

# Strengthening NEDA's Oversight Role in Development Planning and Policy Coordination





# 2018 NEDA Annual Report

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Produced by

**National Economic and  
Development Authority**

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NEDA is the **country's premier socioeconomic planning body**, highly regarded in macroeconomic forecasting, policy research, and analysis; an acknowledged institution in providing high-level policy advice, developing consensus, and setting agenda for inclusive development.



## VISION

NEDA envisions a country where public and private sectors perform their respective roles efficiently, such that people have equal access to opportunities, resulting in inclusive development and zero poverty.



## MISSION

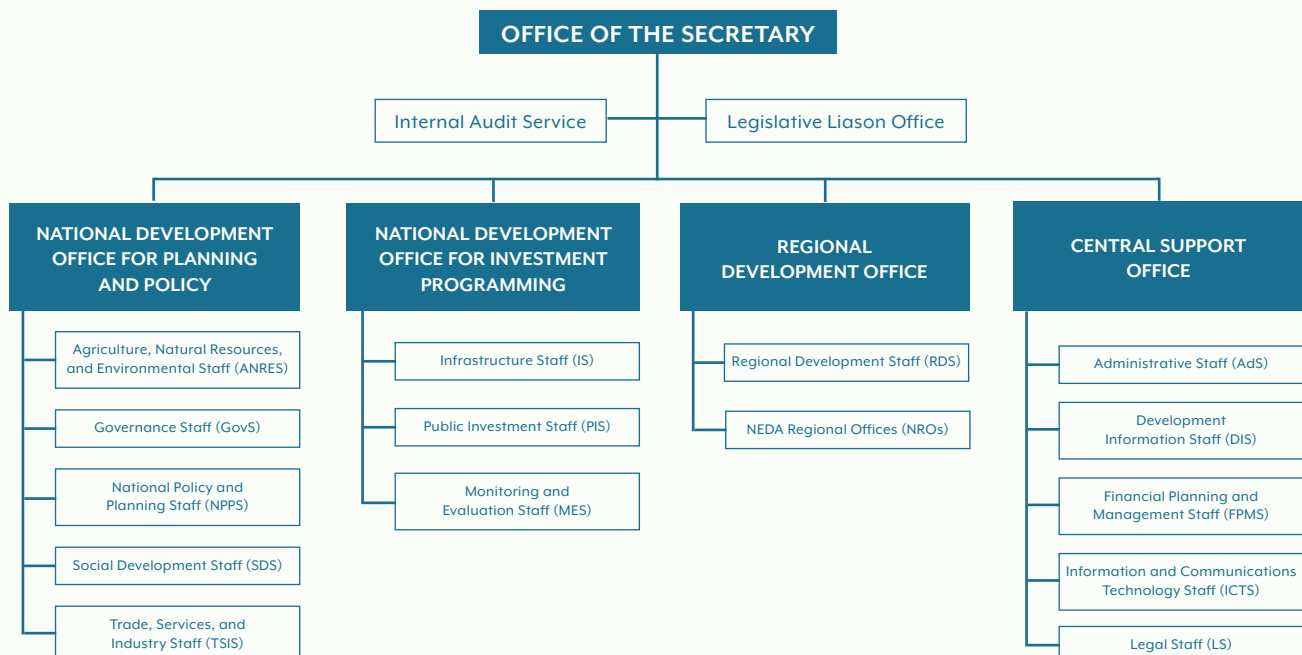
NEDA's mission is to formulate continuing, coordinated, and fully-integrated socioeconomic policies, plans, and programs to enable and empower every Filipino to enjoy a *matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay*.



## CORE VALUES

NEDA's core values are Integrity, Professionalism, and Excellence.

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



## THE NEDA BOARD

On October 20, 2017, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued **Administrative Order (AO) No. 8, s. 2017**, reconstituting the present NEDA Board.

### *Executive Committee*

<b>Rodrigo R. Duterte</b> President of the Philippines <b>CHAIRPERSON</b>			
<b>Ernesto M. Pernia</b> Secretary of Socioeconomic Planning, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) <b>VICE-CHAIRPERSON</b>			
<b>MEMBERS:</b>			
<b>Salvador C. Medialdea</b> Executive Secretary	<b>Leoncio B. Evasco, Jr.</b> Cabinet Secretary, Office of the President	<b>Benjamin E. Diokno</b> Secretary, Department of Budget and Management	<b>Alfonso G. Cusi</b> Secretary, Department of Energy
<b>Carlos G. Dominguez</b> Secretary, Department of Finance	<b>Mark A. Villar</b> Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways	<b>Arthur P. Tugade</b> Secretary, Department of Transportation	<b>Ramon M. Lopez</b> Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry
<b>Abul Khayr D. Alonto</b> Secretary, Mindanano Development Authority		<b>Diwa G. Guinigundo</b> Deputy Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	

Seven (7) interagency committees assist the NEDA Board in the performance of its functions.

### *Interagency Committees*

1. Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC)
2. Infrastructure Committee (InfraCom)
3. Investment Coordination Committee (ICC)
4. Social Development Committee (SDC)
5. Committee on Tariff and Related Matters (CTRM)
6. Regional Development Committee (RDCom)
7. National Land Use Committee (NLUC)



# Secretary's Message

**2018 is a milestone year** for the National Economic and Development Authority as we celebrate our 45th Founding Anniversary. Significantly, if we will trace our roots to the National Economic Council, our predecessor agency which was established in 1935, this would mean that our role in national growth and development has been in place for 83 years. Since then, our influence towards nation building has become more **relevant, responsive, and people-centered**.

At present, the NEDA Secretariat is at the forefront of several campaigns and advocacies for key reforms, paving the way for a higher growth trajectory that fosters sustainability, inclusion, and long-term development. True to our mandate as the country's highest socioeconomic planning and policy-coordinating body, the Agency pursued well-coordinated development initiatives across the bureaucracy to ensure a *matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay para sa lahat*.

Amidst inflationary pressures and prevailing concerns on poverty and inequality, the **Philippine economy sustained its growth of more than 6.0 percent for seven consecutive years**. The gross domestic product (GDP) growth

for 2018 was at 6.2 percent, which is lower than the government's revised target of 6.5-6.9 percent for the year. Nonetheless, we still remain among the top performing countries in Asia, next only to Vietnam (7.1%), and China (6.6%).

Also in 2018, we were able to set in place reforms such as the **Rice Tariffication Bill**, the **Ease of Doing Business Act or RA 11032**, the **Eleventh Regular Foreign Investment Negative List**, and the **National ID Act**, among others. I am confident that the effects of these policies will be felt in the local and national levels as we move towards 2019 and beyond. Likewise, our NEDA Regional Offices (NROs) are working equally hard to accomplish their targets under Regional Development Plans, ensuring that the same are aligned with the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022. Notably, all 17 regions posted positive and upbeat economic growth in 2018.

We are building momentum on the implementation of the Build, Build, Build program with 35 out of the 75 infrastructure flagship projects approved by NEDA ICC and confirmed by the NEDA Board. This program is envisioned to generate an "impressive multiplier effect" – increasing our productive capacity, creating jobs, growing incomes, and strengthening the investment climate leading to sustained and inclusive growth.

As evidenced by our strong commitment towards delivering quality service to the Filipino people, we have achieved our **ISO 9001:2015 Certification** on our Quality Management System (QMS) on the Appraisal of Program/Project Proposals and Facilitation of the Investment Coordination Committee. Likewise, several NROs received their QMS-ISO certifications on their respective core and support processes.

We are approaching the midterm of our Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022. I am confident that despite anticipated and unforeseen challenges, our economy will continue to perform well.

Consequently, our determined efforts and that of our stakeholders are critical in ensuring that we achieve our targets by 2022. From the words of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte during our anniversary dinner, he said that, "Indeed, we have a bright future ahead and I count on NEDA to never waver...in supporting government's medium term and long-term socioeconomic agenda. Always uphold good governance in the civil service as you provide direction to the formulation of our economic policies." For this same reason, let us continue pursuing the need to strengthen our role in development planning and policy coordination.

