips to Palawan.
- Enhance the mobility within and with areas outside the region through establishment of major infrastructure projects. Natural hazards such as typhoons and earthquakes cause damage to infrastructure which may leave affected areas inaccessible and isolated. Thus, construction of alternate roads and bridges shall be pursued to allow timely rescue and relief operations:
  - Panay East-West lateral road linking Lambunao, Iloilo with Valderrama, Antique.
  - San Remigio, Antique linking with Bucari, Leon, Iloilo.
  - Four to six lane expressway from Iloilo City to Kalibo, Aklan.Four-lane bypass roads in Passi City, Barotac Nuevo, Zarraga (all in Iloilo) and Banga (Aklan). Assistance from concerned LGUs is sought especially in flood prone areas where new routes are needed.
  - Circumferential roads, such as the Metro Iloilo Circumferential Roads 1-4 and Passi City Circumferential

Figure 19.5 Proposed Road Projects, 2017-2022



Source: DPWH-VI

- More road openings or access roads to tourism areas and industrial and agro-aqua industries with the strengthening of the DPWH-DOT-DA-DAR convergence projects such as:

  - Bacolod-Silay Airport Access Road;
  - Sagay-Toboso-Calatrava Crossing Prosperidad-San Carlos City Road
  - Four-lane Nabitasan-San Rafael Bypass Road, Iloilo City.

- Renewable energy project sites, such as wind farms, attract tourists. LGUs are encouraged to adopt access roads within RE sites as barangay or municipal roads.

- Feasibility studies and detailed engineering of the Panay-Guimaras Bridge (2.59km) and Guimaras-Negros Occidental Bridge (20.6km) will be undertaken. The construction of the bridge will be under ODA or PPP scheme and will connect major islands of Panay, Guimaras, Negros and Cebu.

- Bridge replacement and construction to complete the bridges along the bypass roads. All bridges will be permanent.

- More farm-to-market roads will be constructed and rehabilitated in order to link agricultural production areas with market centers and to the main logistics network thus providing greater access to farmers, growers, fishers and agri-based traders.

- Strict implementation of the newly approved ROW Act that provides limitation to payment for the acquisition of right-of-way (e.g. free patent holders are not entitled to payment) which will expedite implementation of infrastructure projects.

Panay Expressway with Railway Network

There is a need to undertake feasibility study on the implementation of Panay Expressway with provision for a railway network to enhance connectivity among production areas, agro-industries and key gateway centers, as well as, tourism destinations. The proposed route will connect the following: Sta. Barbara (Iloilo International Airport) to Dumangas Port and ecozone; Passi City and its sugarcane industry; Estancia and tourism and fishing industries in northern Iloilo; Roxas City and Culasi Port and Capiz seafood industry; Kalibo International Airport - Caticlan Airport, Caticlan Port and Boracay's tourism industry.

Seaports and Fish Ports

Connectivity with other regions will require opening of new RoRo network/routes such as:

- Capiz (Roxas City) – Masbate (Balud)
- Antique (San Jose) – Palawan (Cuyo)
- Iloilo (Concepcion) – Negros (Escalante)
- Iloilo (Concepcion) – Negros (Cadiz) and Bantayan Island (Cebu)
- Iloilo (Guimbal) – Negros (Himamaylan)
- Guimaras – Pulupandan.

Caticlan Port will be further developed. Additional RoRo ramps will be provided to address congestion problems. Mooring facilities will be extended to accommodate cruise ships.

The Iloilo Commercial Port Complex in Loboc, La Paz, Iloilo City will be developed to international standards. Dumangas Port will be fully developed and Culasi Port will

likewise be improved. Facilities like gantry and forklifts will be provided to these ports to handle more cargoes. The cargo handling operation in Culasi Port will have to be privatized.

Underutilized ports like San Jose Port in Antique and Estancia and Concepcion Ports in Iloilo, will be developed, rehabilitated, and expanded.

New ports will be constructed under DOTr, such as the Pontevedra Municipal Wharf in Pontevedra, Capiz; Pilar Port in Pilar, Capiz and Manoc-Manoc Port in Boracay, Malay, Aklan.

Fish port facilities and operations will be improved and service delivery will be made more efficient especially in Iloilo City, Concepcion and Dumangas in Iloilo, San Jose in Antique, Cadiz City in Negros Occidental,etc. Port infrastructures like berthing and fish landing facilities, fish market halls, ice making plant and associated refrigeration machineries including freezers and store rooms, reliable waste water facilities, and other relevant utilities shall be constructed, improved or rehabilitated. Technical assistance shall be provided in order to strengthen their capacity in value adding of frozen and processed fish as well as in marketing of these products.

Airports

Proper management and upgrading are required for Iloilo International Airport and Kalibo and Caticlan airports in Aklan to accommodate more international flights. Kalibo Airport and Roxas City Airport need night landing and take-off facilities to accommodate sunset and night time flights, and widened runway strips to eventually accommodate bigger aircrafts. Evelio B. Javier Airport in Antique should be expanded and modernized in order to provide alternate airports to the existing international gateways in the region.

An airstrip in Caluya Island, Antique will be constructed, the island being a major producer of seaweeds and a tourist destination. Presently, it is accessible only through a four-hour boat ride from the Port of Libertad in Antique. Also, a study on the feasibility of constructing an airport in Guimaras will be conducted.

Construct more amenities and facilities for the comfort and convenience of passengers and motorists

Roads

- Proper bus stops and terminals will be identified and rules on use thereof will be strictly enforced among commuters and motorists.

- Bus rapid transit and mass transport access terminal-to-terminal (at airport and ports) will be planned. Concerned LGUs will modernize their LGU-operated bus, van and jeepney terminals. To respond to passenger concerns and welfare, one-stop-shops will be established in all ports and airports.

- Public restrooms and rest areas will be constructed along the national road at 20 to 30 km-intervals between airports and seaports.

Seaports

- Efficient and systematic management and upkeep of seaports will be observed. Passenger terminals or passenger terminal buildings are important for passengers. The Port of Buruanga will serve as alternate RoRo port to the Port of Caticlan thus the need to construct a passenger terminal building.

- Concerned LGUs will have to modernize their LGU-operated ferry terminals, particularly, Jordan and Buenavista Ferry Boat Terminals in Guimaras, and Tabon and Cagban Ferry Boat Terminals in Malay, Aklan. PPA will provide the standards for a passenger terminal.

Airports

- The terminals of the region's airports, and their equipment and facilities, such as quarantine centers, will be improved, expanded and upgraded. Additional toilets will be provided. Management and upkeep of airports will be made efficient and systematic.

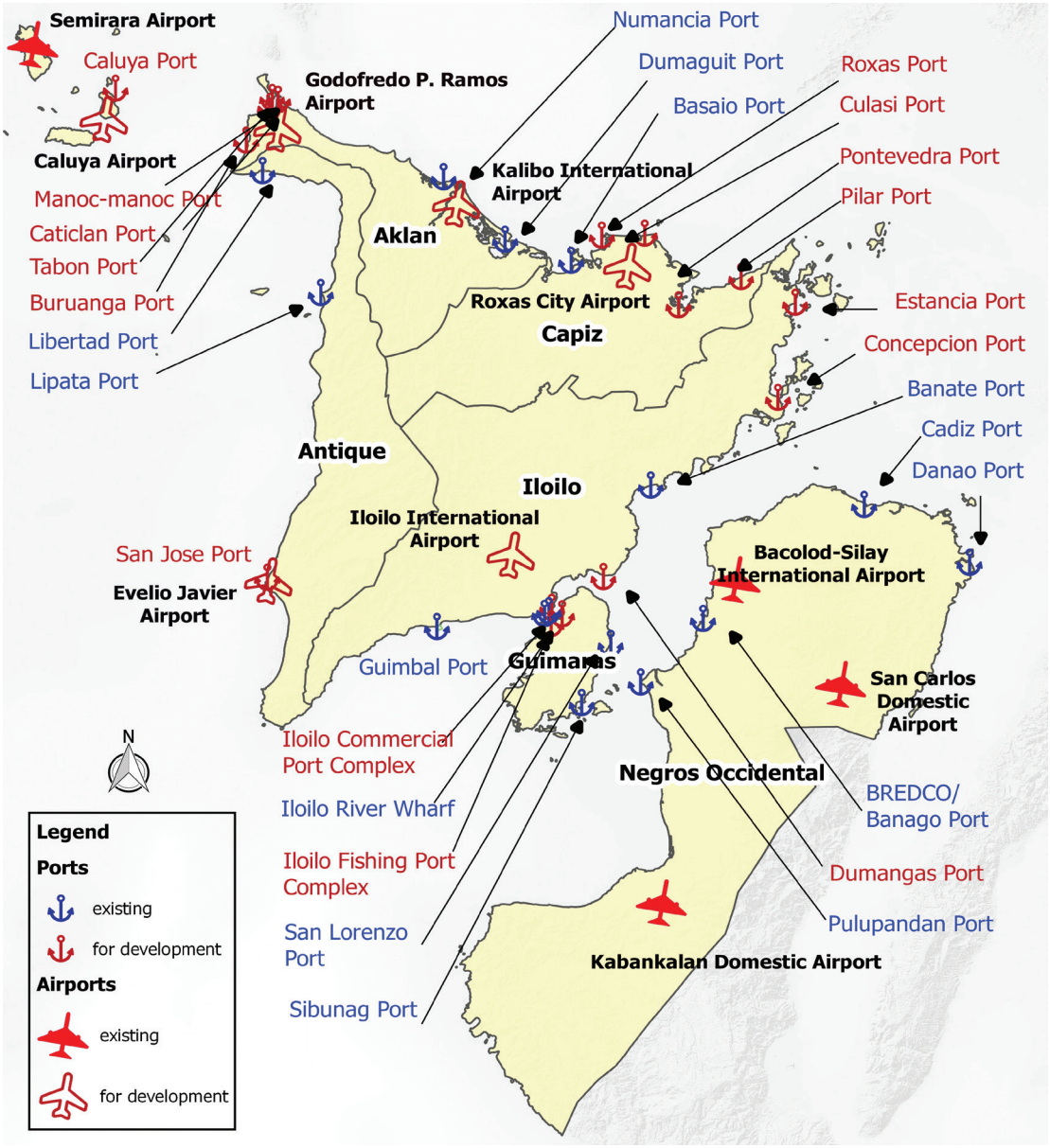
Ensure safety and security of local travellers and tourists.

Land transportation

Safety and security are paramount issues confronting implementers of road and other infrastructure projects. The following measures will be instituted:

- Fast track the relocation of electric poles, including cables and other obstructions, from the newly widened carriageway of national roads.

Figure 19.6 Ports and Airports for Development, 2017-2022



- Install proper signages and road safety features (i.e. guardrails, pedestrian lanes, and slope protection) for roads located along highly-steeped embankments. Welcome arches and height of electrical lines along national roads will strictly adhere to DPWH standards on height limits.

  The required warning signs, signages, notices, billboards, directional lighting, and other such precaution during road construction shall be complied with and strictly monitored by project engineers. DPWH shall provide guidelines regarding penalties of erring contractors.

- Install standard lighting facilities along national highways and major tourism roads, which will be kept switched on all night. These lighting facilities, as well as underground installation of utility cables will be regularly maintained.

  DPWH will study the use of solar street lighting along national roads to serve especially those municipalities that can hardly afford street lighting.

- Improve traffic management. The LGUs, as the major players to respond to road traffic management, will formulate and update their traffic codes and strictly enforce traffic regulations. LGUs will be capacitated along traffic planning and management and will hire a traffic management expert. Studies will be made on the possibility of imposing "no touch apprehension" that will entail setting up of MMDA-type system complete with CCTVs in strategic areas, cameras, viewing boards and other smart technologies.

  For smooth flow of traffic, LGUs need to strictly enforce the LTO-LTFRB Joint Administrative Order penalizing and prohibiting tricycles and trisikads along national roads. Road names & signs that are clearly visible to drivers and commuters alike will be put up.

  To forestall traffic congestion in major urban centers, alternate transport routes will be explored, with facilities to encourage commuters to walk or use bicycles and other innovative traffic management schemes. Pedestrian roads and bikeways will be maintained and widened for ease of mobility especially of vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, the elderly, and persons with disability.

  Also, LTO/LTFRB shall enforce more strictly the rules on standard sizes of public utility vehicles, and on maximum number of passengers. There are jeepneys, especially outside the city, that are beyond the normal size, which because they are too long, cause traffic congestion whenever they turn at corners.

- Improve coordination of planning and implementation. A comprehensive regional development plan for road construction, improvement, rehabilitation, and expansion will be formulated that is in line with master plans formulated by the national government. To be prepared by the DPWH and DOTr, the regional master plan will draw a comprehensive intermodal transport infrastructure network.

  The issue on the need for improved coordination among the implementing agencies constructing infrastructure and utilities will be dealt with to ensure streamlining and to avoid expensive duplication of efforts, as well as prevent putting people and motorists to undue risk and inconvenience, such as when roads are rendered impassable during heavy rains. The planning process and implementation of the plan will be done in a coordinated manner, using the latest available mapping technology to clearly delineate projects or installations particularly in major urban centers.

Roadmaps and evidenced-based studies and updated baseline data and information should guide the rational development of a regional intermodal infrastructure network.

Infrastructure development will also address the particular mobility needs in far-flung areas or those in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas. This is to ensure equitable access to infrastructure services and social opportunities, and raise the overall living standards throughout the region.

The region will abide by the Three-Year Infrastructure Rolling Plan that is continually formulated and updated. The region supports the enactment of the National Transport Policy. The infrastructure development plan must be in harmony with local land use and development plans for compatibility across all levels of government.

Seaports and Inter-island Travel

Security measures need to be heightened in seaports. Facilities like walk-through metal detectors and baggage scanners will be installed at passenger terminals of every port to avoid illegal activities like smuggling of prohibited drugs, firearms, etc. For added security, the LTO, PNP, MARINA and Philippine Coast Guard will be using global positioning systems to track the movement of trucks, trailers and vessels carrying dangerous or noxious cargoes to ensure that these are not dumped anywhere.

The region will urge MARINA to implement the memo circular on the gradual phase-out of wood-hulled vessels as well as the memo circular on the categorization of navigational routes. Size and age of boats traversing longer routes will be determined by MARINA. Hub vessels, on one hand, will have to be improved.

The region will take advantage of investors and local ship builders in Panay. A program will be developed to assist and support local ship builders in securing finances through ODA or PPP.

Enhance the use of ICTs to promote good governance and human resources development, and to support marketing and product development.

With the newly created Department of ICT, the regions should coordinate accordingly to develop their local ICT capacities. National and local governments should work together in developing this subsector.

Free internet or Wi-Fi connections will be established in all government establishments. Fiber optics cable should be installed in all provinces. Accessibility of cell sites will be identified by NTC after undergoing validation.

Internet and cell phone signals in unserved rural areas will be provided. The region will support the establishment of a universal service fund to support IT networks in areas that are not economically viable.

Communication facilities and equipment should be available in times of disaster and natural calamities. Already provided in disaster prone areas are 2-way radios which are reliable means of communication.

Outcome 2 - Reliable and Adequate Power and Water Supply Ensured

Upgrade and install transmission lines, maintain reliability, and ensure the security of power supply.

- Expand the implementation of the Household Electrification Program in order to fully energized households in remote sitios, through stand-alone solar PV system and other renewable energy sources.

- In anticipation of the increase in energy demand and line congestion issues, the upgrading and uprating of the Cebu-Negros-Panay Transmission Grid will be fast-tracked. The NGCP is expected to plan for the interconnection of Panay with the Luzon Grid through Mindoro. As an option, DPWH shall incorporate the provision of utility lines in the proposed Panay-Negros Bridge Interconnection to ensure alternative transmission lines for Guimaras and Panay.

- Coordination between ERC and DOE is critical for the timely construction and deployment of new power transmission projects, distribution infrastructure, and other energy projects. The approval process for power generation projects should be accelerated and streamlined. Furthermore, the coordinated and harmonized scheduling of maintenance on facilities lessens the impact of power interruptions and avoids system failure.

Develop new water supply sources, and incorporate water retention designs in big infrastructure projects.

- Surface water resources will be tapped and water treatment plants will be constructed in water-critical areas. Also, wastewater treatment projects will have to be subsidized.

- Rainwater harvesting for residential units and commercial units are encouraged, in order to reduce the demand on piped water. LGUs should develop comprehensive rainwater harvesting and wastewater treatment plans as these functions are local level responsibilities. The giving of incentives for adoption of water conservation measures, such as rainwater harvesting, will be promoted.

- Government facilities, rural health units, stadiums, gymnasiums, buildings, big establishments will include provisions for water retention in their structural design. Parking space of big establishments, for example, can be used to collect storm runoffs.

Expand the coverage of existing water supply projects

- Poor households will be provided with water facilities through Salintubig projects of the DILG and water supply project of DSWD. Salintubig covers 17 LGUs outside the franchise area of water districts. DILG has counted 455 waterless barangays, located mostly in far-flung areas. On the other hand, LWUA will provide water facilities for households in resettlement areas. Furthermore, the agency has included funds in the General Appropriations Act, which will be provided to water districts.

- To increase production and expand areas for irrigation, new irrigation systems will be constructed and existing ones will be rehabilitated. Impounding dams or reservoirs for irrigation, domestic use, power generation, and tourism will be established.

  For effective operation and maintenance of the community irrigation systems, capability enhancement of irrigator's associations should be a regular activity. In particular, the strengthening of the irrigation management transfer process will give to farmers control over water and irrigation infrastructure.

Rationalize the functions and mandates of various oversight and implementing agencies in water management.

- There should be comprehensive planning in preserving water. A more participatory approach in planning and close coordination between water agencies will be espoused.

- As in the power sector, water generation should be separated from water distribution. Bulk water supply or generation should be done by the private sector while water distribution and utility lines will be by the water districts. Water districts will be deputized to regulate, monitor, and issue cease and desist order against unregistered water operators. Likewise, for the safety of consumers, water districts should exercise authority to require operators to submit monthly water tests (bacti tests).

Promote efficient use of groundwater.

The groundwater has to be protected and conserved. This is especially relevant to irrigation since 75 percent of groundwater is used for agriculture. Water resource assessments or water availability studies will be conducted, and river basin master plans particularly for water-critical areas will be developed, as recommended by a NWRB study.

Regulating the use of groundwater along coastlines should minimize if not stop saltwater intrusion. Urban water supply systems should be well maintained, keeping losses to the minimum.

Outcome 3 - Resiliency of communities strengthened

Improve adequacy of and access to social infrastructure that are sensitive or responsive to needs of children, persons with disability, senior citizens, and gender concerns.

Housing

- In order to have a road map in addressing shelter needs, the formulation and adoption of the Local Shelter Plan will be made mandatory. This document will also serve as basis of the national shelter agencies, NGO partners and the private sector in the timely allocation of funds and extension of technical assistance.

- The Local Housing Board will be institutionalized and Local Housing Office will be created to facilitate the ease of transacting, coordinating and collaborating between the LGU, the shelter agencies, and other partners. These institutions will give focus to shelter and its related concerns and sustain the initiatives started by the shelter agencies with the LGUs. Another concern that will be given attention is the need to streamline the process of land titling in order to unlock suitable lands for development.

- Building of illegal structures in front of all commercial lots will be prohibited. This will discourage the proliferation of informal settlers in private open spaces. Other than the Local Housing Board, the urban poor coordinating offices at the city/municipal level will be strengthened.

- High density housing will be promoted. This entails the implementation of low to medium-rise residential projects in order to maximize the use of limited suitable urban land. This will also deter the development of resettlement sites that are far from the services and sources of income.

- Dole-out is extremely discouraged because it downgrades the social value of the project. However, innovative financing schemes, like the Graduated Amortization can be explored. In this scheme, the monthly amortization starts at how much the households can afford to pay, and then gradually increases in anticipation of the household's increasing income, until the housing package is finally paid.

- In responding to disasters, transitory housing facilities will be provided. Feasibility studies will be conducted for temporary shelter for affected families with concerned LGUs identifying the property. Also, evacuation centers will be put up per province to respond to displaced families during disaster.

Education

- The main thrust is to provide schools, facilities and learning materials for children especially those with special needs. To address lack of schools in remote areas, a mountable and demountable design for school buildings can be utilized. This design serves to discourage welding works, exorbitant hauling costs in the delivery of materials, and avoid environmental impacts by utilizing local materials (wood). Convergence of efforts of government, local government units and non-government organizations will be encouraged in the establishment of mountable modular school buildings. .

- Schools will be encouraged to network with alumni and other civic-minded citizens in order to address shortages in seats, school furniture, and equipment. DepEd will fund seating facilities which are either all steel or combination of wood and steel for durability. It can coordinate with the architecture department of SUCs and HEIs like ISAT-U and USA for the design of seats.

- Water and sanitation will be given priority in designing school buildings. DepEd will continue to fill the gaps in the adequacy of water and sanitation facilities of schools, especially in northern Panay which have no access to clean water. DepEd budget should provide for pumping equipment or water resource development for areas with no stable water supply.

- Lastly, the regional and provincial offices of DepEd should provide technical assistance to schools to settle land titling issues and those located in hazard-prone areas.

Health

- With the current thrust of the Duterte Administration against illegal drugs, there is a need to construct drug rehabilitation centers with complete facilities in each province to accommodate the growing number of drug surrenderers.

- The upgrading of provincial hospitals to Level 2 and other district or municipal hospitals to Level 1 will continue. Rural health units and barangay health stations will be constructed, upgraded, or rehabilitated. However, the guidelines for the funding support in the acquisition of lots especially for 4th-6th class municipalities will be reviewed.

- The region needs a regional medical center to cater primarily to the indigents. Facilities for the treatment of hospital wastes and hazardous wastes will be constructed.

- Of paramount concern is the promotion of healthy lifestyle in far-flung areas by providing households with access to sanitary toilet facilities, septic tanks, and sewerage systems.

Detention and Rehabilitation Facilities

With the thrust of Duterte administration against drug pushers and users, the region has been experiencing congested jails. In order to reduce jail congestion, if not achieve the ideal of one inmate per four square meter, the expansion, upgrading or rehabilitation of existing jails are in order. New jails will be constructed where needed. All jails and detention cells will have adequate and clean water supply, hygienic sanitation facilities, and presence of well-equipped hospital or infirmaries on prison grounds. The separation of juvenile delinquents from hard core criminals will be strictly maintained, requiring the construction of separate juvenile detention facilities.

Construct and maintain flood control systems using eco-efficient designs.

- With the Iloilo Flood Control project already in operation, the Panay River Flood Control Project is seen as the only solution to address flooding in Sigma, Mambusao, Cuartero, Dao and Dumarao. Same is true with the proposed Ilog-Hilabangan and Bacolod Flood Control projects.

- There will be continued efforts to maintain flood control projects, and regularly dredge river systems in Panay Island. Stationary fishing gears should be eliminated from rivers.

- Eco-efficient water infrastructure designs will be encouraged. Water retarding basins or another floodway as an allied facility of the Iloilo Flood Control Project will be constructed. Collecting storm runoffs to recharge shallow aquifers, and designing storm drains such that the runoff is given time to infiltrate into the ground, rather than discharge to rivers and seas, will be incorporated into flood control projects.

Implement sanitation and sewerage systems projects.

- A body will be organized to initiate the formulation of a master plan for the establishment of effective sewerage and sanitation systems especially in major urban centers. Assistance to LGUs in formulating and implementing a 10-year Solid Waste Management Plan will be provided. DILG, DENR, CSC can set-up incentives programs for LGUs to comply with standard ESWM practices.

- DILG can facilitate the clustering of LGUs for the establishment of a common sanitary landfill site, for which the LGUs can collectively provide the required resources. For the 3rd to 4th class LGUs, they may establish either a category one sanitary landfill for the final disposal of their residual waste, or an Eco-SWM Center with a materials recovery facility for recyclable materials, a composting facility for the processing and treatment of biodegradable waste, and a residual containment area for the temporary storage of residual waste. Provision of technical and financial assistance to the LGU is very important as much as the political will of the local chief executive to implement the project.

- Public-private partnership scheme will be promoted in the implementation of solid waste management projects. Linkages with organizations that can make use of solid waste products will be established, and campaigns on waste segregation especially at the barangay level will be intensified.

- There is a need of a permanent MENRO position to give focus on the implementation of the SWM program and projects and ensure its sustainability. Strengthening of the monitoring system for the compliance of the SWM law will be one such focus.

- Localized septage treatment plants will be established in the LGUs, particularly in urbanized and urbanizing areas to avoid contamination of water sources. ADB has allotted PHP100 million facilities available for septage management to water districts. Water districts can partner with LGUs for the implementation of such projects. LGUs can provide the site and LWUA for financing of the project.
- Sewage treatment plants will be required in all LGUs. Treatment storage disposal facilities as well as health waste treatment facilities can be funded through PPP scheme.
- A protection zone around groundwater abstraction should be established, especially the MIWD or other bulk water suppliers' well fields to control over-exploitation and groundwater pollution.

Develop disaster-response capabilities of agencies and communities.

The region will support the upgrading and maintenance of the Philippine Coast Guard's emergency response capability. Faster patrol boats and complementary air assets to intercept illegal fishing and terroristic activities are much needed equipment.

To enhance accessibility during calamities, helipad facilities in populated island barangays, such as the Gigantes Norte Island, Gigantes Sur Island, Mararison Island, Sibay Island, etc. will be constructed. Co-location of Philippine Air Force facilities in Iloilo International Airport, Kalibo International Airport, Roxas Airport, and EB Javier Airport will be set-up.

Legislative Agenda

Table 19.10 Legislative Agenda to Accelerate Infrastructure Development, 2017-2022

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE
Amendment of Philippine Highway Act	To particularly amend the penalty provision for illegal parking.
Amendment of Anti-Overloading Law	To increase the penalty for violators
Wireless Fidelity (Wi-Fi) Act	Congress to include provisions in the GAA for the funding for Wireless Fidelity (Wi-Fi) Act, including provisions on consumer protection.
Amendment of IPRA and NIPAS Laws	To allow and fast-track the development of indigenous energy resources and installation of transmission facilities inside ancestral domains and protected areas
Amendment of EPIRA Law	To entitle the host region of power generating facilities located in highly-urbanized cities for a share in the benefits in the operation of these power plants.
Amendment of Clean Air Act	To provide emission standards for carbon dioxide (EMB, NPCC).
Magna Carta for Water Supply Consumers	To protect the consumers
Amendment of Solid Waste Management Act	To facilitate compliance by LGUs, particularly on the financing scheme for Sanitary Landfill (SLF) establishment, and the requirement that CLUP must designate area for SLF and allow waste-to-energy or incineration technologies.
Amendment of Urban Development and Housing Act (RA 7279)	To institutionalize the allocation of fixed percentage of LGU budget for housing-related items, such as land banking and site development (similar to mandatory allocation of budget for Gender and Development and Disaster Risk Reduction).

The region also propose the following for action by the national government agencies and local government units:

For Office of the President/ National Government Agency Action:

- EO devolving the water management functions of the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) to NIA or DPWH.
- EO rationalizing the role of government in water management, to eliminate duplication and overlaps of water management functions among oversight and implementing agencies (i.e. NWRB, DOH, DPWH, NIA, LWUA, BSWM, etc.).
- PPA guidelines prohibiting the collection of terminal fees at port of arrival. (e.g. Owners of RORO vehicles coming from the Port of Dumangas are charged with terminal fees upon their arrival at BREDCO Port in Bacolod City.)
- PPA to pass administrative order on basic amenities required in passenger terminals of LGU-operated and private ports.

Education

- DPWH to issue an internal policy not to implement a school building project unless the proof of lot ownership has been submitted to them by the LGU or DepEd proponent.

Power

- Joint NEA/DENR memo to electric cooperatives prohibiting the implementation of the sitio electrification program near natural parks, forests, timber lands, and hazard prone areas.
- DOE department order prohibiting NGCP and electric cooperatives and distribution utilities from bidding out their projects unless a Writ of Possession or Permit to Enter has been secured (to minimize long and costly delays).
- DOE FIT Allocation to also include geothermal power.
- Issue single governing guidelines pertaining to relocation and the attendant cost of utilities; the existing situation is agencies and cooperatives having separate guidelines with conflicting provisions.
- DPWH and DOE to fast track the issuance of a joint implementing rules and regulations on the proper compensation for electric cooperatives whose existing distribution and sub-transmission lines are affected by government projects.
- Revision of joint pole usage agreements between utilities. Stricter guidelines and penalties need to be applied.
- Harmonize DAR rules on land conversion and the RE law pertaining to the implementation of wind energy projects

Water

- DENR administrative order specifying the buffer distance of piggeries, poultries, and industries from the water intake structure of water treatment plants operated by potable water suppliers.

For Action by LGUs:

- LGUs to pass an ordinance removing and penalizing road obstructions or illegal structures along national, provincial, city and municipal roads, and to strengthen or create anti-squatting and anti-road obstruction team

- Paid parking and flagging system for traffic violations
- Create MENRO and CENRO as permanent positions in the LGUs
- Organize Provincial and Municipal Solid Waste Management Council that would spell-out plans and programs under the Solid Waste Management Plan of the LGU

For Agency policy review/changes:

Land transportation

- DPWH to issue an internal policy not to implement a Convergence Road and Bridge Project unless the proof of ownership of the right-of-way has been submitted to them by the LGU/DA/ DOT/IAs proponent.
- Review of guidelines, requirements & fees in the issuance of tree planting permits from DENR
- DPWH to create special funds under MVUC to pay for electric consumption for connections along highway.
- LTO-LTFRB joint administrative order penalizing illegal parking along the outer lanes of national roads.
- Amendment of DPWH department order to include imposition of penalties for the usurpation or obstruction of the easement of national roads.
- DOTr-LTO-LTFRB Guideline of the tracking and monitoring system for trucks/ trailers carrying hazardous/ noxious cargoes to ensure that these are not dumped anywhere.
- DPWH/DOE/LWUA to finalize policy on the transfer of affected utility posts and power lines and pipelines, fiber optic cables of telecommunication companies on road projects.
- Joint NEA-DOE administrative order requiring electric cooperatives and distribution utilities to secure permit from DPWH and LGUs prior to the installation of electric posts.
- Joint DILG-DOE-NGCP issuance enjoining governors and mayors to pass an ordinance prohibiting and penalizing the planting of trees or construction of structures near power lines.
- DENR to issue administrative order specifying the annual tree planting targets of coal-fired power plants with the number of trees proportional to their operating capacity.
- LTO/LTFRB/DENR for policy on the mandatory disposal of aged and dilapidated vehicles.
- Amend provisions of RA 9514 exempting government offices and LGUs and LGUs from paying the fire safety fee required by the Bureau of Fire Protection.