Looking back at how we have emerged from a small advisory council of eight committees to a national agency of 1,500 hard-working staff, I know that **we will remain true to our mandate, ensuring that the public's interest will always be at the heart of our plans and projects, promoting malasakit, pagbabago, at patuloy na pag-unlad.**

*Mabuhay tayong lahat!*



**ERNESTO M. PERNIA**

*Secretary of Socioeconomic Planning, NEDA*

PART 1 —

## **NEDA'S MAJOR PROGRAMS**

# **One NEDA Through the Years:**



**Promoting Malasakit, Pagbabago,  
at Patuloy na Pag-unlad**



*On January 24, 2018,*

*the National Economic and Development Authority  
celebrated its 45th Founding Anniversary.*



A culminating program was held at the NEDA grounds in Pasig City. One of its highlights was the sharing of experiences and learnings of loyalty awardees and long-serving employees.

Among the guests who graced the event were former NEDA secretaries Cesar Virata and Solita Monsod, Bohol Rep. and House economic affairs committee chair Arthur Yap, National Youth Commission Chair Ice Seguerro, and Ayala Corp's head of public policy Tony Lambino.

During his speech, Secretary Pernia noted how changes have shaped NEDA into what it is today, "While we are celebrating our agency's achievements through the years, today also serves as a reminder of our mandate and the challenges ahead of us."





## President Duterte lauds NEDA's commitment in PH's socioeconomic agenda

On February 6, 2018, the Chief Executive graced the 45th anniversary celebration of the socioeconomic planning body at the NEDA Central Office in Pasig City. During his visit, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte highlighted the crucial role of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) in making the Philippines an upper-middle income economy by 2022.

Apart from recognizing the dedication and commitment of the hardworking men and women of NEDA in shaping the country's socioeconomic agenda in the past four decades, the President added that NEDA will play a crucial role in the medium-term vision of turning the Philippines into an upper-middle income economy by the year 2022.

President Duterte said the vision is "quite ambitious" but expressed optimism at the same time. "I am optimistic that we can achieve this goal because of the professionalism of our NEDA officials and personnel. Your accomplishments in the past year and a half speak a lot about your skill and competence to fulfill your mandate," he added.

President Duterte cited some of the agency's undertakings that uphold the integrity and efficiency of the national development agenda such as the streamlining of guidelines in the processing and approval of flagship projects; the creation of a task force to ensure their timely implementation; and, the integration of 15 Regional Development Plans into the PDP.

"We will build on these gains by boosting development in the regions," he said, adding that the government will create more jobs, improve social services, encourage innovation and connect the country to growth centers by aligning regional plans with the national development agenda.

The President also called on NEDA to ensure that public interest remains at the heart of all government plans, programs and projects.

"With NEDA at the helm, I am confident that we can realize our vision of a prosperous Philippines by working together in laying a solid foundation for a stronger and more resilient nation," he said.



# The NEDA Act of 2018

## *A case for independent medium- and long-term planning*

For the past 45 years, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) has been performing its mandate as the country's premier socioeconomic planning and coordinating body. NEDA's roots, in fact, can be traced way back to 1935 from its predecessor agency, the National Economic Council. As demand for economic and development reforms continues to grow, institutionalizing NEDA as a truly independent socioeconomic planning agency and expanding its current setup becomes more warranted. The need to enlarge this role was affirmed by studies from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and Philippine Institute for Development Studies.

This principle was contemplated and articulated in the 1987 Philippine Constitution. Specifically, Section 9, Article XII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that "the Congress may establish an independent economic and planning agency headed by the President, which shall, after consultations with the appropriate public agencies, various private sectors, and local government units, recommend to Congress, and implement continuing integrated and coordinated programs and policies for national development."

However, it was only thirty-one years after the 1987 Constitution was adopted when a legislation was pushed, as initiated by Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, to allow NEDA to fully perform such functions

contemplated in the Constitution. Senate Bill (SB) No. 1938 or The National Economic and Development Authority Act of 2018 was filed on August 8, 2018. Four counterpart bills were also filed before the House of Representatives between August and November 2018: House Bill (HB) No. 8124 by Bohol (3rd District) Representative Arthur C. Yap, HB No. 8189 by Valenzuela (1st District) Representative Wes Gatchalian, HB No. 8527 by Albay (2nd District) Representative Joey Salceda, and HB 8635 by House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

At this point, the House Committee on Economic Affairs has adopted the version of Senator Arroyo as the substitute bill that will be sponsored by all the authors. This version will institutionalize NEDA as the lead integrator of economic development programs and policies to achieve the following objectives:

- Facilitate planning, collaboration, and coordination among relevant government agencies;
- Improve access to national program information, data, and funding opportunities, support research of world-class economic development practices, and information dissemination efforts;
- Ensure that economic resources are aligned and invested in support of identified and well-defined timely strategies and projects in non-duplicative activities;
- Encourage strategic investments that strengthen competitiveness and foster job creation;
- Promote energy independence, help fight poverty, and build prosperity for the greatest number of Filipinos; and
- Produce transformational economic diversification and workforce development outcomes for the country's long-term sustainable economic future.

### Complementing AmBisyon Natin 2040

Passing the NEDA Act will build more momentum for AmBisyon Natin 2040, the country's long-term vision based on the people's aspirations, which President Rodrigo Roa-Duterte has adopted as a guide for long-term development planning across administrations. Apart from having an empowered economic manager and development leader looking into the significance of plans with long-term impact, the law will institutionalize a "Planning Call" that will ensure a timely and coordinated planning process. The law will also establish a Long-Term Development Plan to ensure the continuity -- across administrations -- of planned policies and programs for national development.

While NEDA had been able to produce competent and note-worthy outputs over the years, the agency's present structure has to expand to allow for more flexibility and efficiency in performing its oversight function. As new developments and changes arise in the aspects of economic planning and governance reform, sustaining crosscutting and long-term initiatives must be secured so that the government's planning, policy-making, programming, and budgeting processes are timely, coordinated, and uninterrupted. Continuity will help shape our vision for 2040.



The NEDA Act "seeks to institutionalize a new and truly independent department that will implement long-term, continuing, integrated, and coordinated programs and policies for national development". It is also emphasized that the NEDA being created under SB 1938 is a "hybrid institution that is different from regular line agencies but also not (at par) with constitutional bodies" and that "(the current)



NEDA has crafted good long-term socio-economic development plans over the past years and yet, most of the plans are only used as reference instead of being implemented."

In accordance with the 1987 Constitution, NEDA shall oversee and ensure the implementation of policies and programs for national development. The agency shall generate and provide "impartial, objective and evidence-based" analyses and recommendations to the President, Congress, and Filipinos in general. The proposed legislation will also enhance decentralization, while strengthening the autonomy of units within the various regions of the country to accelerate their economic and social growth and development.

Former NEDA Directors-General Gerardo P. Sicat and Dante B. Canlas are confident that the passage of the NEDA Act will finally bolster the agency's independence in performing its constitutional mandate of implementing continuing and integrated socioeconomic plans, programs, and policies.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto M. Pernia said the law will not only institutionalize NEDA's independence and strengthen its oversight functions, but will also drive NEDA to greater heights and move the country toward a "self-sustaining and inclusive economic growth that empowers every Filipino to live a *matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay*".



# Socioeconomic Policy and Planning

Under its Socioeconomic Policy and Planning Office, NEDA coordinated the formulation of policies, plans, and programs to set the broad parameters for national, regional, and local development. Specifically, it led the assessment of the country's progress in relation to the targets detailed in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022. It also provided technical and secretariat support services to the NEDA Board and its committees: the Social Development Committee (SDC), Committee on Tariff and Related Matters (CTRM), Regional Development Committee (RDCom), National Land Use Committee (NLUC), and the Regional Development Councils (RDCs).