Air transportation

- DOTr/PPA /CAAP memo prohibiting the bidding of a port or airport expansion project unless the Writ of Possession or Permit-to-Enter has been secured.

Sea transportation

- MARINA administrative order or law on the Bill of Rights of passengers riding motorbancas, ferry boats, fastcrafts, and passenger or RoRo vessels. MARINA should standardize privileges of children based on age and not on height in order to avail of fare discount, etc. Shipping companies posed different age limits. While others apply below 7 years of age, others use below 5 or 6 years of age. Also, stranded passengers, because of delay or trips cancellation, should be provided with meals and hotel stay like what airline companies do.

20 Managing the Region's Environment and Natural Resources

Chapter 20

Managing the Region's Environment and Natural Resources

This chapter presents the region's efforts in ensuring the region's ecological integrity covering its environment and natural resources from the uplands to the coastal areas. It discusses steps in restoring and improving air and water quality, managing solid and water wastes, and increasing capabilities in coping with disaster risks and adapting to climate change.

Assessment and Challenges

The region has been establishing forest plantations since the start of the previous plan period. Records show that 16,182 hectares were set up in 2013, 17,531 hectares in 2014 and 18,168 hectares in 2015, accumulating since 2011 to 74,757 hectares which is above the end of plan target of 70,859 hectares by 2016. The increase in forest cover was achieved with the support of local government units and communities through peoples' organizations especially under the National Greening Program of the DENR.

Thirty-three out of 39 LGUs targeted have prepared and implemented their forest land use plans (FLUPs) in the past three years. The remaining six LGUs cited limited budget for technical assistance, high cost of preparing the FLUP document, and the tedious process of assessing the situation in forestlands, conducting consultation meetings and legitimization as among the reasons for the inability to complete their FLUPs.

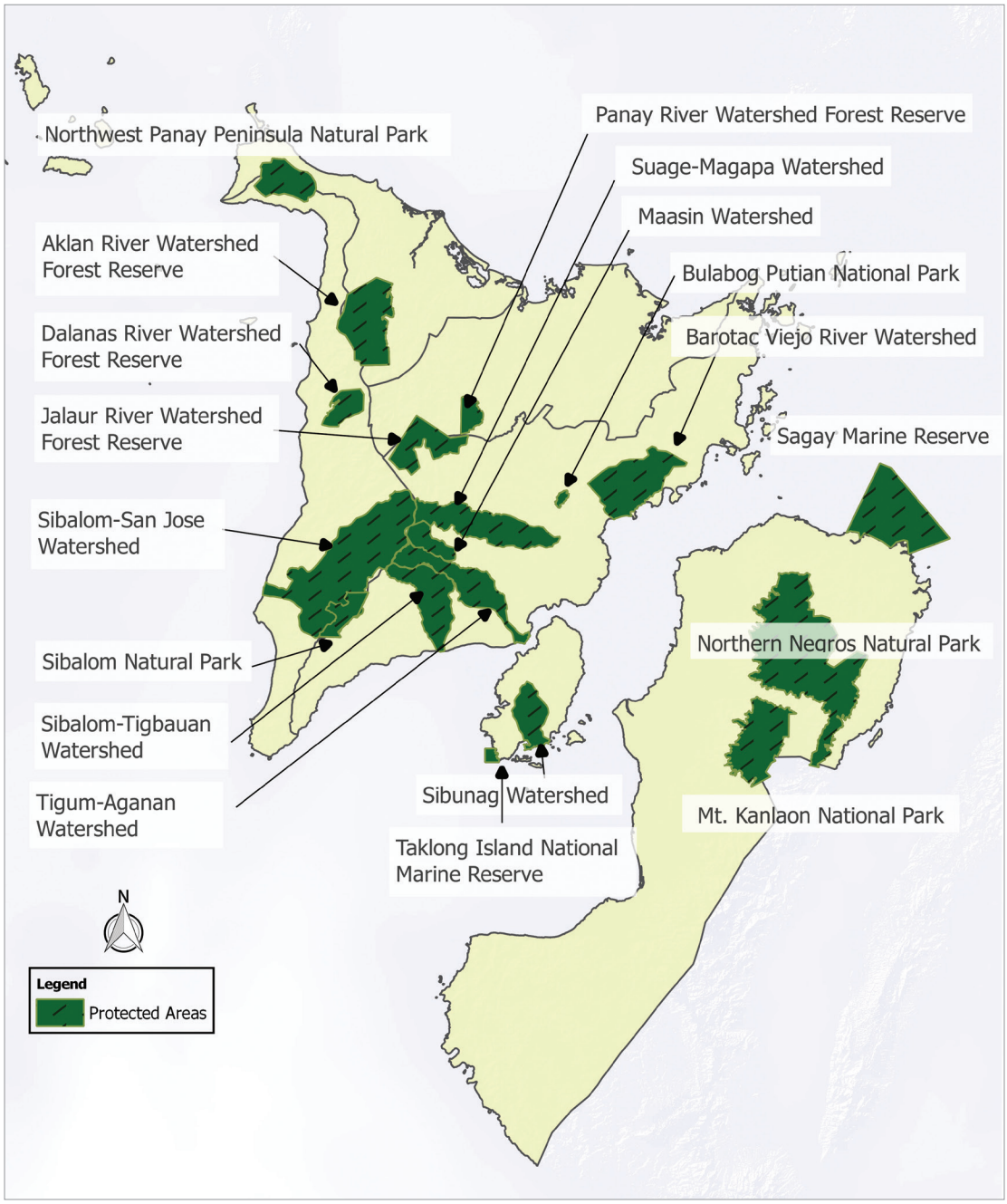
The assessment of nine critical and priority watersheds in terms of vulnerability to natural or man-made hazards were completed. The report will guide planners as to where and what interventions should be conducted, as well as appropriate strategies that need to be applied to protect these areas.

The detailed geohazard assessment for all of the 133 cities and municipalities in Western Visayas, with maps on a scale of 1:10,000, is complete by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB). Because of limited manpower in the region, the series of activities had to be done with the assistance of MGB Central Office, MGB Regions IV-A, IV-B and IX and of mining companies that were undertaking explorations in the region.

Water Quality of Rivers. Six major rivers in the region were monitored on ambient water quality in terms of Dissolved Oxygen (DO) and Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) based on the standards set by DENR Administrative Order 34, series of 1990.

Five out of six rivers in the region, namely: the Iloilo- Batiano, Jaro-Tigum-Aganan, and Jalaur rivers, all in Iloilo and the Panay river in Capiz were found in 2015 to have met the Dissolved Oxygen (DO) and Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) standards. On the other hand, the Malihao river in Negros Occidental fell short of the standards in the past three years. The high organic pollution in Malihao river is due to large population concentration and the discharges of sugar centrals located along the river.

Figure 20.1 Location Map of Protected Areas



Source: DENR-VI

Air Quality. In selected areas of Iloilo City, air quality in terms of total suspended particulates (TSP) in 2013 and 2014 was within the standard levels of ≤ 90 µg/NCM set by the DENR for one-year averaging time. However, there was a noticeable deterioration of air quality in 2015 with a big leap in the figures to way above the target set for that year and the National Ambient Air Quality Guideline Value. Failure to keep to standards was due to the increasing number of motor vehicles plying the major thoroughfares of the city adding to dust and fuel emissions, and the expansion of road networks and several construction projects in the city of Iloilo during the year.

Sanitary Landfills. In compliance with RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, eight sanitary landfills (SLF) are operational in the region as of 2015; two of the SLFs are in Panay Island and six in Negros Occidental. In Panay Island the SLFs are operated or managed by the LGUs of Iloilo City and Malay, Aklan; in Negros Occidental the SLFs are operated by the LGUs of the cities of Bacolod, San Carlos, Bago, Sagay, Sipalay and Cadiz.

Protected Areas. As of CY 2015, a total of 183,248.71 hectares of protected areas are managed and protected in the region (See Chapter 3 on Regional Spatial Strategy for the location map). These are:

- Aklan River Watershed Forest Reserve (initial component of NIPAS) and Nabaoy River Watershed in Aklan
- Mau-it-Tipuluan Watershed Forest Reserve or Sibalom Natural Park (NIPAS site) and Dalanas Watershed Forest Reserve (initial component of NIPAS) in Antique
- Panay River Watershed Forest Reserve (initial component of NIPAS) in Capiz
- Sibunag Watershed in Guimaras
- Sibalom-Tigbauan River Watershed, Tigum-Aganan River Watershed, Suage River Watershed, Barotac Viejo Watershed, Jalaur River Watershed Forest Reserve and Maasin Watershed Forest Reserve (initial component of NIPAS) in Iloilo
- Bago River Watershed Forest Reserve or within Northern Negros Natural Park (NIPAS site) and Mt. Kanla-on Natural Park (NIPAS site) in Negros Occidental.

Other protected areas or NIPAS sites with no major river system are Northwest Panay Peninsula in Antique, Bulabog-Putian National Park in Iloilo, Taklong Island National Marine Reserve in Guimaras, and Sagay Marine Reserve in Sagay City, Negros Occidental.

The protection and management of these areas are undertaken through area patrolling, BMS monitoring, conduct of information dissemination, including the putting up of signages, and the strengthening of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) as the areas' policy-making and monitoring body.

A Synoptic and Doppler Radar Station was established at the Western Visayas Agriculture Research Station in Brgy. Hamungaya, Jaro, Iloilo City in 2014. Also, hybrid weather monitoring devices were developed under the program NOAH (Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards) to put in place a 6-hour flood forecast along the three major river basins located in Region VI namely: the Panay River Basin, Jalaur River Basin and Ilog-Hilabangan River Basin.

One hundred nine hydro meteorological stations were installed by the DOST-VI in 2014 aside from the 8 agromet stations that were installed by DOST-ASTI in partnership with the DA. These stations are composed of 12 Automated Weather Stations, 51 Automated Rain Gauges, 29 Water Level Monitoring Stations, 16 Tandem Stations (WLMS+ARG) and 1 Agromet Station. These hydro met devices were installed by DOST-VI from 2011 to 2014 and are distributed strategically all over the region to maximize the coverage of each device.

Cultivation of forest lands into other uses. Many forest lands have been unlawfully converted to farmland. Rampant burning of grasses and forest growth areas for grazing has led to soil degradation, forest destruction, and loss of biodiversity. Also, the unstable peace and order situation in some remote areas affect the reforestation efforts and other developmental activities.

Meanwhile, some LGUs have not fully implemented their respective Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) due to budgetary constraints. Also, the proposed bill on the delineation between forest land and alienable and disposable lands as recommended has not been acted by Congress. There is a need to assess the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program devolved to the LGUs pursuant to RA 7160 or LGC of 1991 to determine the extent of its effectivity. Mangrove areas that are not utilized anymore for fishponds development are not yet reverted back as forestlands for mangrove development.

Air, land, and water pollution. Lack of strict monitoring of tourism activities, improper management and protection of agricultural lands and wetlands, as well as lack of sewerage and waste water management in urban areas have been contributing to the decline in the quality of air, land and water resources. Human encroachment and existence of structures along riverbanks, foreshore, shorelines and easement areas further aggravate the situation. LGUs have not been complying with RA 9003 or Ecological Solid Waste Management Act which orders open dumpsites to be closed and the establishment and operation of sanitary landfill facilities.

Lack of impact studies on the effects of natural disasters and climate changes to the natural ecosystems. The region is prone to natural disasters, particularly typhoons, storm surges, and long dry spells that affect the normal functioning of the ecosystems. However, there is a dearth of studies that determines the extent or real impact of calamities or disasters to the region's ecosystems.

Lack of appreciation of the region's environment and natural resources. There is very little effort in disseminating the rich natural assets of the region, including its unique flora and fauna. Very few materials (data presentation and documentaries) are available to depict the extent of damage and loss experienced as an offshoot of natural disasters and manmade activities for better appreciation and comprehension by the general public.

Strategic Framework

The goal of the sector is to effectively and efficiently manage the region's environment and natural resources to achieve ecological integrity. This is to ensure that the natural ecological processes are efficiently and effectively functioning to support the achievement of development priorities for the benefit of the people of Western Visayas.

Mindful of their aesthetic and economic value, the region will give priority attention to the improvement and maintenance of the quality (chemical, physical, biological, and radiological characteristics) of water bodies to keep them within the environmental standards of ≥5.0 mg/L for dissolved oxygen and ≤10.0 mg/L for biochemical oxygen demand.

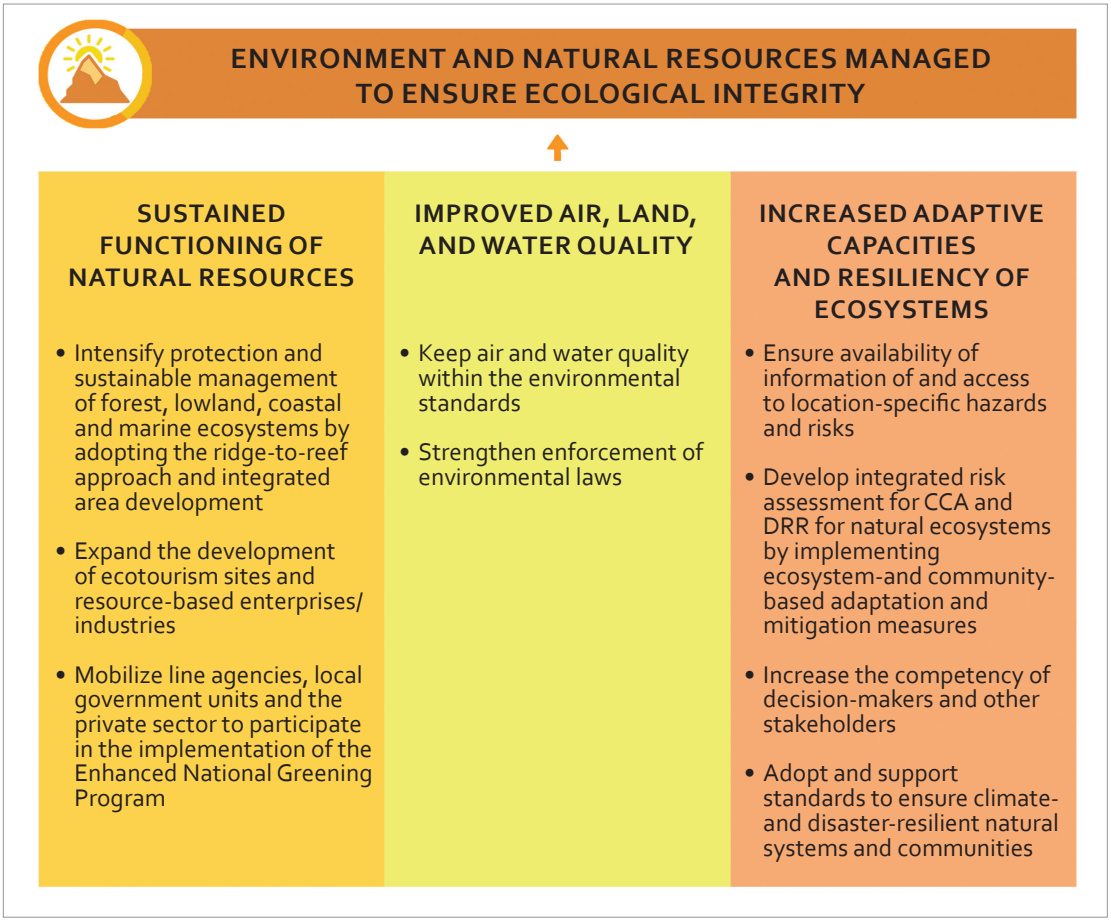
The marine ecosystem of the Visayan Sea within the geographical coverage of Western Visayas will be nurtured to ensure consistent

production of fishery products that provide income to the small fisher folk and supply the consumption needs of the populace.