Overall, NEDA remains committed to the policy reforms spelled out in the PDP 2017-2022, earnestly implementing the needed programs and projects while keeping in mind the goal of a comfortable and secure life for Filipinos and residents in the country.

## **Accomplishments**

The following enumerates the agency's achievements under the Socioeconomic Policy and Planning Program. While the details are non-exhaustive, this report highlights the valuable work made to continue the formulation, updating, and advocacy activities aimed at realizing the country's long-term vision across national, regional, inter-regional and sectoral levels.

### **Evaluation and analysis of development reports, policies, plans, and programs to continue momentum for PDP 2017-2022**

In 2018, more than 1,150 policy papers, technical reports, impact analyses, and recommendations were prepared, reviewed, and submitted by the NEDA Secretariat to a diverse set of stakeholders at the national and regional levels. Furthermore, among its regular functions related to analysis, evaluation, and recommendations, NEDA staff drafted scheduled reports on (a) National Income Accounts; (b) Labor Force Survey; and (c) monthly reports on Consumer Price Index; (d) Merchandise Trade (Imports and Exports); and (e) manufacturing sector performance based on the results of the Monthly Integrated Survey of Selected Industries (MISSI).

Specific impact analyses were also conducted on the topics of inflation, wage hikes, oil prices, the Build, Build, Build program, China-US trade War, Brexit, GDP

forecasting, impact of TRAIN on GDP, implications of a reenacted budget for 2019, the effect of Rice Tariffication on government revenues, inflation and the current account balance, TRABAHO bill, and the Fiscal implication of Federalism.

Pursuant to Section 12 of the Philippine Competition Act, NEDA drafted the Executive Order (EO) of the National Competition Policy to enhance economic efficiency; promote competition in trade, industry, and all commercial economic activities; prevent economic concentration; and penalize all forms of anti-competitive behavior. The EO aims to protect the well-being of consumers while achieving sustained and inclusive economic growth.

Furthermore, NEDA participated and provided technical inputs, particularly on establishing a regulatory management system, to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018. It also coordinated the issuance of EO No. 65, s. 2018 which promulgated the 11th Regular Foreign Investment Negative List (RFINL). These reforms are expected to contribute towards enhancing business competitiveness, lessening the bureaucracy, and reducing opportunities for corruption. Consequently, more foreign businesses will be attracted to invest in the country which translates to more job opportunities for Filipinos.

# Enactment of RA 11203 of 2019 or the Rice Liberalization Act

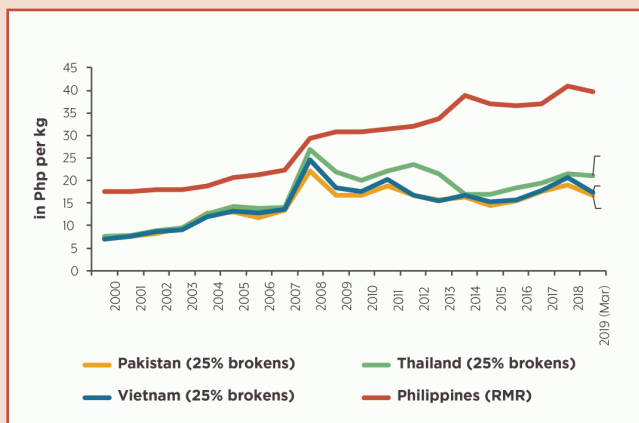
Republic Act No. 11203 or “Act Liberalizing the Importation, Exportation and Trading of Rice, Lifting for the Purpose the Quantitative Import Restriction on Rice and for Other Purposes” was signed into law by the President last February 14, 2019.

As early as August 2016, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) was tasked by the Economic Development Cluster (EDC) to lead the interagency efforts to formulate the executive version of the bill and liaise with Congress to enact it into law.

The Rice Liberalization Act amended the two-decade-old Republic Act (RA) No. 8178, otherwise known as the Agricultural Tariffication Act of 1996, and replaces the quantitative restrictions (QR) on rice imports with tariffs. Hence, the government would no longer control rice trade, and the private sector can now readily participate in the rice market. The new law also removed the conflict of interest in National Food Authority being both a regulator and player in the rice industry by repealing its regulatory powers (e.g. issuance of import permits).

The previous QR regime which restricted rice trade has contributed to persistently high domestic rice prices in the country with Filipinos paying almost twice as much for rice compared to our neighboring countries. To illustrate, in March 2019, the average price of rice in Vietnam was ₱17.4 per kilo and Thailand, ₱21.0 per kilo, compared to the Philippines’ ₱39.8 per kilo.

**Figure 1. Domestic Prices Regular Milled Rice (RMR) vs. International Prices (25% broken) of Rice, Php per kilo**



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) for the domestic prices of RMR, Food and Agriculture Organization for the international prices, and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for the exchange rate

High rice prices hurt the poor the most since their expenditure on rice is about 29 percent of their total food expenditure. High rice prices equally harm the rice farmers at least one third of whom are considered net buyers of the commodity when their harvests are sold to cover other basic household expenses such as medicine and education of their children.

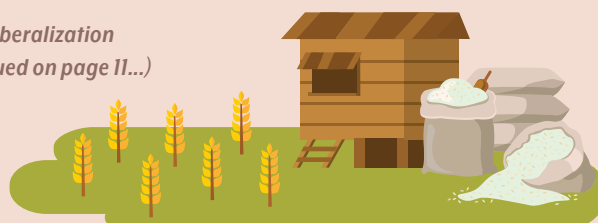
**Table 1. Total Rice Expenditure by Income Decile**

Income Decile	Total Rice Expenditure	Total Food Expenditure	% Share of Rice to Total Food Expenditure
<b>Total</b>	<b>407,356.20</b>	<b>2,045,675.50</b>	
1st decile	21,939.30	77,685.80	28.24%
2nd decile	32,976.70	113,743.10	28.99%
3rd decile	37,710.60	135,216.30	27.89%
4th decile	40,944.80	153,866.00	26.61%
5th decile	42,251.80	172,909.80	24.44%
6th decile	43,545.20	195,754.80	22.24%
7th decile	44,866.50	225,504.50	19.90%
8th decile	46,153.80	259,614.80	17.78%
9th decile	47,675.00	301,708.60	15.80%
10th decile	49,292.50	409,671.80	12.03%

NEDA Estimates using 2015 Family Income Expenditure Survey Public Used Files from PSA

The new law is part of the priority legislative agenda in the agriculture chapter of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 and is crucial in the government's efforts to lower and stabilize food prices and overall inflation rate. It aims not only to fulfill the country's international commitment when the Philippines joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995 to impose tariffs on rice, but more importantly, help the country achieve greater food security that would benefit consumers, producers, traders, and the Philippine economy in general.

(Rice Liberalization  
continued on page 11...)



*(Rice Liberalization from page 10...)*

1. **Consumers:** greater access to the staple with more supply at relatively lower price.
2. **Producers:** protection from the 35 percent or more tariff on rice imports; more funds to develop further the rice industry; and greater opportunity to earn money from exporting special variety of rice.
3. **Traders:** greater participation in the rice trading and marketing with reduced government intervention.
4. **Economy:** lower inflation and a more effective and efficient domestic rice market.

The new law further provides for the establishment of a rice competitiveness enhancement fund (RCEF) to support rice farmers and enhance their competitiveness. The RCEF will be used for farm machineries and equipment to improve farm mechanization; rice seed development, propagation and promotion; expanded rice credit; and extension services.

Safety nets are also in place as the new law grants the President emergency power to increase, reduce, or adjust existing tariff rates to safeguard Filipino farmers. The said law also provides the imposition of a special safeguard duty on rice in case of extreme or sudden price fluctuations in accordance with Republic Act 8800 or the Safeguard Measures Act.

After the legislative measure's enactment into law, the NEDA was again tasked to lead the drafting of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). The IRR provides the details on the effective rollout of the new law liberalizing the importation, exportation, and trading of rice, as well as ensuring support and safety nets for rice farmers. The IRR was issued and signed by the NEDA, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Budget and Management on April 5, 2019.



## Enhancing sustainability through culture and values, ecological integrity, and a clean and healthy environment

NEDA commissioned the National Values Survey in 2018. The survey will play a key role in defining future policies and plans towards creating a high-trust society in the Philippines. The survey results will help create the Philippine Dimensional Model on Cultural Values, which will aid in the monitoring and evaluation of the government's progress in terms of values formation towards realizing AmBisyon Natin 2040.

True to their commitment to address the impact of climate change, NEDA officials, led by Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto M. Pernia, NEDA Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries, Regional Directors, and various staff signed the Declaration on Climate Change. It is a call to action for the present generation to live sustainably and help reduce the detrimental effects of climate change, so as not to jeopardize the needs of future generations.

"It will also provide the much needed framework that will guide and enable NEDA to implement concrete actions that ensure the protection and conservation of our environment and natural resources," Secretary Pernia said.

To facilitate a more coherent and effective implementation of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in the country, NEDA, with support from Asian Development Bank (ADB), spearheaded the formulation of the Philippine SCP Action Plan. The Plan intends to identify concrete strategies and key interventions/transformational reforms to advance the implementation of initiatives towards:

- a. resource conservation and efficiency;
  - b. waste and chemicals management, among others; and
  - c. sustainable business and lifestyles.
- It will also provide a guiding framework for implementing more cohesive SCP actions.

The Agency also spearheaded the Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC) Mining Review. As MICC secretariat, NEDA facilitated the development of the review's terms of reference, as well as convening multi-stakeholder representatives to present and approve the council's output, while identifying necessary interventions to effectively address existing mining issues and concerns of the 27 surface metallic mining operations. The council review also made recommendations on policy measures to improve mining management and regulations.

Alongside its contribution towards effective environmental management, NEDA provided technical support to the SubCommittee on Water Resources (SCWR) by reviewing water-related policies. In 2018, four meetings were held and 22 water-related policies, projects and programs were reviewed and discussed in the SCWR.

## Rebuilding, connecting communities, and providing better opportunities and linkages in urban and rural areas

NEDA was designated as lead agency of Task Force Bangon Marawi through Memorandum Circular No.4, series of 2017. NEDA coordinated the formulation of Bangon Marawi Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Recovery Program (BMCRRP). Among the activities were:

- programming workshop with member agencies of the Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM);
- strategic planning workshop of the TFBM Planning Sub-Committees;
- vetting workshop on the finalization of list of priority programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) for 2018-2022 BMCRRP; and
- consultation meeting with stakeholders on the draft BMCRRP.

As vice chair for Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery of the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Councils, the NEDA Regional Offices provided technical assistance in the formulation of Post Disaster Needs Assessment and Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan. The Offices also spearheaded the preparation of macroeconomic analyses used in post-disaster needs assessment for past disasters such as typhoons that hit the country in the previous years such as Niña, Urduja, Nando in 2017 and typhoons Ompong, Usman, Paeng in 2018.

## Pursuing the Research and Development (R&D) Agenda 2018-2022

In December 2018, the NEDA has co-published the book entitled "The Future of Philippine Agriculture Under a Changing Climate: Policies, Investments and Scenarios", which addresses the challenges in agriculture posed by climate change and provides recommended policies to enhance the adaptive capacity of the agriculture sector. The book uses newly generated data, modeling outputs, and innovative analyses to provide a scientific basis for adaptation measures under different sets of climate change scenarios.

Meanwhile, under the Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2017-2022 and the National Harmonized R&D Agenda, the NROs spearheaded the conduct of workshops to formulate the R&D Agenda in support of regional priorities. The Agenda is the consolidated list of proposed R&D programs, projects and activities (PPAs) of national government agencies, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), and research consortia in the regions that will guide the implementation of researches and related activities in the next five years. These programs are also responsive to issues and concerns raised in the RDP 2017-2022.





# With Boracay Action Plan, island pulses with new life

April 26, 2018 was the D-day for tourists bound for Boracay, the locals who relied on them for their livelihood, and the businesses – both legitimate and illegal -- that thrived for decades making profit from what was once a rustic paradise of clear blue waters and powdery white sand. It was that day when President Rodrigo R. Duterte ordered the closure of the island he described as a cesspool, upset over a video that showed dirty sewage being piped to sea.

The President's Proclamation No. 475 declared Barangays Balabag, Manoc-Manoc and Yapak in Boracay Island under a state of calamity, effectively mobilizing funds to save one of the Philippines' most famous beaches from environmental damage and breath into it new life. The closure was temporary: six months, during which illegal structures were dismantled; establishments within the 25 plus five meter easements, demolished; hotels without permits, padlocked, and; unregistered tricycles, motorbikes and sailboats, moved elsewhere.

Beach patrol teams policed the coastline of this tiny island that is just 10 square kilometers in size, deterring vendors and masseuses who were relocated or offered alternative livelihood. Roads were widened, walkways and improved drainages were put in place, while the life of a number of wetlands was restored.

By October 25, 2018, a pristine Boracay island reopened to tourists, although their number was kept at bay within the island's carrying capacity as authorities fine-tune a plan to improve the sustainability of the island's ecosystem and marine life. The initial intervention and clean-up took a semester, but avoiding a repeat of environmental breaches and neglect would be a continuing effort anchored on a solid plan.

The plan to sustain the gains from the rehabilitation of the island is called the Medium-Term Boracay Action Plan 2018-2022. It was crafted by the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) set in motion by Executive Order No. 53, series of 2018, signed by the President on May 8, 2018. The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), through its Regional Development Office took the lead in writing it. In formulating the Boracay Action Plan, NEDA took into account the fact that tourism in Boracay island is vital, not just to the local and regional economy, but to the national economy.



But the NEDA also knew that the viability of tourism rests significantly on the island's natural environment and its carrying capacity, both of which have been put under great pressure for decades from the growing number of foreign and domestic visitors in the island. The NEDA also was cognizant of the need to correct "the unequal distribution of the net benefits from the development of Boracay that such benefits must increasingly accrue to the host communities, including the Ati," the document reads.

The vision for Boracay is for the island to become "a secure and globally competitive world-class tourism destination with a vibrant, productive and climate-resilient economy that is geared toward inclusive growth and anchored on the sustainable development of its innate natural resources."



The outcomes that the task force wants to see are four-pronged and further detailed in the discussion of thematic areas:

- environmental laws, wastewater guidelines and other regulations are enforced and both residents and tourists follow them;
- people and stakeholders are empowered through "attitudinal change" and education about pollution control and prevention, while monitoring mechanisms are in place;
- the island's terrestrial ecosystem, wetlands, caves, and coastal and marine resources are efficiently managed, sustainably developed and carefully monitored, and;



- infrastructure like roads, ports, power, water supply and other infrastructure facilities are reliable, while health and housing as well as livelihood and tourism programs are established for sustainable communities.

The NEDA-led proposal put the total investment cost of Boracay's rehabilitation at ₱25.26 billion broken down as follows: ₱7.22 billion in public investment, while private companies could be tapped for another ₱15.89 billion, and ₱2.15 billion would be co-financed by the local government and private sector. Public investment will mainly be sourced from agency regular budgets and nearly half of that will bankroll the construction of infrastructure facilities.

Pollution control and prevention accounts for 28 percent of the public investment cost, while the rest of the budget will be used for the enforcement of laws, rehabilitation of ecosystems, provision of social services and sustaining tourism and livelihood. Private sector participation will largely be related to water supply and sewerage development works, according to the Boracay Action Plan.

The NEDA presented this Boracay medium-term blueprint before the Task Force on September 28, 2018, as adopted through BIATF Resolution No. 2018-16.