The natural environment of the beaches and coastal areas along Boracay Island, Guimaras Island, Southern Negros and Northern Iloilo will be sustainably developed for tourism and water sports purposes.

Airsheds or geographic areas with similar characteristics pertinent to air quality that are defined for the purpose of assessing and managing air quality will be expanded in Metropolitan Iloilo, the same shall be established in Metropolitan Bacolod and other major urban centers. Close monitoring and introduction of control measures will ensure that the total suspended particulates (TSP) and particulate matter 10 microns in diameter and smaller (PM10) in these areas are within the environmental standards of 90µg/Ncm and 60µg/Ncm, respectively as provided in RA 8749 or the Clean Air Act.

Figure 20.2 Strategic Framework to Manage the Region's Environment and Natural Resources, 2017-2022



Targets

The following are the targets of the sector to be achieved by 2022:

- FLUP formulated by 18 LGUs
- Forest cover increased from 20 percent in 2015 to 23 percent
- Additional 30,684 hectares of forest plantations established

- One hundred percent of 279,754 hectares with established forest plantations effectively managed
- 15 tenurial instruments issued covering 2,029 hectares
- Management plans developed for 31 out of total 40 caves assessed and classified
- 17 out of total 78 LGUs have established their municipal marine protected areas
- Additional 1,112 hectares out of the existing 4,478 hectares mangroves rehabilitated or established
- 35 out of 78 LGUs have formulated integrated coastal resources management plans
- 9,800 residential patents issued under RA 10023
- Number of hectares developed for agro-forestry increased from 8,688 hectares in 2015 to 14,370 hectares
- Aadditional two natural parks developed into eco-tourism sites
- Expanded the area of coverage of the airshed of metropolitan Iloilo and another airshed established in metropolitan Bacolod
- Air quality in major urban centers improved or kept within the environmental standards of 90µg/Ncm for total suspended particulates (TSP) and 60µg/Ncm for particulate matter 10 microns in diameter and smaller (PM10)
- Water quality of major rivers and water bodies improved or kept within environmental standards of ≥5.0 mg/L for dissolved oxygen and ≤10.0 mg/L for biochemical oxygen demand
- All 131 LGUs have approved solid waste management plans
- All 131 LGUs have closed dumpsites
- All 131 LGUs have operational materials recovery facility
- At least one cluster sanitary landfill established per district in addition to the existing eight LGUs operational sanitary landfills
- 320 environmental compliance certificates issued
- Industries/establishments monitored from 136 in 2015 to 182 in 2022
- Eight geohazard/vulnerability/risk assessment/mapping conducted annually

Strategies

Outcome 1 - Sustained functioning of natural resources or ecosystems

Intensify protection and sustainable management of forest, lowland, coastal and marine ecosystems by adopting the ridge-to-reef approach and integrated area development.

Forest/Watershed and Lowland

- Strengthen the protection of remaining natural forest, in particular the mossy forests of the Panay mountains as well as the forests established by previous reforestation activities.
- Rehabilitate the degraded forestlands, including critical watersheds areas and protected areas through area-based protection, enhancement and conservation measures. These watersheds are:
- Aklan River Watershed Forest Reserve (initial component of NIPAS) and Nabaoy River Watershed in Aklan

- Mau-it-Tipuluan Watershed Forest Reserve or Sibalom Natural Park (NIPAS site) and Dalanas Watershed Forest Reserve (initial component of NIPAS) in Antique

- Panay River Watershed Forest Reserve (initial component of NIPAS) in Capiz

- Sibunag Watershed in Guimaras

- Sibalom-Tigbauan River Watershed, Tigum-Aganan River Watershed, Suage River Watershed, Barotac Viejo Watershed, Jalaur River Watershed Forest Reserve and Maasin Watershed Forest Reserve (initial component of NIPAS) in Iloilo

- Bago River Watershed Forest Reserve or within Northern Negros Natural Park (NIPAS site) and Mt. Kanla-on Natural Park (NIPAS site) in Negros Occidental

Other protected areas or NIPAS sites with no major river system are Northwest Panay Peninsula in Antique, Bulabog-Putian National Park in Iloilo, Taklong Island National Marine Reserve in Guimaras, and Sagay Marine Reserve in Sagay City, Negros Occidental.

- Institute sustainable management systems through issuance of appropriate tenure and management arrangements with the stakeholders

- Delineate final forest limits including production and protection forests

- Improve Land Administration and Management.

Coastal and Marine

- Intensify sustainable management through policing and patrolling activities within marine protected areas.

- Establish Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and MPA networks.

- Assess regularly the water quality of major bodies of water and formulate regulatory and enhancement measures.

- Rehabilitate the parts of the coastal and marine ecosystem that have been degraded.

Expand development of ecotourism sites and resource-based enterprises/industries.

- Promote sustainable forest-based (timber and non-timber) industries, such as establishment of plantation of timber tree species in production and idle lands.

- Adopt agroforestry system.

- Adopt biodiversity-friendly enterprises and practices.

- Improve the system of collection of appropriate fees and fines in areas covered by tenure (e.g. foreshore lease areas, Special Use Agreement in Protected Areas (SAPA), etc.).

- Develop, promote and sustain the use of ecotourism sites and areas.

- Promote native tree species as planting materials for watershed and tree planting areas and in public spaces like parks and buildings.

Mobilize line agencies, local government units and the private sector to participate in the implementation of the Enhanced National Greening Program.

Outcome 2 - Improved air, land, and water quality

Keep air and water quality within the environmental standards.

- Establish and maintain ambient air and water quality monitoring stations especially in major urban centers.
- Establish and operationalize air sheds and water quality management areas(WQMA). The establishment of WQMA and other approaches shall be undertaken for the following major water bodies:
    - Sooc River (Aklan)
    - Panay River (Capiz)
    - Jalaur River; Ulian River (Iloilo)
    - Malihao River; Himoga-an River and Mangala Najalin River (Negros Occidental)
    - Boracay Island
    - Roxas City Coastal Water
    - Iloilo Coastal Water (southern coastline from Iloilo city)
    - Guimaras Strait
    - Iloilo Strait
- Establish wastewater treatment facilities (by water districts or LGUs) for sewage and septage management of waste from domestic and commercial resources.
- Establish treatment, storage and disposal facilities for hazardous and toxic wastes.
- Identify and monitor primary perimeter pollutants in priority river systems.
- Strengthen enforcement of anti-smoke belching campaign and vehicle emission testing by increasing the number of personnel and necessary equipment and facilities and upgrading their quality.

Strengthen enforcement of environmental laws.

- Intensify monitoring of compliance and strict implementation of environmental laws (i.e., RA 9003, PD 1586).
- Identify and assign Environment and Natural Resource Officers as permanent position for LGUs.
- Improve-technical capacity of Pollution Control Officers in complying with environmental laws.
- Provide technical assistance and increase the capacity of LGUs and industries to comply with environmental laws (e.g. operationalization of MRFs, treatment facilities, drafting and implementation of national and local solid waste management plans).

No LGU in the region will be operating an open dump site at the end of the plan period. The whole area of the existing dump site of the two highly urbanized cities of Bacolod and Iloilo will be fully converted and completely operated as sanitary landfill facilities, and at least one cluster of SLF for each district in the region is established and fully operational.

Outcome 3 - Increased adaptive capacities and resiliency of ecosystems

- Ensure availability of information of and access to location-specific hazards and risks. Geohazard and vulnerability and risk assessment and mapping will be conducted in areas that are vulnerable or prone to disasters; these disaster-prone areas will be given priority in the implementation of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies and measures.

- Develop integrated risk assessment for CCA and DRR for natural ecosystems by implementing ecosystem- and community-based adaptation and mitigation measures and standards.

- Increase the competency of decision-makers and relevant stakeholders or public, including LGUs and other relevant sectors and subsectors (e.g. infrastructure, agriculture, business, tourism, river basins), to understand risk and vulnerability from hazards for local planning and decision-making including disaster preparedness, prevention, mitigation and response.

- Adopt and support standards, including but not limited to those formulated by DPWH, HLURB, and DSWD to ensure climate- and disaster-resilient natural systems and communities. In particular, standards for public buildings and infrastructure (e.g. roads, highways, hospitals, evacuation centers, school, housing, and other government buildings) shall be strictly followed.

- Promote coordinated contingency plans and response protocols to natural disasters (e.g. La Nina/El Nino, typhoon, etc.) or man-made disasters (e.g. oil spill, forest fires, mining, etc.).

Legislative Agenda

Table 20.1 Legislative Agenda to Manage the Region's Environment and Natural Resources, 2017-2022

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE
Passage of a law to facilitate the actions for the cancellation of titles and reversion of all titled lands located in areas classified as forest lands.	Forestlands are owned by the State and therefore, no private persons shall be entitled to have legal claims over them. However, there is a prevalence of cases where private persons have titles over forestlands and are used for agricultural purposes. While the DENR has the prerogative to issue cancellation of dubious land titles, it would be more compelling if it is supported by a national legislation
Congress to fast-track the passage of a law approving the forest line delineation conducted by DENR.	The boundary delineation survey and assessment of the forestlands in the region was already done and completed in 2011 but its implementation or application would require congressional action.
Passage of Sustainable Forest Management Act in lieu of PD 705.	Forestry management in the country is governed by PD 705 issued by then President Marcos. A new Sustainable Forest Management Act has to be passed by Congress to amend the Decree for the sustainable management of forest ecosystems to enhance forest ecosystems services, mitigate and adapt to anticipated climate change impacts, including reduction of poverty in forestlands by providing upland dwellers with livelihood.
Passage of Sustainable Forest Management Act in lieu of PD 705.	Forestry management in the country is governed by PD 705 issued by then President Marcos. A new Sustainable Forest Management Act has to be passed by Congress to amend the Decree for the sustainable management of forest ecosystems to enhance forest ecosystems services, mitigate and adapt to anticipated climate change impacts, including reduction of poverty in forestlands by providing upland dwellers with livelihood.
Passage of the Senate of the draft Bills on Northern Negros Natural Park and Northwest Panay Peninsula Park.	Enactment of a national legislation establishing the Northern Negros Natural Park and Northwest Panay Peninsula Park is needed for their official inclusion as protected areas to be placed under the National Integrated Protected Areas System or NIPAS.
Issuance of DENR-EMB Administrative Orders designating additional airsheds and water quality management areas.	Only one airshed and three water quality management areas are officially designated through DENR Administrative Orders for purposes of regular quality monitoring of air and water, respectively. Other areas also need equal protection and enhancement measures to ensure compliance to standards established by law.

21 Plan Implementation and Monitoring

Chapter 21

Plan Implementation and Monitoring

This chapter discusses the mechanism on how the RDP will be implemented and tracked. It defines and put in place the necessary institutional arrangements and responsibilities to ensure that the strategies in the Plan will be implemented and that the RDP goals and targets are achieved.

Bodies and Entities Involved in Plan Implementation

There are various bodies/entities at various levels that are involved in the implementation of proposed developmental strategies identified in each chapter of the RDP. While the national government through the regional line agencies shall take charge of programs and projects, as well as, regulatory and security responsibilities based on their inherent mandates, the role of local government units will be very crucial and carrying out its own programs/ projects/activities at the local level that is very proximate to the people.

Regional Development Council (RDC-VI)

As provided for in its mandate, the Regional Development Council spearheaded the preparation of the Regional Development Plan and, eventually, approved the same for adoption and implementation. As such, the RDC is the entity that will have oversight role in ensuring that all regional agencies, local government units, government corporations and financial institutions, state universities and colleges, non-government and private sector development partners carry out the necessary interventions to operationalize and realize the Plan. In the performance of its mandate, the RDC, per Executive Order 325, is mandated "to coordinate the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the plans and investment programs, including the formulation of policy recommendations."

It will strongly advocate for and mobilize its membership, including all provincial governors; all city mayors; mayors of municipalities of provincial capitals; all presidents of the provincial league of mayors; regional directors of key government agencies, particularly those represented in the NEDA Board; private sector representatives (PSRs) who comprise one-fourth of the members of the fully-constituted Council, and special non-voting members to rally behind the Plan and fully cooperate and collaborate with one another.

Banking on this multi-level and multi-sector representation within its membership, the RDC serves as the most strategic government body to get key development players from government and the private sector become involved in plan implementation. It is within RDC's role to call on government agencies to align their resources to support the development priorities of the RDP to ensure the realization of its goals and targets.

Regular Sector Committees

The four main sector committees of the RDC - Economic Development Committee (EDC), Social Development Committee (SDC), Infrastructure Development Committee (IDC), and Development Administration Committee (DAC) – will assist the RDC in ensuring that all problems, issues, and concerns identified in the RDP are tackled and resolved. As such, all of the chapters in the RDP will be assigned to the most appropriate sector committee.

The role of the sector committees, however, will be limited to mobilizing and coordinating the agencies involved in the solution of problems and issues, as well as, in the implementation of interventions to realize the goals set in the RDP chapters. It is the concerned implementing agencies that will be primarily accountable for undertaking the proposed interventions through their their programs, projects and activities. It is the primary responsibility of the sector committees to ensure that implementation is well coordinated and that the policy support is provided whenever needed to facilitate implementation. If needed, the sector committees or the RDC may, outside of their regular quarterly meetings, call for special coordinating meetings especially for interventions which call for varied inputs/outputs from various agencies. It must be emphasized here that the RDP calls for convergence and close collaboration among implementation to ensure the most efficient use of government resources and ensure the most effective and impactful achievement of desired end-goals.

It is expected then that the lead agency will regularly meet with other concerned agencies, local government units, and relevant NGOs to discuss the most effective strategies to implement the Plan chapters, resolve problems/issues identified therein, and decide on how the agencies can share manpower and other resources to achieve greater impact to the target population or area.

If needed, lead implementing agencies are expected to undertake collaborative projects and initiate policy amendments or recommendations, especially those that will create region-wide impact and address Plan implementation bottlenecks.

Special Committees

Aside from the regular sector committees of RDC-VI, there are special committees that will play a critical role in implementing and monitoring specific chapters of the Plan. These include the Regional Land Use Committee (RLUC); Regional Gender and Development Committee (RGADC); Research and Development Committee; Regional Investment and Competitiveness Coordination Committee (RI3C); and, the Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC).

The RLUC will be responsible for scrutinizing the spatial dimension of the RDP. As the technical arm of the RDC on physical planning and related concerns, the RLUC is expected to initiate policy recommendations, especially those that have region-wide implications.

The RGADC will also extend similar support where gender and development is concerned to ensure that the Plan truly serves as an instrument for providing equal opportunities for men and women to develop, participate, and benefit from.