Sustainable tourism must be the mindset of all, as hotels are accredited and are back in business, and tourists start flocking to Boracay. Meanwhile, other equally stunning natural attractions in the country may be explored, avoiding the pitfalls that Boracay experienced in the past.

# 2018 List of Policies Programs Strategies Position Papers Draft Bills and Proposals

## Macroeconomy and Finance

- Rice Tariffication Bill
- Public Service Act
- National Security Strategy
- Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) Modernization Program
- Senate Bill (SB) 958: Amending Sections 32 and 151 of the National Internal Revenue Code (RA 8424), Exempting Small Scale Miners from Paying Excise and Income Taxes on their Sale of Gold to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
- SB 178 / House Bill (HB) 5000: An Act Providing for the Regulation and Supervision of Payment Systems
- HB 8026: Amendment to Personal Equity and Retirement Account (PERA) Law
- HB 7305: An Act Abolishing the Philippine Aerospace Development Corporation
- Substitute Bill to the Corporation Code
- House Resolution (HR) 2249: Urging the National Government to Expeditiously Address the Rapid Spikes on Inflation
- Impact analysis on the Proposed Light Rail Transit 1 Fare Hike
- Impact analysis on Public Utility Jeepneys (PUJs) and Buses (PUBs) Fare Hikes
- Impact Analysis of Fuel Excise Tax on Transportation Fare
- Impact assessment on the Budget Reenactment
- NEDA's Position on Federalism
- NEDA position on Fiscal and Monetary Policies of the State
- Draft SB 1738 and HB 6221: An Act Establishing the Philippine Identification System
- Draft inputs on the Formulation of Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Budget Reform Bill
- Draft paper on Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

## Regional Development

- Republic Act 6734: An Act Providing for an Organic Act for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and for Other Purposes
- SB 1646: An Act Providing for the Basic Law for the Bangsamoro and Abolishing the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Repealing for the Purpose Republic Act No. 9054
- SB 1756: An Act Creating the Boracay Island Council

- SB 1761: An Act Developing Davao Gulf and Its Surrounding Areas, Creating for the Purpose the Davao Gulf Development Authority with the Davao Gulf Special Economic Freeport Zone and the Island Garden City of Samal as an Ecotourism Zone under its Jurisdiction, Prescribing its Powers and Functions, and Appropriating Funds Therefor
- SB 1770: An Act to Enhance Public Financial Management in Local Government Units by Amending Certain Provisions in Republic Act 7160
- SB 481: An Act Promoting Transparency in Government by Establishing a Local Government Finance Website
- SB 1692: An Act Creating the Baguio City, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba and Tublay Development Authority (BLISTTDA)
- SB 1672: An Act Creating the Metro Bataan Development Authority, Defining its Powers and Functions, Providing Funds Therefor and for Other Purposes
- SB 939: An Act Strengthening the Laguna Lake Development Authority
- SBs on the Creation/Establishment of the Lake Lanao Development Authority
- HB 6339: Davao Gulf Development Authority
- HB 7209: An Act Creating the Siargao Development Authority, prescribing its Powers, Functions and Duties, Providing Funds Thereof, and for Other Purposes
- HB 201: An Act Providing Funds for the Coastal Management Development Programs of Coastal Cities and Municipalities with the Aim of Enhancing, Rehabilitating and Improving the Country's Coastal Marine Resources
- HB 1555: An Act Revising the Charter of the City of Baguio Repealing for the Purpose Charter 61, Act No. 2711, Otherwise Known as the Revised Administrative Code of 1917 As Amended
- HB 7464: An Act Establishing the Cordillera State Institute of Technical Education (CSITE)
- HB 7236: An Act Creating the Metro Bataan Development Authority, Defining its Powers and Functions, and Providing Funds Therefor
- HB 8200: An Act Providing for Compensation for Loss or Destruction of Properties in Marawi City During the 2017 Siege of Marawi Appropriating Funds Therefor and for Other Purposes
- HB 6525: Establishing a Special Defense Economic Zone inside the Government Arsenal
- HB 7919: Amending RA 7922 or the Cagayan Special Economic Zone Act of 1005, on amending RA 7922 or the Cagayan Special Economic Zone Act of 1005
- HB 8200: An Act Providing for Compensation for Loss or Destruction of Properties in Marawi City during the 2017 Siege of Marawi Appropriating Funds Therefor and for other purposes
- HB 5088: An Act Providing for the Creation of the Central Luzon River Control System Commission covering the Provinces of Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales and Appropriating Funds Therefor
- HB 5034: Placer Economic Zone
- HB 6475: Bangsamoro Basic Law
- HB 923: Enjoining all the RDCs to provide Parallel Support
- HR 1120: Relocating the National Government Centers to General Nakar
- HR 482 (S. 2018): Requesting the Office of the President through the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Special Concerns, to Facilitate the Reallocation of the Yolanda Funds Reverted to the National Treasury
- RDC-Mindanao Area Committee Resolution 6 (S. 2018): Supporting the Institutionalization of the Local Government Unit Income Classification, Pushing for this Purpose, the Passage of SB 234
- Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) Advisory on the Productivity-Based Incentive Scheme for Establishments Engaged in Agribusiness, Wholesale and Retail trade, and Hotels and Restaurants in Region II
- RTWPB Wage Order Providing for New Minimum Wage Rates of Workers in the Private Sector and Domestic Workers (Kasambahay) in Region II
- Province of Samar PDRRMC Resolution 2 (S 2018): Endorsing to the RDC VIII for Engineering Intervention on the Perennial Flooding, Landslide and Road Slip along Catbalogan-Tacloban Maharlika Highway Section
- RDC II Resolution 02-08-2018: Proper Delineation and Collaboration of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Philippine Army relative to the, Requesting the National Peace and Order Council to Cause Amendment of the Provision of EO No. 773, Defining the Composition of the Barangay Peace and Order Committee to Include the Philippine Army, Amended to Correct the Legal Basis as EO 366
- RDC II Resolution 02-03-2018: "Supporting the Utilization of Provincial/City Commodity Investment Plans Under the Philippine Rural Development Plan"
- RDC II Resolution 02-14-2018: "Endorsing the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan -Cagayan Valley Roadmap
- RDC II Resolution 02-20-2018: "Recognizing and Endorsing the Cagayan Valley Food Safety Team and its Advocacies to the Local Government Units for Support and Implementation
- RDC II Resolution 02-23-2018: Supporting the Institutionalization of the Local Government Unit Income Classification Pushing For this Purpose, the Passage of SB No. 234 and HB No. 923
- Conflict Sensitive Resource and Asset Management-Phase II in Davao City
- Updates on the Re-opening of Boracay Island to Tourists
- Guidelines on the Assessment of Comprehensive Development Plans of National Capital Region LGUs and Highly Urbanized and Independent Component Cities
- Adoption of DA-DAR-DENR-DILG Joint Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2015, entitled Strengthening the Implementation Framework for the DAR-DA-DENR National Convergence Initiative-Sustainable Rural Development (NCI-SRD), and Activation of its Regional Level Organization Structure

- Impact Analysis of North Luzon Expressway Toll Fee Hike
- Proposed Fare Increase of PUJs Operating in the City and Province of Iloilo, Bacolod City and Negros Occidental
- NEDA Position on unnumbered Bill: An Act Creating the Regional Investment and Infrastructure Coordinating Hub (RICH) of Central Luzon and Providing Funds therefor
- Calabarzon Information and Communications (ICT) Technology Plan
- Draft Bill on Department of Peace
- Draft Executive Order (EO) Creating the Mindanao Barter Trade Office (MBTO)
- Draft Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) on the Policy Guidelines on the Receipt, Management, Utilization, Accounting, Monitoring, and Reporting of Domestic and Foreign Humanitarian Assistance for the Recovery, Reconstruction, and Rehabilitation of the City of Marawi and other Affected Localities
- Common Draft on the Comprehensive Agreement on Socioeconomic Reforms (CASER) on the Peace Process with the Communist Party of the Philippines, New People's Army, National Democratic Front of the Philippines (CPP-NPA-NDFP)
- Endorsement on the Build Back Better (BBB) Monitoring Tool/Checklist for Adoption in the Monitoring of Vertical Infrastructure Projects and Incorporation in the Monitoring Mechanisms of DPWH VIII and Other Concerned Agencies
- Paper enjoining LGUs in the Region to Include Cultural Mapping in their Local Development Investment Programs
- Endorsement on the Eastern Visayas Peace and Prosperity Roadmap, Endorsing the Preparation of the Local Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security
- Endorsement on the Request of the City Government of Tacloban to the Office of the President to Fast Track the Implementation of the Tacloban North Water Supply Project through Downloading of Funds to Tacloban City Government/ Leyte Metropolitan Water District
- Endorsement on the Establishment of an Eastern Visayas Center for Earthquake and Typhoon-Resilient Engineering Materials and Structure for Submission to DOST-NICER Program and Other External Funding Agencies
- Endorsement on the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) the approval of the Ormoc City Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) 2017-2021 and Zoning Ordinance
- Framework Plan on San Pedro Bay Leyte Gulf Basin (SPBLGB)– Climate Change Commission (CCC)
- Review of Capacity Development for the Bangsamoro as submitted by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)
- Knowledge and Support Technical Assistance (KSTA) 9492-PHI: Islamic Finance for the Philippines, on the Proposed Technical Assistance on Islamic Finance in the Philippines

## **Agriculture**

- Coco Levy Bill
- SBs 144 and 1344: Philippine Native Animal Development Act
- SB 332: Anti- Rice or Corn Hoarding and Profiteering Act
- HB 7735: Revised Agricultural Tariffication Act
- HB 7425: An Act Amending Section 6 of Republic Act No. 6657, As Amended, Otherwise Known As The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988;
- HB 1719: An Act to Institutionalize Microcredit Financing, Amending for this Purpose RA 3844
- HBs 1043, 4013, 5412, 6042, 6460, and 6566: Amendment/ Repeal of Republic Act 10068 or the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010
- HBs 1173, 4266, and 4588: Land Administration Reform Bills
- HBs 2837, 6559, 6745: Sagip Saka Act of 2016;
- HBs 3908, 4173, 6555, and 6954: Malunggay Industry Development Act
- HB 779: An Act Granting All Qualified Farmers and Fishermen Discount on Petroleum Products and For Other Purposes
- HB on Amending RA 9211: Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003
- HB 5249: National Land Use Management Act of the Philippines or NaLUMA
- Consolidated Senate Bill and House Bill: An Act Providing Free Irrigation Service Amending for The Purpose Republic Act No. 3601, As Amended, Appropriating Funds Therefor and For Other Purposes
- Farmers'/Farmworkers' Housing Program: A Department of Agrarian Reform's (DAR) Program with a FACE
- Substitute Bill on Comprehensive Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes Management
- Draft Mining Forest Program Memorandum for the President (MFP) on the Findings and Recommendations on Department of Environment and Natural Resources Administrative Order (DENR) (DAO) 2017-10 "Banning the Open Pit Method of Mining for Copper, Gold, Silver and Complex Ores in the Country
- Draft Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA10915: Philippine Agri and Biosystems Engineering Act of 2016
- Draft roadmap on Developing a Risk Informed Shock Responsive Social Protection (RISRSP) System in the Philippines
- Proposed Executive Order on the Distribution of Idle Government Lands to Qualified Beneficiaries
- Proposed Development of the Palm Oil Industry

## **Governance**

- SB No. 1311: An Act Amending RA 91485 otherwise known as the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007, Creating for the Purpose the Business Anti-Red Tape and Competitiveness Bureau, and for other Purposes
- SB 688: Bid Data Act

- SB 481: An Act Promoting Transparency in Government by Establishing a Local Government Finance Website
- SBs 312 and 1411 for the creation of the Benham Rise Development Authority
- HB 7198: An Act to Strengthen Nation-Building through the Institutionalization of a Strategic Volunteerism-Based Multisectoral Public-Private Partnership Framework in all Local Government Units and Congressional Districts in the Country
- HB 7407: An Act Strengthening the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), Abolishing the Civil Aeronautics Boards (CAB) and for Other Purposes
- HB 6579: An Act Establishing a National Policy on Ease of Doing Business, Creating for the Purpose the Ease of Doing Business Commission, and for other purposes
- HBs establishing and Institutionalizing the Seal of Good Local Governance for LGUs
- HB 1418: An Act Creating the Metro Bataan Development Authority Defining Its Powers and Functions, Providing Funds Therefore and for Other Purposes
- HB 7139: An Act Creating the Regional Investment and Infrastructure Corporation of Central Luzon Investment to Administer the Central Luzon Investment Corridor and for Other Purposes
- HB 7380: An Act Creating the Luzon Investment Corridor and the Regional Investment and Infrastructure Development Council and for Other Purposes,
- HB 7381: An Act Creating the Regional Investment and Infrastructure Corporation of Central Luzon to Facilitate the Creation
- HB 7428: An Act Amending Republic Act No. 2640, otherwise known as 'An Act to Create a Public Corporation to be Known as the Veterans Federation of the Philippines, Defining its Power, and for Other Purposes
- IRR of RA 11055: The Philippine Identification System Act
- Amendment to Executive Order 24 s. 2017 Creating an OFW Cabinet Cluster and including the Climate Change Commission as regular member for the Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Cluster and including DENR as a member of the Infrastructure Cluster
- HR 1120: Possible relocation of the national government to General Nakar, Quezon
- RDC Resolution No. 59, series of 2018: Establishing of the Department of Culture including related draft legislations: SB 1528 and HB 6113
- Proposal Paper on Federalism
- Draft SB 1738 and HB 6221: An Act Establishing the Philippine Identification System
- Draft Executive Order on the Reorganization of the Cabinet Cluster System
- Draft Executive Order on the National Competition Policy
- HB 4922: An Act Requiring the Implementation by Brand Owners of Management Plans that Provide Refund Values for Certain Beverage Containers
- SB 398: Directing the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to Conduct an Inquiry, in Aid of Legislation, on the Strategies and Measures Being Undertaken by the Concerned Government Agencies under the Writ of Continuing Mandamus issued by the Supreme Court
- Natural Capital Accounting Institutionalization Roadmap Green Growth Planning Toolkit and Training Modules
- Global Environmental Facility Social and Environmental Safeguards Policy
- Issue Paper on the 1 Centavo Share Financial Benefit under DOE Energy Regulation 1-94
- Draft House Bill creating the Department of Disaster Resilience
- G77 and China Draft Resolution Under Agenda No. 21: Effective Global Response to Address the Impacts of El Nino Phenomenon
- Draft revised Guidelines on Accreditation, Mobilization and Protection of Community Disaster Volunteers
- Draft Review Report on the Coral Triangle Initiative Regional Plan of Action
- Draft Mining Forest Program (MFP) on the Findings and Recommendations on DENR Administrative Order 2017-10 Banning the Open Pit Method of Mining for Copper, Gold, Silver and Complex Ores in the Country
- Draft Inception Report on the Formulation of the Integrated River Basin Management and Development Master Plan
- Proposal to Include Carrying Capacity Analysis in the Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs) and Tourism Plans

### **Environment and Natural Resources**

- National Land Use Act
- SB 144 / HB 6772: An Act Declaring Protected Areas and Providing for their Management, Amending for this Purpose Republic Act 7586, Otherwise Known as the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992
- National Environmental Health Action Plan (NEHAP) 2017-2022
- HB 1173, 4266 and 4588: Land Administration and Reform House Bills
- HB 5672: Integrated Coastal Management Act
- HB 201: Coastal Areas Rehabilitation and Improvement Act (transfer this to ENR section from Regional Development Section)
- HB 2969: Coastal Climate Change Adaptation Program