The R&D Committee shall formulate a harmonized research agenda supportive of the region's development efforts and monitor R&D projects including technology adoption and commercialization of R&D results. The Regional Research Agenda must be consistent with the requirements of the RDP.

The RI3C will coordinate and facilitate private investment promotion activities and update the RDC-VI on the status of the region's level of competitiveness compared to other regions of the country. It will assist the RDC in investment promotion events, whether here or abroad, to secure commitments from preferred business corporations to locate their ventures in Western Visayas, rather than elsewhere.

On the other hand, the RPMC as the RDC-VI's monitoring arm, will closely track the progress of especially when big-ticket projects listed in the RDIP 2017-2022 secures their funding. This is to ensure timely, efficient and effective delivery of the project deliverables. Should there be critical issues and concerns that hinder implementation of the PPAs, problem-solving sessions shall be initiated by the RPMC involving the program/project implementer and other concerned entities.

Regional Line Agencies

The regional line agencies or RLAs serve either as lead implementing agency or as a partner agency in interagency undertakings. As lead implementing agencies, they must coordinate with other concerned agencies, players, and stakeholders in generating the support needed for the effective implementation of the strategies and for the achievement of targets as specified in the result matrices. They are then expected to provide the necessary resources such as funding, personnel, time, among other things.

Local Government Units

The provincial, city and municipal governments play critical roles in the RDP. Most of the interventions for implementation by the RLAs have sub-regional dimensions and therefore are contingent upon the support and cooperation of the LGUs. As provided for in the Local Government Code of 1991, LGUs are expected to lead the delivery of social services (i.e. health, nutrition, social welfare, socialized housing, and resettlement in times of disaster). The delivery of support services for agriculture, industry, and tourism development are also devolved. Moreover, the plan identifies issues and concerns that need to be or are best addressed at the local level. There are also national policies that are better administered when backed-up by local legislations such as ordinances and local codes.

Also, the LGUs are mandated to formulate their local plans that are consistent with that of the RDP and the PDP. Their goals will thus be supported and that national government contribution to the realization of their local development agenda will be assured.

Private Sector

Private organizations, such as, business clubs and chambers of commerce and industry, professional organizations, civic clubs, and individuals will serve as partners of the government in realizing the identified interventions in the Plan. Among the areas where they can be involved in is through investments or capital formation, research and development, sharing of skills/expertise especially on business, as monitors or watchdogs in program implementation, and as co-implementors of public-private partnership (PPP) types of projects.

The PSRs of the RDC VI, in particular, are expected to be actively involved in providing feedback on development issues and concerns to the Council, policy formulation, advocacy of the RDP, and in the formulation of special projects. The civil society and peoples organizations, on the other hand, will be involved not only in enriching the discussions during sector

and special committee meetings, but also in the review of annual budget proposals of the RLAs, and in the submission of exception reports as a formal feedback on observations of on-going and completed programs/projects.

NEDA Region VI Office

The NEDA-VI, mandated as the principal planning agency of the government and the secretariat of the RDC-VI, will provide the technical and administrative support to the RDC-VI to ensure that coordination needed in facilitating implementation and monitoring of the RDP will be carried out accordingly.

As the RDC secretariat, the NEDA-VI will provide completed staff work in preparation for the regional quarterly meetings of the Council, and its sector and special committees. It is responsible for tracking the progress of the RDP and executes the necessary discussions of relevant agenda items during its regular and special meetings.

The NEDA-VI will also serve as Regional Technical Coordinators for the committees responsible for specific chapters in the Plan and will thus be responsible for carrying out activities that will prompt concerned committees and agencies, LGUs, PS, etc. of actions needed from their latters' end.

Table 21.1 RDP Chapter Assignments of Different Entities

CHAPTER	TITLE	COORDINATING BODY	NEDA/AGENCY SECRETARIAT
3	Regional Spatial Strategy	RLUC	PFPD
5	Ensuring people-centered, clean, and efficient governance	DevAd	PFPD
6	Pursuing swift and fair administration of justice	DevAd	PFPD
7	Preserving traditional values, culture and heritage	DevAd	PFPD
8	Expanding and diversifying opportunities in agriculture and fisheries	EDC	PDIPBD
9	Expanding and developing opportunities in industry and services	EDC	PDIPBD
10	Developing and expanding opportunities in tourism	EDC	PDIPBD
11	Enhancing human capital and access to social services	SDC	DRD
12	Reducing vulnerabilities, and building safe and secure communities	SDC	DRD
13	Taking advantage of the demographic dividend	SDC	DRD
14	Vigorously advancing science, technology and innovation	RCRD	DOST
15	Ensuring sound macroeconomic policy	DevAd	PFPD
16	Supporting and advocating the national competition policy	EDC	PDIPBD
17	Attaining just and lasting peace	DevAd	PFPD
18	Ensuring security, public order, and safety	DevAd	PFPD
19	Accelerating infrastructure development	IDC	PMED
20	Managing the region's environment and natural resources	EDC	PDIPBD
21	Plan implementation and monitoring	DevAd	PFPD

Generating Support through Communication and Advocacy

To gain widespread acceptance, as well as, develop a sense of ownership of the RDP among the various stakeholders and the general public, communication and advocacy activities will be conducted throughout the region. A Communication and Advocacy Plan (CAP) will be prepared to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of the advocacy activities. The CAP will put into detail the target and location of the audience, appropriate core messages, forms of dissemination, timelines, and responsible entities.

The RDC-VI and strategic interest groups, will lobby with Congress and the Senate in securing their cooperation and full support for the RDP, particularly for the proposed legislative measures identified in the Plan that will support the development of the region.

A similar proactive stance shall be encouraged at the local level with the Sanggunians. Additional priority legislative agenda will be generated in the RDC Sector Committees and processed into proposed policy measures or amendments for endorsement to the appropriate entities. The policy proposals and status thereof will be discussed in the RDCom Visayas and Advisory Committee meetings.

Special meetings with the private sector, professional groups, the academe will be initiated to ensure their understanding of the RDP's blueprint and secure their support in mobilizing business ventures and industries to contribute to the growth and progress of Western Visayas. Civic clubs, on the other hand, will be asked to assist their LGUs and the region in resolving major contentious social problems of Western Visayas, including lowering maternal and infant mortality, malnutrition rates, drug dependency issues, petty crimes, underemployment, dropout rates of students, and corruption in government and private transactions.

Fund Sourcing/Funding Support

Aside from the regular budgets of the government implementing agencies, other funding sources will also be explored, especially for critical projects identified in the RDP. The Regional Development Investment Program, 2017-2022, the accompanying document of the RDP that translate the strategies and policies into specific programs, projects and activities, will identify possible financial sources that will be tapped to ensure that identified interventions are carried out.

External funding through Official Development Assistance will be explored, whether for grant or concessional loans. Public-Private Partnership projects will continue to be encouraged and pursued, especially for those ventures when return on investment is assured. Another venue for funding PPAs identified in the RDP and RDIP is the yearly RDC review of the annual budget proposals of agencies and state universities which explicitly cites how annual allocations for RLAs contribute to the realization of the chapters in the RDP.

of their respective local development plans. Programs and projects funded thru IRA and their own revenues are expected to focus on programs and projects along poverty reduction and other development initiatives, all towards the progress of their own constituencies. These are contributory, as well, supportive to the goals of the RDP.

Monitoring and Report

One of the components of the RDP is the Results Matrices (RM). The RMs presents the performance indicators with annual breakdowns that were established to measure the performance of government agencies and instrumentalities vis-a-vis RDP goals and targets. An annual development report to be prepared every year by the RDC technical secretariat – the NEDA-VI – shall monitor the progress of the region towards achieving the RDP objectives and measurable targets. Plan assessment will be undertaken at the mid-term and the end of the plan period.

Other reports showing prevailing socio-economic conditions in the region, which may be reflective of the extent of the RDP implementation, shall also be prepared and disseminated regularly. Among these are: the Quarterly Regional Economic Situationer (QRES), Annual Regional Economic Situationer (ARES), State of the Region Address (SORA) delivered by the RDC-VI Chairperson on the first quarterly meeting of the Council for each year, and the annual release of the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) estimates by the PSA.

ANNEXES

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Western Visayas Region (Region VI)
NEDA Region VI Office, Fort San Pedro, Iloilo City 5000
Web Address: http://nro6.neda.gov.ph
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EXPERIENCE Western Visayas FIRST
Aklan • Antique • Capiz • Guimaras • Iloilo • Negros Occidental
Bacolod City • Iloilo City

RDC-VI Resolution No. 04
Series 2017

APPROVING, ADOPTING, AND ADVOCATING FOR THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, 2017-2022 OF WESTERN VISAYAS

WHEREAS, the Office of the President issued Memorandum Circular No. 12 directing the National Economic and Development Authority to coordinate the formulation of the country's national and regional development plans and the accompanying investment programs, and monitor their implementation;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 5 was signed by President Rodrigo R. Duterte approving and adopting the Ambisyon Natin 2040, a 25-year long term vision for the Philippines, as guide for development planning;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Development Plan and Regional Development Plans, 2017-2022 took into account the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda adopted by the United Nations and President Duterte's 0 to 10 Point Socio-Economic Agenda to ensure coherent, sustainable, and focused strategies, policies, programs and activities;

WHEREAS, the PDP and the RDP provide for a solid foundation to achieve a more inclusive growth, a high trust society, and a globally competitive knowledge economy through their emphasis on "malasakit at pagbabago para sa patuloy na pag-unlad";

WHEREAS, through RDC-VI Resolution No. 55, series of 2016, the Regional Planning Committees were organized composed of regional agencies, local government units, academe, and private sector organizations to ensure wider participation in the crafting of the RDP chapters;

WHEREAS, the draft RDP was presented to the RDC-VI sector committees on the following dates:

Infrastructure Development Committee	24 February 2017
Social Development Committee	28 February 2017
Economic Development Committee	28 February 2017
Development Administration Committee	07 March 2017

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion duly seconded *en banc*, **BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is **HEREBY RESOLVED**, to approve, adopt, and advocate for the Regional Development Plan, 2017-2022 of Western Visayas;

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED during the 1st Quarter Regular Meeting of the Regional Development Council, Region VI held on March 30, 2017 at the RDC Conference Hall, NEDA Building, Fort San Pedro Road, Iloilo City.

I hereby certify the correctness of the above resolution.

RAUL S. ANLOCOTAN
Assistant Regional Director, NEDA-VI
Secretary, RDC-VI

Concurred:

RO-ANN A. BACAL, CESO III
Regional Director, NEDA-VI
Acting Chairperson, RDC-VI

Abbreviations and Acronyms

3ID, PA	3rd Infantry Division, Philippine Army
4Ps	Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program
A&D	Alienable and Disposable
AAGR	Annual Average Growth Rate
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AET	Accreditation and Equivalency Test
AFMA	Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act
AFMISA	Agriculture and Fisheries Market Information System
AFP	Armed Forces of the Philippines
AHFF	Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry and Fishery
AICS	Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation
ALS	Alternative Learning System
AMCR	Average Monthly crime
APJR	Action Program for Judicial Reform
ARB	Agrarian Reform Beneficiary
ARC	Agrarian Reform Community
ARI	Acute Respiratory Infection
ARISP	Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Program
ART	Anti-retroviral Treatment
ARTA-RCS	Anti-Red Tape Act-Report Card Survey
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BADAC	Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council
BAS	Bureau of Agricultural Statistics
BEMONC	Basic Emergency Management on Obstetric and Newborn Care
BFAD	Bureau of Food and Drugs
BFAR	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
BFP	Bureau of Fire Protection
BIR	Bureau of Internal Revenue
BJMP	Bureau of Jail Management and Penology
BLGF	Bureau of Local Government Finance
BMBE	Barangay Micro Business Enterprise
BNS	Barangay Nutrition Scholar
BOD	Biochemical Oxygen Demand
BOI	Board of Investments
BOMBs	Budget Operations Manual for Barangays
BOT	Build-Operate-Transfer

BP blg.	Batas Pambansa bilang
BPLS	Business Permits and Licensing System
BPM	Business Process Management
BPO	Business Process Outsourcing
BSP	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
BTr	Bureau of the Treasury
CA	Concession Agreement
CAAP	Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines
CADT	Certification of Ancestral Domain Title
CAFGU	Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit
CALABARZON	Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon
CAP	Communication and Advocacy Plan
CARP	Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program
CBD	Central Business District
CDP	Comprehensive Development Plan
CMCI	Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index
CENECO	Central Negros Electric Cooperative
CHED	Commission on Higher Education
CHR	Commission on Human Rights
CICL	Children in Conflict with the Law
CIS	Communal Irrigation System
CISFA	Comprehensive and Integrated Shelter Finance Act
ckt-km	Circuit Kilometer
CLMMRH	Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital
CLUP	Comprehensive Land Use Plan
CLUP/ZO	Comprehensive Land Use Plan/Zoning Ordinance
CMCI	Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index
CMTS	Circular Mobile Telephone Services
CNN	Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army/National Democratic Front
COA	Commission on Audit
CPDC	City Planning and Development Coordinator
CPP	Communist Party of the Philippines
CPR	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate
CRRP	Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan
CSC	Civil Service Commission
CSE	Crime Solution Efficiency
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSR	Cohort Survival Rate
CY	Calendar Year

DA	Department of Agriculture
DAC	Development Administration Committee
DAR	Department of Agrarian Reform
DBM	Department of Budget and Management
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DepEd	Department of Education
DFA	Department Foreign Affairs
DILG	Department of the Interior and Local Government
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
DOE	Department of Energy
DOF	Department of Finance
DOH	Department of Health
DOJ-PPA	Department of Justice-Parole and Probation Administration
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment
DOST	Department of Science and Technology
DOTr	Department of Transportation
DOT	Department of Tourism
DPWH	Department of Public Works and Highways
DRR/CCA	Disaster Risk Reduction/Climate Change Adaptation
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
DRRMC	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council
DSM	Demand Side Management
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
DU	Distribution Utility
ECC	Environmental Compliance Certificate
ECCD	Early Childhood Care and Development
e-CIRS	Electronic Crime Incident Reporting System
EDC	Economic Development Committee
ELA	Executive-Legislative Agenda
EMB	Enviromental Management Bureau
EPIRA	Electric Power Industry Reform Act
e-poor	Entrepreneurial Poor
ERC	Energy regulatory Commission
ETEEAP	Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program
EXCELL	Excellence in Local Governance
FDCP	Film Development Council of the Philippines
FHSIS	Field Health Service Information System
FLUP	Forest Land Use Plan
FNRI	Food and Nutrition Research Institute

GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFIs	Government Financial Institutions
GGA	General Appropriations Act
GIDA	Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Area
GII	Global Innovation Index
GOCC	Government-Owned and Controlled Corporation
GRDP	Gross Regional Domestic Product
GVA	Gross Value Added
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points
HB	House Bill
HCBD	Hypertensive Cardiovascular Disease
HDI	Human Development Index
HEI	Higher Education Institutions
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
HLURB	Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board
HNRDA	Harmonized National Research and Development Agenda
HOMA	Housing Materials Assistance
HRH	Human Resources for Health
HUC	Highly Urbanized City
HUDCC	Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
IA	Irrigators' Association
IACAT	Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Trafficking
IBRS	Integrated Business Registry System
ICC	Indigenous Cultural Community
ICDPS	Integrated Community Defense and Protection System
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDC	Infrastructure Development Committee
IEC	Information and Education Campaign
IFIT	Iloilo Federation for Information Technology
IP	Indigenous People
IPP	Independent Power Producer
IRA	Internal Revenue Allotment
IRR	Implementing Rules and Regulations
ISDN	Information and Service Delivery Network
ISF	Informal Settler Family
ISO	International Organization of Standardization
IT	Information Technology
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
JAFTA	Japan Forest Technology Association

JICA	Japan International Cooperating Agency
JMC	Joint Memorandum Circular
KALAHI-CIDSS	Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive Integrated Delivery of Social Service
Kw	kilowatt
KwH	kilowatt-hr
LBP	Land Bank of the Philippines
LCCAP	Local Climate Change Adaptation Plan
LCD	Liquid Crystal Display
LCE	Local Chief Executive
LEA	Law Enforcement Agency
LEC	Local Exchange Carrier
LEDIP	Local Economic Development and Investment Promotion
LEIPO	Local Economic and Investment Promotion Officer
LEP	Ladderized Education Program
LGC	Local Government Code
LGPMS	Local Governance Performance Management System
LGU	Local Government Unit
LHB	Local Housing Board
LSEP	Labor Standard Enforcement Program
LTO	Land Transportation Office
LWUA	Local Water Utilities Administration
MASA-MASID	Mamayan Ayaw sa Anomalya-Mamayan Ayaw sa Illegal na Droga
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MERALCO	Manila Electric Company
MGB	Mines and Geosciences Bureau
MHC	Municipal Health Center
MIWD	Metro Iloilo Water District
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
MNCHN	Maternal Newborn Child Health and Nutrition
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MPDC	Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator
MPS	Mean Percentage Score
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MSMED	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development
MT	Metric Ton
MT/ha	metric ton per hectare
MTCC	Municipal Trial Court in Cities
MVIC	Motor Vehicle Inspection Center
MW	Megawatt

NDHS	National Demographic and Health Survey
NAPOLCOM	National Police Commission
NAT	National Achievement Test
NBI	National Bureau of Investigation
NCC	National Competitiveness Council
NCCA	National Commission for Culture and Arts
NCD	Non-communicable Disease
NCDDP	National Community-Driven Development Program
NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous People
NCR	National Capital Region
NDF	National Democratic Front
NDHS	National Demographic and Health Survey
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
NGA	National Government Agency
NGCP	National Grid Corporation of the Philippines
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NHA	National Housing Authority
NHIP	National Health Insurance Program
NHMFC	National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation
NIA	National Irrigation Administration
NIPAS	National Integrated Protected Areas System
NNC	National Nutrition Council
NOAH	Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards
NPA	New People's Army
NRE	New and Renewable Energy
NREB	National Renewable Energy Board
NSC	National Security Council
NSCB	National Statistic Coordination Board
NSSMP	National Sewerage and Septage Management Program
NSSP	National Sustainable Sanitation Plan
NTC	National Telecommunications Commissions
OCD	Office of Civil Defense
OF	Overseas Filipinos
OFW	Overseas Filipino Worker
OPAPP	Office of the Presidential Assistant for Peace Process
OSCA	Office Senior Citizen's Affair
OWWA	Overseas Worker Welfare Administration
PABX	Private Automatic Branch exchange
Pag-IBIG	Pagtutulungan sa Kinabukasan-Ikaw, Bangko, Industriya at Gobyerno
PAMANA	Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan Program

PAMB	Protected Areas Management Board
PCF	Performance Challenge Fund
PCA	Philippine Coconut Authority
PCSO	Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office
PDAO	Persons with Disability Affairs Office
PDEA	Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency
PDP	Philippine Development Plan
PDPFP	Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan
PEZA	Philippine Economic Zone Authority
PFM	Public Financial Management
PHIC	Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
PhilGEPS	Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System
PIA	Philippine Information Agency
PIP	Public Investment Program
PLWHA	People Living with HIV/AIDS
PNOC	Philippine National Oil Corporation
PNP	Philippine National Police
POC	Peace and Order Council
PGR	Population Growth Rate
PPA	Philippine Ports Authority
PPAs	Programs, Projects and Activities
PPP	Public, Private Partnership
PQF	Philippine Qualifications Framework
PRFD	Peaceful and Ready for Further Development
PRIME-HRM	Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management
PSR	Private Sector Representative
PUJ	Public Utility Jeepney
PWD	Person with Disability
QRES	Quarterly Regional Economic Situationer
R&D	Research and Development
RA	Republic Act
RBIA	Roads and Bridges Information Application
RBPM	Results-based Performance Management
RDC	Regional Development Council
RDIP	Regional Development Investment Program
RDP	Regional Development Plan
RDRRMC	Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council
RE	Renewable Energy
RGADC	Regional Gender and Development Committee

RHU	Rural Health Unit
RIB	Research-Industry-Business
RI3C	Regional Investment and Competitiveness Coordination Committee
RLA	Regional Line Agency
RLUC	Regional Land Use Committee
RM	Result Matrix
RORO	Roll-on, Roll-off
ROTC	Reserved Officers' Training Corps
RPMC	Regional Project Monitoring Committee
RPMP-RPA-ABB	Rebolusyonaryong Partidong Mangagawang Pilipinas– Revolutionary Proletarian Army–Alex Boncayao Brigade
RPRH	Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health
RPS	Renewable Portfolio Standards
RPTA	Real Property Tax Assessment
RRTS	Road Roll-on Roll-off Transport System
RSTL	Regional Standards and Testing Laboratory
RTC	Regional Trial Court
S&T	Science and Technology
SB	Senate Bill
SCAA	Special CAFGU Active Auxiliary
SCIMD	Subcommittee on International Migration and Development
SCPC	Student Crime Prevention Committee
SCRD	Special Committee on Research and Development
SDI	Subdermal Implant
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDC	Social Development Committee
SEA	Self Employment Assistance
SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission
SET-UP	Small Enterprises Technology Upgrading Program
SGH	Seal of Good Housekeeping
SGLG	Seal of Good Local Governance
SHDFC	Social Housing Development Finance Corporation
SIKAT	School of Indigenous Knowledge, arts and Tradition
SK	Sangguniang Kabataan
SLF	Sanitary Landfill
SLP	Sustainable Livelihood Program
SLT	School of Living Tradition
SMED	Small and Medium Enterprise Development
SORA	State of the Region Address
SP	Social Protection

SPED	Special Education
sq. m.	square meter
SRNH	Strong Republic Nautical Highway
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
STI	Science, Technology and Innovation
SUCs	State Universities and Colleges
SUWECO	Sunwest Water and Electric Company, Inc.
SY	School Year
TAREC	Trans-Asia Renewable Energy Corporation
TB	Tuberculosis
TeLOf	Telecommunications Office
TESDA	Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
TNA	Training Needs Assessment
TPG	Tabara-Paduano Group
TR	Training Regulations
TransCo	National Transmissions Commissions
TSP	Total Suspended Particulate
TVET	Technical Vocational Education Training
TY	Typhoon
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UniFAST	Unified Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education
UPLB	University of the Philippines Los Baños
USA	United States of America
USAID-STRIDE	United States Agency for International Development-Science, Technology, Research and Innovation
VAT	Value Added Tax
VAW	Violence Against Women
VAWC	Violence Against Women and Children
VPA	Volunteer Probation Assistant
WAQMA	Water Quality Management Area
WD	Water District
WESVARRDEC	Western Visayas Agriculture and Resources Research and Development Consortium
WHO	World Health Organization
WV	Western Visayas
WVCIEERD	Western Visayas Consortium for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development
WVHRDC	Western Visayas Health Research and Development Council
WVMC	Western Visayas Medical Center
YAFS	Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study

Glossary of Terms

Absorptive capacity	A measure of an agency's ability to maximize the use of financial resources made available to it.
Accreditation	The action or process of officially recognizing the competence of any supplier of Philippine goods and services to promote reliability and confidence in its quality, competitiveness, and international acceptance. The process follows a uniform and technical policy. (Aquino, 2016)
Achievement rate	The degree of performance in different subject areas in various levels of education (DepEd, n.d.).
Acquisition	It refers to the purchase or transfer of securities or assets, through contract or other means, for the purpose of obtaining control.
Adaptation (to climate change)	Refers to adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climate stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.
Agrarian reform beneficiaries	Farmers who were granted lands (under Presidential Decree No. 27, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, and Republic Act No. 9700) and regular landless farm workers who benefited from the redistribution of lands, support services, and all other alternative arrangements to the physical distribution of lands (i.e. production or profit sharing, labor administration, and the distribution of shares of stock) which will allow beneficiaries to receive a just share of the fruits of the lands they work (RA 10000, 2009).
Agribusiness	The sum of all operations involved in the manufacture and distribution of farm supplies; production activities on the farm; and the storage, processing and distribution of farm commodities and items made from them (DAR, 2009).
Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization	The development, adoption, assembly, manufacture, and application of appropriate, location specific, and cost-effective agricultural and fisheries machinery using human, animal, mechanical operations. These machineries may use electrical, renewable, and other non-conventional sources of energy for agricultural production and postharvest or postproduction operations consistent with agronomic conditions and for efficient and economic farm and fishery management towards modernization of agriculture and fisheries. (RA 10601, 2013).
Agricultural insurance	A risk managing tool that provides protection to farmers, fisherfolk and other agricultural stakeholders against losses of their crops and produce, including their farm machineries and equipment, transport facilities, and related infrastructure arising from natural calamities, pests and diseases, and other perils beyond their effective control.
Agricultural lands	Lands devoted to or suitable for the cultivation of the soil, planting of crops, growing of trees, raising of livestock, poultry, fish or aquaculture production, including the harvesting of such farm products, and other farm activities and practices performed in conjunction with such farming operations by persons whether natural or juridical and not classified by the law as mineral land, forest land, residential land, commercial land, or industrial land (RA 8435, 1997).

Agroforestry	Refers to the strategy of sustainable management of lands to increase their overall productivity. This is achieved by properly combining agricultural crops and/or livestock with forest crops simultaneously or sequentially through the application of practices which are compatible with the local climate, topography, slope, soil, as well as the cultural patterns or customary laws of the local population.
Airshed	Refers to geographic areas with similar characteristics pertinent to air quality. These characteristics include factors such as climate, meteorology and topology that affect the interchange and diffusion of pollutants in the air (DENR, 2000).
Akeanon	The dialect generally spoken in Aklan.
Alienable and Disposable Land	Land of the public domain, which has been classified and declared as such and available for disposition
Alternative Learning System	A parallel learning system aimed to provide a viable alternative to the existing formal education instruction. It encompasses both the informal and the non-formal sources of knowledge and skills.
Ancestral domains	Areas belonging to indigenous cultural communities/ indigenous peoples comprising lands, inland waters, coastal areas, and natural resources therein, held under a claim of ownership, occupied or possessed by the community themselves or through their ancestors, continuously to the present except when interrupted by war, force majeure, or displacement by force, deceit, stealth or a consequence of government projects or any other voluntary dealings entered into by government and private individuals, corporations, and which are necessary to ensure their economic, social, and cultural welfare.
Applied research	Original investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge directed primarily towards a specific practical aim or objective.
Apprenticeship	An enterprise-based training undertaken within employment, involving a contract between a trainee and an enterprise on an approved enterprise-based training occupation.
Aquaculture	Fishery operations involving all forms of raising and culturing fish and other fishery species in fresh, brackish and marine water areas.
Arts	The quality, production, expression, or realm, according to aesthetic principles, of what is beautiful, appealing, or of more than ordinary significance.
Backbone network	A major transmission path/facility that can carry high volume of traffic, and is designed to interconnect, often lower-speed distribution networks, channels, or clusters of dispersed terminals or devices.=.
Balik Scientist Program	A program that encourages highly-trained overseas Filipino scientists and technologists, experts, and professionals to return to the Philippines and share their expertise for the acceleration of the scientific, agro-industrial and economic development of the country.
Barangay	The basic political unit which serves as the primary planning and implementing unit of government policies, plans, programs, projects, and activities in the community, and as a forum wherein the collective views of the people may be expressed, crystallized and considered, and where disputes may be amicably settled.

Basic education	The education intended to meet learning needs in order to set the foundation for subsequent learning. It covers six years of primary education, four years of Junior High School, and two years of Senior High School. It also includes alternative learning system for out-of-school youth and adult learners and includes education for those with special needs. (RA 10533, 2013).
Basic research	Experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundation of phenomena and observable facts, without any particular application or use in view.
Basic sanitation	Refers to flush toilet (either owned or shared) and closed pit facilities
Basic services	The provision of basic necessities such as: potable water, power and electricity, and adequate power distribution system; sewerage facilities and an efficient and adequate solid waste disposal system, access to primary roads and transportation facilities; and the provision of health, education, communications, security, recreation, relief and welfare services in accordance with Republic Act No. 7279.
Berthing/Docking areas	A specified length of quay wall where a vessel can tie up
Broadband	Online, high speed access service that provides connection to the internet and other information services
Business Process Outsourcing	A form of outsourcing that involves the contracting of the operations and responsibilities of a specific business function (or process) to a third-party service provider. It is typically categorized into back office outsourcing which includes internal business functions such as human resources or finance and accounting, and front office outsourcing which includes customer-related services such as contact center services.
Cargo throughput	Total volume of cargo discharged and loaded at the port. It includes breakbulk, liquid bulk, dry bulk, containerized cargo, transit cargo and transhipment.
Caves	Any naturally occurring void, cavity, recess, or system of interconnected passages beneath the surface of the earth or within a cliff or ledge and which is large enough to permit an individual to enter, whether or not the entrance is located either in private and public land.
Certificate of Land Ownership Award	A document evidencing ownership of the land granted or awarded to the beneficiary by the Department of Agrarian Reform, and contains the restriction and conditions provided for in Republic Act 6657 and other applicable laws (DAR, 1990).
Climate change	Refers to changes in climatic systems as measured by mean temperatures or variability of its properties, and persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity (RA 9729, 2009).
Climate change adaptation	The adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities (RA 9729, 2009).

Coastal area	A band of dry land and adjacent ocean space, including submerged land, in which terrestrial processes affect oceanic processes and uses and vice versa. Its geographic extent may include areas within a landmark limit of one kilometer from the shoreline at high tide to include mangrove swamps, brackish water ponds, nipa swamps, estuarine rivers, sandy beaches and other area within a seaward limit of 200 meters isobath to include coral reefs, algal flats, sea grass, beds, and other soft bottom areas.
Cohort survival rate	The percentage of enrollees at the beginning grade or year in a given school year who reached the final grade or year of the elementary level.
Communal Irrigation System	A type of irrigation system covering an area of 1,000 hectares or less, which is constructed by the National Irrigation Administration with the participation of the local irrigators' associations. Its operation and maintenance is turned over to the IAs upon project completion. (NIA, n.d.)
Community Mortgage Program	A mortgage financing program that assists legally organized associations of informal settler families to own the lots they occupy or their choice of relocation, providing them security of tenure and eventually improving their communities.
Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index	An annual ranking of Philippine cities and municipalities developed by the National Competitiveness Council through the Regional Competitiveness Committees (RCCs) with the assistance of the United States Agency for International Development. Cities and municipalities are ranked on their competitiveness based on an overall competitiveness score. (http://www.competitive.org.ph)
Completion rate	The percentage of first grade/year entrants in a level of education who complete the required number of years of study.
Comprehensive Land Use Plan	A document accompanied by maps and similar illustrations, which represent the community-deserved pattern of population distribution and proposal for future allocation of land for the various land use activities, in accordance with the social and economic objectives of the people. It identifies location, character and extent of the area's land resources to be used for different purposes and includes the process and the criteria employed in the determination of the land's use.
Conflict-affected area	Areas where the local and peripheral population is heavily impacted by the infighting of armed groups.
Contraceptive prevalence rate	The percentage of currently married women 15-49 years of age reporting current use of any method of contraception.
Convergence Program	The complementation of agency initiatives within a defined area under a common intervention strategy to maximize impact.
Cooperative	An autonomous and duly registered association of persons, with a common bond of interest, who have voluntarily joined together to achieve their social, economic, and cultural needs and aspirations by making equitable contributions to the capital required, patronizing their products and services and accepting a fair share of the risks and benefits of the undertaking in accordance with universally accepted cooperative principles (RA 9520, 2008).
Crime solution efficiency	The percentage of solved cases out of the total number of crime incidents handled by law enforcement agencies for a given period of time.