## **Trade and Industry**

- Philippine Export Development Plan 2018-2022
- Foreign Investment Act
- Retail Trade Act
- SB 2012 Amending RA 7042 (Foreign Investments Act of 1991) as Amended by RA 8179
- HB 7229: An Act Integrating and Establishing Pertinent Policies and Regulations to Ensure the Sustainability of the Philippine Tourism Industry
- HB 4595: Amending the Retail Trade Liberalization Act
- Senate Resolution 73: Directing the Senate Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship and other Appropriate Committee/s to Conduct an Omnibus Study and Eventual Updating, In aid of Legislation of the Present Foreign Investment Act (RA No 7042, as Amended) Considering the Continuing Emerging Global Trends in Development with the Intention of Making the Philippines a Haven for Investments and a Place for Operation for Multinational Companies
- Revisions on the Draft Regular Foreign Investment Negative List (RFINL) until the Signing of Executive Order 65 and Annex on the List of Investment Areas/Activities where Limited Foreign Participation is Proposed for Lifting or Easing.
- Proposed Amendment to EO 482 Creating the National Single Window

## **Social Development**

- Pantawid Pasada Program
- Social Welfare Benefits of TRAIN Law
- Republic Act 11037 or the “Masustansyang Pagkain Para Sa Batang Pilipino Act”
- SB 2022 and HB 7118: Philippine Commission on Children Act of 2018
- SB 1896: under Senate Committee Report No. 401: An Act Establishing Universal Health Care for All Filipinos
- SB 1474 and 1543: Special Protection of Children in Situation of Armed Conflict Act
- HB 115: Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCA) Act of 2016
- HB 4254: Annual Research Competition Among Colleges and Universities
- HBs 5608 and 1707: Creating an Advance Studies and Development Program for Exceptional Employees from the Government and Private Sectors
- HBs 242, 4362, and 6970: Bill of Rights for New Graduates
- HBs 658, 2103, 4509, and 3104: Magna Carta of Students
- HBs 6778, 5819, 5820, 5831, 6003, 6045, 6068, 6071, and 6325: Establishment of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) training centers
- HB 4886: Establishing a United Housing and Urban Development Fund and Centralized Home Financing Program
- HBs 7372, 7747 and 8184: Proposing of a Rental Subsidy Program for Informal Settler Families
- HB 6572 and SB 1456: An Act Institutionalizing the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF), Establishing the PQF National Coordinating Council (PQF-NCC) and Appropriating Funds Therefore
- Strengthening Human Resources in the Public Sector
- HB 3398: An Act Amending RA No. 8972, otherwise known as the Solo Parent's Welfare Act of 2000
- HB 1071: An Act Granting Additional Benefits and Privileges to Senior Citizens, further amending RA No. 9994 or the Expanded Senior Citizen's Act of 2010
- HBs 254, 255, 291, 608, 882, 1335, 1414, and 2326: Organ Donation
- HB 6595: Civil Partnership Act
- HBs 2881 and 6041: “Juniors Citizens Act”
- HBs 4722, 5630, 5779, 5841, 5843 and 6322: Measures Seeking to Encourage Telecommuting as Alternative Working Arrangement”
- HB 6285: An Act declaring January 18 as Araw ng Kasambahay
- HB 7198: An Act to Strengthen Nation Building through the Institutionalization of a Strategic Volunteerism-Based Multisectoral Public-Private Partnership Framework in all LGUs and Congressional Districts in the Country and for Other Purposes
- Substitute HB and SB Counterparts on the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Institutionalization
- IRR of the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF)
- IRR on the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act (RA 10931)
- NEDA position on HBs 6525 and 7383: Establishing the Philippine Higher Education Career System and for Other Purposes
- National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) Resolution No.1 series of 2018: Supporting the Petition of the NAPC Senior Citizen Council for President Duterte to Issue an Executive Order (EO) for the Immediate Implementation of the One Thousand Pesos Second Tranche of the Social Security System (SSS) Pension Increase Approved in January 2017
- Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) Policy Research Agenda (2018-2022)
- Final Report on Assessment Based National Dialogue on Social Protection
- Policy regulating Prices of Medicines (Drug price Regulatory Board), Services, and Fees
- Implementation of Republic Act (RA) 9418: Volunteer Act of 2007
- Roll-out of Primary Care Benefits under the National Health Insurance
- Price Ceiling for Vertical and Horizontal Socialized Housing Project
- DepEd's Nutrition-Specific Program in support of the PPAN 2017-2022
- National Technical Education and Skills Development Plan (NTESDP) 2017-2022



- National Livelihood Framework
- National Environmental Health Action Plan (NEHAP) 2017-2022
- PhilHealth's No Balance Billing (NBB)
- National Unified Health Research Agenda (NUHRA) 2017-2022
- 39th Session of the Human Rights Council: Measures taken by States to Reduce Inequalities
- Human Resource Development (HRD) Roadmaps
- Philippine Population Management Program
- National Resettlement Policy Framework
- Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)
- Post Disaster Shelter Recovery Policy Framework
- Governance Framework for the IT-BPM Subsector
- Impact Assessment of the National Shelter Program (NSP) Study
- Health Impact Assessment
- Philippine Talent Map Initiative
- Human Capital Project Report on the Philippines
- Improving Health Insurance Data Analytics in East Asia
- Initiative to link Human Rights and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Joint Staff Working Document of the European Commission: European Union Special Incentive Arrangement for Sustainable Development and Good Governance (EU-GSP+) Assessment of the Philippines covering the period of 2016-2017
- Guidelines for the Preparation of the Gender and Development (GAD) Agenda
- Guidelines for Assessing Applicants to the DOST Science and Technology Scholarships (RA 7687)
- Guidelines on Senior High School (SHS) Work Immersion
- Guidelines on Random Drug Testing in Public and Private Secondary Schools
- HR 1511: NHA Unpaid Loan Amortizations
- Proposed Institutionalization of the Community-Driven Development (CDD) Successor Program
- Proposed Security of Tenure Act
- Proposed Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy Act
- Proposed Bill on Civil Registration
- Proposed HB on the Establishment of the Disability Development Support Fund
- Proposed Creation of the Mindanao Presidential Task Force for Indigenous Peoples Peace and Development
- Proposed Ratification of the International Labor Organization Convention No. 169 (Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention)
- Proposed Higher Education Strategic Plan 2019-2022
- Proposal on Setting Up a Presidential Arm for Family Planning to the Support the Commission on Population to Reap the Economic Gains from More Intensified Implementation of RA 10354 (RPRH LAW)
- Proposed Creation of Substance Use Disorder Prevention and Management Bureau
- Enjoining All Government Instrumentalities to Adopt and Support the Bantay-Kaagapay Program of the DILG
- Report on the Early Childhood Care and Development in the First 1000 Days (ECCD FIK) Program

- Report on the creation of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development
- Report on the Implementation of Senior High School
- Report on the Situation of Rural Women
- Study on the Internationalization of Philippine Higher Education
- Study on Senior High School and the Labor Market
- Study on the Situation of Children with Disabilities in the Philippines