Criminal justice	As a factor of the Rule of Law Index, this measures whether the criminal investigation, adjudication, and correctional systems are effective, and whether the criminal justice system is impartial, free of corruption, free of improper influence, and protective of due process and the rights of the accused.
Critical watershed	A drainage area of a river system supporting existing and proposed hydroelectric power, irrigation works, or existing water facilities needing immediate protection and rehabilitation to minimize erosion and improve water yield.
Cropping intensity	The number of times a crop is planted per year in a given agricultural area. It is the ratio of effective crop area harvested to the physical area (PhilFSIS, n.d.).
Culture	Set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, that encompasses, not only art and literature, but lifestyles, ways of living together, value system, traditions and beliefs (UNESCO, 2001).
Demographic dividend	The economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population's age structure, mainly when the share of the working-age population (15 to 64) is larger than the non-working-age share of the population (14 and younger, and 65 and older). (UNFPA)
Dependable capacity	The load-carrying ability of a power plant during a specific time interval and period. The dependable capacity of a generating facility or transmission system is a fluctuating value that depends upon the available energy, the demand for that energy, the capability of the system to deliver that energy at a given moment, and the facilities available to handle increased capacity should the need arise.
Disaster	A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic, or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources (RA 10121, 2010).
Disaster risk	The potential disaster loss (i.e., lives, health status, livelihoods, assets, services) which could occur to a particular community or a society over some specified future time period (UNISDR, 2009).
Disaster risk reduction	The concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyze and manage the causal factors of disasters, including the reduction of exposure to hazards, lessening vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events (UNISDR, 2007; RA 10121, 2010).
Disaster risk reduction and management	Refers to the systematic process of using administrative directives, organizations, and operational skills and capacities to implement strategies, policies and improve coping capacities in order to lessen the adverse impacts of hazards and the possibility of disaster (RA 10174, 2012).
Distribution utility	Any electric cooperative, private corporation, government-owned utility or existing local government unit which has an exclusive franchise to operate a distribution system
Doubling time	Number of years a population will double given a constant growth rate.

Early childhood care and development	The full range of health, nutrition, early education, and social services necessary to promote the optimum growth and development of children age zero to four years.
Early warning system	The set of capacities needed to generate and disseminate timely and meaningful warning information to enable individuals, communities, and organizations threatened by a hazard to prepare and to act appropriately and in sufficient time to reduce the possibility of harm or loss (RA 10121, 2010).
Economic zone	Selected areas with highly developed or which have the potential to be developed into agri-industrial, industrial, tourist, recreational, commercial, banking, investment and financial centers whose metes and bounds are fixed or delimited by Presidential Proclamations (PEZA, 1995).
Ecotourism	A form of tourism that can sustainably use natural and cultural resources while providing employment opportunities for local communities.
Electric cooperatives	An organization or corporation authorized to provide electric services pursuant to PD No. 269, as amended, and RA6938 within the framework of the national rural electrification plan.
Ethnolinguistic groups	Group of people who share the same language and cultural practices.
Farm-to-market roads	Roads linking the agriculture and fisheries production sites, coastal landing points and post-harvest facilities to the market and arterial roads and highways.
Fault/Fault lines	Fractures in the earth's surface where rock movement has taken place and earthquakes produced.
Fisherfolk	People who are directly engaged in catching, culturing, and processing of fishery and/or aquatic resources.
Food security	A condition where all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (FAO, 2002).
Foreign direct investments	Investments made by a resident entity in one economy to another economy to acquire a lasting interest and have a significant influence in the management over the enterprise.
Forward and backward linkages	Channels through which information, material and money flow from suppliers to the firms (backward) and from suppliers to customers (forward).
Gender and development	The development perspective and process that "seeks to achieve gender equality as a fundamental value that should be reflected in development choices; seeks to transform society's social, economic, and political structures and questions the validity of the gender roles they ascribed to women and men; contends that women are active agents of development and not just passive recipients of development assistance; and stresses the need of women to organize themselves and participate in political processes to strengthen their legal rights". (RA 9710, 2009)
Geologic hazards	Result from geologic processes acting on or beneath the earth's surface. These include movement of plates in the earth's crust or from local concentrations of heat and are a source of hazards to people and their natural and built-up environment on the earth's surface.

- Earthquake-induced landslide (Severe shaking in an earthquake can cause natural slopes to weaken and fail, resulting in landslides. Depending on the degree of groundshaking, level of susceptibility and soundness of structures, landslides can cause damage to infrastructure, such as cracking, toppling and even collapse; burying of settlements; or flooding in downstream areas due to deposition. Earthquake-induced landslides can be divided into three main categories: disrupted slides and falls, coherent slides and lateral spreads and flows.)
- Groundshaking (vibration of the ground during an earthquake. During and earthquake, seismic waves travel rapidly away from the source and through the earth's crust. Upon reaching the ground surface, they produce shaking that may last from seconds to minutes. Earthquake strength is measured in terms of magnitude or intensity.
- Liquefaction (process where particles of loosely-consolidated and water-saturated deposits of sand are rearranged into a more compact state. This results in the squeezing of water and sediments towards the surface in the form of sand fountain and creating a condition resembling quicksand. In this phenomena, the strength of the soil is reduced to a point where it is unable to support structures.)
- Tsunami (Japanese term for "harbour waves." This is a series of waves generated by various geological processes typically originating from vertical displacements of the ocean floor associated with a strong and shallow earthquake (Intensity IV and above). It may travel as fast as 880 kph with wave heights of less than a meter in deep ocean. It slows down to around 80 to 45kph near shorelines with much of its energy transformed to height increases of 10 to 30 meters.)

Global Competitiveness Index — A set of institutions, policies, and factors that determine the level of productivity of a country, conditions of public institutions, and technical conditions (WEF, 2013). This was created by the World Economic Forum and is considered as an accepted tool for evaluating a country's potential for growth (Reut Institute, 2007).

Global warming — Increase in the average temperature of the earth's near-surface air and oceans that is associated with the increased concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Good agricultural practices — Practices that address environmental, economic and social sustainability for on-farm processes, and result in safe and quality food and non-food agricultural products (FAO, 2003).

Grid — The high voltage backbone system of interconnected transmission lines, substations and related facilities

Gross Domestic Product — The value of all goods and services produced domestically. It is the sum of gross value added of all resident institutional units engaged in production (plus any taxes, and minus any subsidies, on products not included in the values of their outputs).

Gross Regional Domestic Product	The aggregate of gross value added of all resident producer units in the region. This includes regional estimates on the three major sectors including their sub-sectors namely: 1) Agriculture, Fishery, and Forestry Sector; 2) Industry Sector (Mining and Quarrying, Manufacturing, Construction, Electricity, Water); 3) Service Sector (Transport, Communication, Storage, Trade, Finance, Ownership of Dwellings and Real Estate, Private or Government Services). (PSA, n.d.)
Gross value-added	The total payment to factors of production, namely: wages, interest, profits, rents, including capital consumption allowance and indirect taxes. It is estimated by deducting from gross value of output the sum of non-factor cost such as raw materials and supplies, containers and packing materials, fuel, advertising and other non-industrial overhead cost.
Harmonized National R&D Agenda	A blueprint of the priority R&D areas that will be pursued by the country to address societal needs and achieve inclusive socio-economic development. It aims to provide direction on the government-funded R&D programs and projects; provide an important step in enhancing the effective allocation and efficient use of public investments in R&D; and avoid duplication of R&D pursuits and promote complementation among government research institutions.
Heritage	Includes artefacts, monuments, a group of buildings and sites, that have a diversity of values including symbolic, historic, artistics, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological, scientific and social significance (UNESCO, 1972).
High density housing	A housing strategy where a significant number of informal settler families are accommodated in a multi-storey building, either in-city or near-city relocation or land sharing agreement. It can also refer to the number of families per hectare.
Higher education	The stage of formal education requiring secondary education covering the programs on all courses of study leading to a bachelor's degree and all degree courses of study beyond bachelor's degree level.
High-value crops	Non-traditional agricultural and horticultural commodities that include coffee, cacao, fruits, root crops, vegetables, spices and condiments, cutflowers, and ornamental plants.
Hiligaynon/Ilonggo	The language generally spoken in Western Visayas, particularly in Iloilo City, in the coastal towns and northeaster part of Iloilo province, in Guimaras, Bacolod City and most towns and cities of Negros Occidental.
Housing needs	The number of conventional dwellings or other suitable living quarters that need to be constructed or repaired in order to bring housing conditions, in a particular point in time, up to nationally adopted standards, plus the number that need to be constructed, repaired or maintained to ensure that housing conditions remain at the standard level over a stated period of time. Composed of accumulated, future, and recurrent structure demands, with allowance for inventory losses and increase in households
Hydrometeorological hazards	Natural processes or phenomena of atmospheric, hydrologic or oceanographic nature, which may cause loss of life, injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. Hydrometeorologic hazards can be single, sequential or combined in their origin and effects.

- Floods and flashfloods (Floods are characterized by a rise in the water level when a body of water, such as a river or lake exceeds it total capacity. Floods have many causes – heavy rains, high tides, coastal floods, riverine floods. Flashfloods occur under various conditions. It can occur over steep river channel slopes, on areas with abrupt changes in elevation, and in narrow valleys or river areas which restrict flow of water resulting to damming action.)
- Rain-induced Landslides (Downward and outward movements of materials, including rock and soil due to various causes such as excessive rain, earthquake, volcanic eruption, rapid undercutting by rivers, waves or man's activities. Rainfall threshold for landslides, based on worldwide comparison and trends, reveal that about 100 mm of rainfall per day could trigger a landslide.)
- Storm surge (offshore rise of water associated with a low pressure weather system, typically a tropical cyclone. High winds push on the ocean's surface and causes water to pile up higher than the ordinary sea level. This results to damage nearby coastal structures as a result of wave impacts and debris; can cause coastal flooding and enhanced when surges happen during high tides.)

Idle lands — Land that was cultivated but is now in a state of disuse or is abandoned. This may also refer to non-agricultural lands in urban and urbanizable areas on which no improvements have been made by the owner, as certified by the city, municipal, or provincial assessor (RA 7279, 1992).

Inclusive growth — Growth that is rapid enough to matter, given the country's large population, geographical differences, and social complexity. It is sustained growth that creates jobs, draws the vast majority into the economic and social mainstream, and continuously reduces mass poverty.

Indigenous Peoples — Peoples who are regarded as indigenous on account of their descent from the populations which inhabited the country, at the time of conquest or colonization or at the time of inroads of non-indigenous religions and cultures or the establishment of present state boundaries who retain some or all of their own social, economic, cultural and political institutions, but who may have been displaced from their traditional domains or who may have resettled outside their ancestral domains (RA 8371, 1997).

Indigent senior citizen — Any elderly who is frail, sickly or with disability, without pension or permanent source of income, compensation or financial assistance from relatives to finance basic needs, as determined by the Department of Social Welfare and Development in consultation with the National Coordinating and Monitoring Board (RA 9994, 2010).

Inflation rate — The annual rate of change or year-on-year change in Consumer Price Index.

Informal settler families	Households with no security of tenure vis-à-vis the land or dwellings they inhabit. Their neighbourhoods usually lack, or are cut off from, basic services and city infrastructure, and their housing may not comply with current planning and building regulations, and is often situated in geographically and environmentally hazardous areas.
Information and Communication Technology	An umbrella term that covers all technical means for processing and communicating information. It defines a broad range of technologies, including methods for communication (communication protocols, transmission techniques, communications equipment, media communication), as well as techniques for storing and processing information (computing, data storage, etc.).
Installed/rated capacity	The maximum capacity of an equipment/facility such as a power plant for which it is designed by the manufacturer and is usually expressed in megawatts (MW).
Integrated Coastal Management	A dynamic process of planning and management involving stakeholders, and requiring the analysis of the environmental and socioeconomic implications of development, the ecosystem processes, and the interrelationships among land-based and marine-related activities across jurisdictions (Executive Order No. 533).
Integrated Forest Management Agreement	A production-sharing contract entered into by and between the DENR and a qualified applicant where the DENR grants to the latter the exclusive right to develop, manage, protect, and utilize a specified area of forestland and forest resource therein for a period of 25 years and may be renewed for another 25 year period, consistent with the principle of sustainable development and in accordance with an approved Comprehensive Development and Management Plan, and under which both parties share in its produce.
International Roughness Index	A profile-based statistics initially established in a study by the World Bank. It is used worldwide as an index for comparing pavement smoothness. DPWH used these categories to describe segments of roads: good condition (1-3); fair condition (>3-5); poor condition (>5-7); and, bad condition (7)
Jail population density rate	Ideal rate is 1 inmate per 4.7 square meters (BJMP)
Justice on Wheels	A government project featuring the country's first mobile court in the form of a large bus, prioritizing the hearing of cases involving minors who were either victims or suspects of various crimes and also those cases in certain areas in the country where there were no circuit court judgments.
Karay-a	The dialect generally spoken in Antique and Southern Iloilo.
Karst subsidence (sinkholes) hazard assessment	Ground depression or opening formed commonly found in soluble rocks formed when the underlying or subterranean void weakens support of the overlying surface. They range in size from several square yards to hundreds of acres and may be very shallow or hundreds of feet deep.
Kilowatt-hour	A unit of energy equivalent to one kilowatt (kW) of power expended for one hour of time.
Labor force	This refers to population 15 years old and over who are either employed or unemployed.

Labor productivity	Labor productivity in agriculture, forestry and fishery pertains to the value of agricultural output per employed person in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.
Ladderized education	Harmonization of all education and training mechanisms that allow students and workers to seamlessly progress between technical-vocational and higher education programs, or vice-versa (RA 10647, 2014).
Level I Water Supply System	A protected well or developed spring system without a distribution system, generally adaptable for rural areas where the houses are thinly scattered. A Level I facility usually serves an average of 15 households.
Level II Water Supply System	A system composed of a source, reservoir, distribution system and communal faucets. Usually one faucet serves 4 to 6 households. Generally suitable for rural and urban fringe areas where houses are clustered densely to justify a simple piped-system.
Level III Water Supply System	A system composed of a source, reservoir, piped distribution system and household taps. It is generally suited for densely populated urban areas.
Local housing board	A local special body devoted to addressing shelter concerns in the formulation, development and implementation of a comprehensive and integrated housing and land development program of the local government unit.
Local shelter plan	A document that defines the present and projected needs, gaps, issues on local housing vis-à-vis the projected population, resources required, affordability analysis, goals and objectives, strategies, interventions and implementation plan of the local housing program.
Logistics hub	Integrated centers for transhipment, storage, collection, and distribution of goods
Low-cost housing	Housing units that are affordable to low-income earners with loan amounts ranging from PHP450,000 to PHP3 million, which is subject to review and adjustment at least every two years (HUDCC, 2013; BSP 2011; RA 8763, 2000)
Magnitude of poor families	The number of families whose income cannot provide for the basic food and non-food requirements called the poverty threshold.
Major river basin	Basin with area of at least 990 square kilometres.
Medical tourism	Concept of traveling to a particular destination for health care services. These services are offered by countries with qualified and experienced health care professionals working in some of the highly technologically advanced facilities in the world. Moreover, these medical travels may include holiday amenities like hotel or resort accommodation, chauffeured city travel and bilingual personal assistant to guide and make a client feel secure and to arrange any other requirements he/she may need aside from medical needs.
Metric ton	Weight measurement equivalent to 2,204.6 lbs or 1,000 kilograms
Micro, small, and medium enterprises	Any business activity or enterprise that has assets not exceeding PHP100 million and employment size less than 200, regardless of the type of ownership.
Microfinance	A broad range of financial services such as deposits, loans, payment services, money transfers and insurance products to the poor and low-income households and their microenterprises. By definition, it is important to note that microfinance is not a subsidized credit, not a dole-out, not salary or consumption loans, and not a cure-all for poverty.

Micro-insurance	Specific insurance, insurance-like and other similar products and services that meet the needs of the low-income sector for risk protection and relief against distress, misfortune and other contingent events.
Mid-range emission scenario (PAGASA)	Developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which defines plausible emission scenarios. Mid-range emission scenario is described as very rapid economic growth; population peaks mid-century; social, cultural and economic convergence among regions; market mechanisms dominate; rapid introduction of new and more efficient technologies with energy generation balanced across all sectors.
Mitigation	The lessening or limitation of the adverse impacts of hazards and related disasters (UNISDR, 2007).
Municipal fisherfolk	Persons who are directly or indirectly engaged in municipal fishing and other related fishing activities (Republic Act 8550).
Municipal waters	Include not only streams, lakes, inland bodies of water and tidal waters within the municipality which are not included within the protected areas as defined under Republic Act No. 7586, public forest, timber lands, forest reserves or fishery reserves, but also marine waters included between two lines drawn perpendicular to the general coastline from points where the boundary lines of the municipality touch the sea at low tide and a third line parallel with the general coastline including offshore inlands and 15 kilometers from such coastline. Where two municipalities are so situated on opposite shores that there is less than 30 kilometers of marine waters between them, the third line shall be equally distant from opposite shore of the respective municipalities (Republic Act 8550).
National Integrated Protected Areas System	The classification and administration of all designated protected areas to maintain essential ecological processes and life-support systems, to preserve genetic diversity, to ensure sustainable use of resources found therein, and to maintain their natural conditions to the greatest extent possible.
National Irrigation System	A major irrigation system managed by the National Irrigation Administration
National Spatial Strategy	Intended to be the core strategy of the National Physical Framework Plan. Its formulation was based on the assessment of the spatial distribution of the country's population and related economic characteristics, growth scenarios and the corresponding issues. The components are: **Concentration** – involves planning and guiding increases in the densities of settlements and aims to increase access to the benefits associated with urbanization. **Connectivity** – seeks to increase transportation and communication linkages among settlements and key production areas to increase access and improve efficiency of markets which seeks to enhance the ability of the settlements to absorb as much as; encourage (or discourage) growth and concentration based on specific plans. **Vulnerable reduction** – aims to protect key production areas and other environmentally-constrained or disaster-prone areas.

National Transport Policy	A long-term comprehensive policy which shall guide all elements of the transportation system and all subsectors of transportation, including passengers, shippers, service providers, agencies and instrumentalities of government and those involved in the movement of people and goods and in the provision of transportation infrastructure, facilities and services.
Natural hazard	Natural process or phenomenon that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage (UNISDR, 2007).
Net enrolment rate or participation rate	The ratio of the enrolment for the age group corresponding to the official school age in the elementary/secondary level to the population of the same age group in a given year.
Non-communicable disease	Also known as chronic diseases. These are not passed from person to person. They are of long duration and generally slow progression. The four main types of non-communicable diseases are cardiovascular diseases (like heart attacks and stroke), cancers, chronic respiratory diseases (such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma) and diabetes.
Overseas Filipinos	Refers to migrant workers, Filipino nationals and their dependents abroad.
Off-grid areas	Areas not connected to the wires and related facilities of the on-grid system of the Philippines.
Performance Challenge Fund	An incentive open to all provinces, cities and municipalities that passed the "Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG)" focused on sSund Fiscal Management highlighting the absence of adverse COA Opinion on LGU financial statements; and Transparent and Accountability Governance putting value on the Full Disclosure Policy
PhilHealth	The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, a government-owned and -controlled corporation attached to the Department of Health.
Primary roads (national)	Roads that connect major cities with population of at least 100,000
Poor	Individuals and families whose income fall below the poverty threshold as defined by the government or those that cannot afford in a sustained manner to provide their basic needs of food, health, education, housing and other amenities of life (RA 8425, 1997).
Population density	Measurement of population per unit area, in this case, persons per square kilometre.
Population growth rate	The pace at which the population is increasing or decreasing during a given period on a yearly basis expressed as a percentage of the basic population.
Poverty incidence	The proportion of families/individuals with per capita income/expenditure less than the per capita poverty threshold to the total number of families/ individuals
Protected areas	Identified portions of land and water set aside by reason of their unique physical and biological significance, managed to enhance biological diversity and protected against destructive human exploitation.
Protection forest	An area wholly or partly covered with woody vegetation managed primarily for its beneficial effects on water, climate, soil, aesthetic value, and preservation of genetic diversity.

Rehabilitation	Measures that ensure the ability of affected communities/areas to restore their normal level of functioning by rebuilding livelihood and damaged infrastructure and increasing the communities' organizational capacity (Republic Act 10121).
Renewable energy	Energy resources that do not have an upper limit on the total quantity to be used. Such resources are renewable on a regular basis and the renewable rate is rapid enough to consider availability over an indefinite time. These are: **Biomass** – non-fossilized biodegradable organic material originating from naturally occurring or cultured plants, animals and micro-organisms, including agricultural products, by-products and residues such as, but not limited to, biofuels except corn, soya beans, and rice but including sugarcane and coconut, rice hulls, rice straws, coconut husks and shells, corn cobs, corn stovers, bagasse, biodegradable organic fractions of industrial and municipal wastes that can be used in bioconversion process and other processes, as well as, gases and liquid recovered from the decomposition and/or extraction of nonfossilized and biodegradable organic materials. **Geothermal** – mineral resource, classified as renewable energy resource, in the form of: (a) all products of geothermal processes, embracing indigenous steam, hot water, hot brines; (b) steam and other gases, hot water and hot brines resulting from water, gas or other fluids artificially introduced into geothermal formations; (c) heat or associated energy found in geothermal formations, and (d) any by-product derived from them. **Hydropower** – water resources found technically feasible for development of hydropower projects **Solar** - energy derived from solar radiation that can be converted into useful thermal or electrical energy **Wind** – energy that can be derived from wind that is converted into useful electrical or mechanical energy
Resettlement areas	Areas identified by the appropriate national agency or by the local government unit with respect to areas within its jurisdiction, which shall be used for the relocation of the underprivileged and homeless citizens and other qualified households (RA 7279, 1992).
Resiliency or resilience	The capacity of social, economic, and environmental systems to cope with a hazardous event or trend disturbance, responding, or reorganizing in ways that maintain their essential function, identity and structure, while also maintaining the capacity for adaptation, learning and transformation (IPCC, 2014).
Results-based Performance Management System	Serves as single performance management system for the whole of the Executive Branch, in place of the multiple and disparate performance management systems that are currently being implemented which aims to rationalize, harmonize, streamline, simplify, integrate, and unify the performance management systems and activities of oversight government agencies.
Return period	Average recurrence interval between events equalling or exceeding a specified magnitude.

Right-of-way	Part or the entirety of a property, site or location, with defined physical boundaries, used or required by a national government project
Risk assessment	A methodology used to determine the nature and extent of risk by analyzing potential hazards and evaluating existing conditions of vulnerability that together could potentially harm exposed people, property, services, livelihood, and the environment on which they depend (RA 10121, 2010).
Risk transfer	Refers to the process of formally or informally shifting the financial consequences of particular risks from one party to another whereby a household, community, enterprise or state authority will obtain resources from the other party after a disaster occurs, in exchange for ongoing or compensatory social or financial benefits provided to that other party (RA 10121, 2010).
River basin	An area that drains water, sediment and dissolved materials, to a common outlet at some point along the river and/or stream channel.
Road density	Refers to the ratio of the length of the total road network to its land area
Roll On/Roll Off vessels	Specifically designed vessels for carrying trailers, cars and other rolling equipment which is discharged through the bow or stem ramps or both
Sanitation	A wide range of services and arrangements pertaining to hygiene and proper management of human excreta (feces and urine) and community liquid wastes to safeguard the health of individuals and communities.
Sanitary landfill	A waste disposal site designed, constructed, operated, and maintained in a manner that exerts engineering control over significant potential environmental impacts arising from the development and operation of the facility.
School of Living Traditions	One where a living master/culture bearer or culture specialist teaches skills and techniques of doing traditional art or craft to the young people from the same ethno-linguistic community. The mode of teaching is usually non-formal, oral and with practical demonstrations. The site maybe the house of the living master, a community social hall, or a center constructed for the purpose. Established by the National Commission for Culture and Arts in various parts of the country.
Seal of Good Local Governance	A mechanism that monitors and recognizes adherence of local government units to performance criteria on any of the following areas: good financial housekeeping, disaster preparedness, social protection for the basic sector, business friendliness and competitiveness, environmental compliance, and law and order and public safety. This used to be referred to as the Seal of Good Housekeeping.
Secondary roads	Others roads which complement the national primary roads to provide access to main population and production center of the country
Septage	The sludge produced in individual/communal onsite wastewater-disposal systems, principally septic tanks

Sewerage management system	Facilities that collect human waste and sullage from residences and establishments usually piped and conveyed in structures (sewers, pump stations) for eventual central treatment and safe disposal. Piped sewerage includes a collection system (street lateral) a conveyance system (trunk sewers and pump stations) and a treatment plant/disposal.
Shallow aquifers	Extend between 5 to 35 meters with static groundwater level that varies from 4 to 20 meters below ground level
Shipcalls	The number of vessels which call or arrive at a particular port at any given time
Sitio	A territorial enclave inside a barangay, especially in rural areas
Sustainable development	Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
Technology business incubation	A specific type of business incubator – a property-based venture that provides tangible and intangible services to new technology-based firms, entrepreneurs, and spin-offs of universities and large firms, all with the aim of helping them increase their chances of survival and generate wealth and jobs and diffuse technology.
Tertiary roads	Other existing roads under DPWH which perform local function
Transhipment	Shipment of goods or containers to an intermediate country of destination then to yet another country of final destination. The port intermediate country is referred to as transhipment port.
Transit shed	A covered building on the pier or wharf used for storage of cargo in transit, that is, cargo recently unloaded from or soon to be loaded to a ship
Transmission (of electricity)	The conveyance of electricity through the high voltage backbone system
Transmission Development Plan	The program for managing the transmission system through efficient planning for the expansion, upgrading, rehabilitation, repair and maintenance to be formulated by the DOE and implemented by NGCP pursuant to RA 9136
Turnaround time	Duration between the arrival of a vessel and its departure from port. It is frequently used as a measure of port efficiency.
Twenty-Foot-Equivalent Unit (TEU)	Unit of measurement equivalent to a container's length of 20 feet. It is often used to express the capacity of container ships or container terminals
Utility model	A protection option, which is designed to protect innovations that are not sufficiently inventive to meet the inventive threshold required for standard patents application. It may be any useful machine, implement, tools, product, composition, process, improvement or part of the same.
Value chain	The full range of activities that are required to bring a product or service from conception, through the different phases of production (involving a combination of physical transformation and the input of various producer services), delivery to final consumers, and final disposal after use.

Volcanic hazards	Arise from active and potentially active volcanoes in the Philippines. Volcanic hazards may come from various possible activities, such as eruption and my come in the form of ash falls, ballistic bombs, pyroclastic flow, subsidence, fissures, rolling incandescent rocks and lahars. • Active volcanoes are those that erupted within historical times (within the last 600 years) such that, accounts of these eruptions were documented. • Potentially active volcanoes are morphologically young looking, but with no historical records of eruption. • Inactive volcanoes have no recorded eruptions in the last 10,000 years.
Volunteer Probation Assistants	Volunteers in that the former perform a highly specialized supervision service which directly have impact on the behavior of the clients. They serve as strengths and role models in ushering the reformation and treatment of offenders who are members of their own communities.
Vulnerability	The characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of a hazard. Vulnerability may arise from various physical, social, economic, and environmental factors such as poor design and construction of buildings, inadequate protection of assets, lack of public information and awareness, limited official recognition of risks and preparedness measures, and disregard for wise environmental management. (RA 10121, 2010; UNISDR, 2007) Degree to which a system is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes. It is a function of the character, magnitude, and rate of climate change and variation to which a system is exposed, its sensitivity and its adaptive capacity. (PAGASA)
Vulnerable	Households confronted by ex-ante risk that, if they are currently non-poor, will fall below the poverty line, or if they are currently poor, will remain in poverty. It is also defined in terms of exposure to adverse shocks to welfare and not only in terms of exposure to poverty (NEDA-SDC, 2007).
Wasting	Current or recent or active malnutrition characterized by very low weight-for-height as a result of deficits in both muscle tissue and fat mass.
Water districts	Government owned and controlled corporations created primarily to acquire, install, operate, maintain and improve water supply and distribution systems for domestic, industrial and municipal uses of residents and to provide, maintain and operate waste water collection, treatment and disposal facilities within the boundaries of the district.
Water Quality Management Areas	Designated sites, pursuant to Republic Act 9275, which uses appropriate physiographic units such as watershed, river basins or water resources regions. The objective of the designation is to protect, through stakeholder collaborations, the water body and its tributaries by keeping their water quality within the Water Quality Guidelines or Criteria conforming to the water body's classification or even improve the quality to higher classification (e.g., from C to B or SC to SB).

Watershed	A land area drained by a stream or fixed body of water and its tributaries having a common outlet for surface run-off. Also called basin or catchment areas.
Wireless Fidelity (Wi-fi)	A mark of interoperability among devices adhering to the 802.11 b specification for wireless local area network (LAN) from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).
Yield	An indicator of productivity for agricultural commodities derived by dividing total production by the area planted or harvested.
Youth	Individuals belonging to the age group 15 to 30 years (RA 8044, 1995).
21st Century Skills	Generally used to refer to certain competencies such as collaboration, digital literacy, problem-solving, civic literacy, global awareness and cross-cultural skills; gender sensitivity; and information skills; risk-taking; entrepreneurial skills; passion for learning and discovery; and resiliency.

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