## **Infrastructure**

- SB 688: Big Data Act
- SB 1465 and HB 5670: An Act Providing Free Irrigation Service, Amending for the Purpose RA no. 3601 as Amended, Appropriating Funds Therefor and For Other Purposes
- SBs Concerning the Creation/Establishment of the Lake Lanao Development Authority
- HB 2122: An Act Establishing the National Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Development Authority (NRRDA) as the Central Planning and Implementing Agency on the Early Recovery and Rehabilitation of Disaster-Stricken Areas in the Philippines, Provide Funds therefore, and for Other Purposes
- HB 4269: An Act Ordaining the Development of the Downstream Natural Gas Industry, Consolidating for the Purpose of Laws
- HB 6505: An Act Instituting a New Water Code, amending for the purpose, PD No. 1067, otherwise known as the Water Code of the Philippines and for other Purposes
- HB 5088: An Act Providing for the Creation of the Central Luzon River System Commission covering the Provinces of Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales, and Appropriating Funds Therefor
- HB 7407: An Act Strengthening the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) Abolishing the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB), and Transferring its Functions to the CAAP and For Other Purposes
- HR 1120: Relocating the National Government Centers to General Nakar, Quezon and Construction of Circumferential Road
- Philippines-Germany Maritime Shipping Agreement
- Paranaque City Reclamation Project
- Reclamation projects in Manila Bay
- Solar and Wind Hybrid Micro-Grid Projects in Missionary Areas
- Draft EO on the Institutionalization of the Pasig Ferry Convergence Program and Creation of an Inter-Agency Committee
- Proposed Improvement of the Philippine National Railways in Metro Manila and Neighboring Provinces
- Draft IRR of the National Transport Policy (NTP)
- Proposed Masterplan for Philippine China Cooperation in Infrastructure Area Proposed Amendments to RA 6957, as Amended by RA 7718, Otherwise Known as the Philippine Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Law
- Amendments to the IRR of Executive Order (EO) 146

## 2018 NEDA Board Approved Projects



Project Title	Proponent Agency	Total Project Cost and/or Additional Cost (in PhP M)	Funding Source
<b>New Projects</b>			
Rural Agro-Enterprise Partnership for Inclusive Development and Growth (RAPID Growth) Project / DTI	Department of Trade and Industry	4,781.30	ODA-IFAD
Bridge Construction and Acceleration Project for Socioeconomic Development	Department of Public Works and Highways	11,369.10	ODA-Austria
Safe Philippines Project, Phase I	Department of Interior and Local Government	20,313.92	ODA-China
Subic-Clark Railway Project	Bases Conversion Development Authority and Department of Transportation	50,031.00	ODA-China
Ambal-Simuay River and Rio Grande de Mindanao River Flood Control and River Bank Protection Project	Department of Public Works and Highways	39,196.00	ODA-China
Unsolicited Proposal on the Bulacan International Airport	Department of Transportation	735,634.00	PPP
Davao Food Complex Joint Venture Project	National Development Company	1,086.17	PPP JV
Clark International Airport (CIA) Expansion Project - Operations and Maintenance PPP Concession	BCDA	5,612.41	PPP
Pasig-Marikina River and Manggahan Floodway Bridges Construction Project	DPWH	27,380.00	ODA-China
Metro Rail Transit (MRT) Line 3 Rehabilitation Project	DOTr	21,965.65	ODA-JICA
Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project Phase IV	Department of Public Works and Highways	33,097.58	ODA-Japan



Project Title	Proponent Agency	Total Project Cost and/or Additional Cost (in PhP M)	Funding Source
Road Network Development Project in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao (RNDP-CAAM)	Department of Public Works and Highways	12,862.75	ODA-Japan
Reconstruction and Development Plan for a Greater Marawi - Stage 2	Department of Public Works and Highways	6,835.00	ODA-ADB
Philippines-Korea Project Preparation Facility	Department of Finance	3,869.50	ODA-Korea
<b>Projects with Changes Approved in 2018</b>			
Increase in Cost and Change in Scope of the North-South Commuter Railway System (NSCR) Phase I (Malolos-Tutuban)	Department of Transportation	149,130.19	ODA-JICA
Increase in Cost and Change in Scope of the North-South Commuter Railway System (NSCR) Extension (Malolos-Clark Railway Project and PNR South Commuter Railway)	Department of Transportation	628,420.89	ODA-JICA, ADB
Increase in Supplemental Loan Amount of the New Bohol (Panglao) Airport Construction and Sustainable Environment Protection Project (NBACSEPP)	Department of Transportation - Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines	8,914.67	ODA-JICA
Increase in Cost of the New Centennial Water Source – Kaliwa Dam Project	Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System	12,200.01	ODA-China
Extension of the Loan Validity and Implementation Period of the KEXIM-EDCF Loan for the Construction Samar Pacific Coastal Road Project, Northern Samar	Department of Public Works and Highways	1,032.71	ODA-KEDCF
Extension of the Loan Validity and Implementation Period of the Jalaur River Multipurpose Project, Stage II	National Irrigation Administration	11,212.13	ODA-KEXIM-EDCF
Restructuring of the Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Management Project (INREMP)	Department of Environment and Natural Resources	7,244.22	ODA-IFAD, ADB
Re-evaluation of the Davao City Bypass Construction Project	Department of Public Works and Highways	25,849.01	ODA-Japan
Change in Scope and Cost of the Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (IDRR-CCA) Measures in Low-Lying Areas of Pampanga Bay	DPWH	6,150.78	ODA-KEXIM-EDCF
Change in Scope and Cost of the Integrated Marine Environment Monitoring System – Phase 2 (PHILO Phase 2) Project	DA-BFAR	2,097.82	ODA-France
Increase in Cost Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan River, Tagoloan River and Imus River	Department of Public Works and Highways	7,504.91	ODA-JICA
Increase in Cost and Revised Scope of Works of the Pasig-Markina River Channel Improvement, Phase III	Department of Public Works and Highways	9,028.84	ODA-JICA
Increase in Cost and Scope of Panguil Bay Bridge	Department of Public Works and Highways	7,375.34	ODA-Korea
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,325,019.89</b>	

# National Investment Programming



The National Investment Programming arm of NEDA coordinates the formulation and updating of the country's public investment programs.

Its evaluating units review proposed projects for Official Development Assistance (ODA), local financing through the General Appropriations Act (GAA), and Public-Private Partnership (PPP) implementation. Apart from reviewing proposed projects, its offices coordinate the programming of ODA grants and loans, as well as provide secretariat support to the ICC and the INFRACOM.

Its various contributions to the Build, Build, Build Program with the Updated 2017-2022 Public Investment Program

(PIP) and Three-Year Rolling Infrastructure Program (TRIP) FY 2020-2022, and INFRACOM-related inputs not only help improve regional connectivity and ease the cost of doing business in the entire country, but also endorses content relevant to budget preparations in the Department of Budget and Management, Senate and House of Representatives.

## Accomplishments

NEDA through the PIP Secretariat led the coordination of two (2) PIP updating exercises in 2018, specifically the PIP updating as input to the FY 2019 and FY 2020 budget preparation.

To ensure efficient resource allocation and that Plan targets are met by synchronizing the investment programming processes with the budget process, the timelines for the PIP updating as input to the FY 2020 budget preparation and the formulation of the FY 2020-2022 TRIP were synchronized with National Government Fiscal Calendar.

As secretariat to the ICC, various offices from the National Investment Programming facilitated the conduct of 16 Technical Board meetings, 10 Cabinet Committee meetings and 1 Joint Cabinet Committee and INFRACOM meeting. A total of 65 agenda items were discussed during said meetings.

Republic Act (RA) 10964 or the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of 2018 provided for an allocation of ₱1.595 billion for the Project Development and Other Related Studies Fund (PDRS) as a Special Purpose fund to be administered by NEDA for the conduct of feasibility study (FS), masterplan (MP) formulation, options/ alternatives and/or value engineering/ value analyses and other pre-investment activities of major infrastructure projects. It seeks to support the development of strategic infrastructure programs and projects, with the goal of providing sound basis for project evaluation and ensure timely implementation of said initiatives.

A total of 28 studies — (a) 10 MP for sustainable urban infrastructure in the following cities: Cagayan de Oro, Baguio-La Trinidad-Itogon-Sablan-Tuba-Tablay, General Santos, Calapan, Ormoc, Vigan, Butuan, Pagadian, Tuguegarao, and Bacolod/Iloilo; (b) 1 sectoral (irrigation) MP; and (c) 17 FS/pre-FS for transportation, water supply and sanitation, irrigation, energy, health and ICT projects — were successfully awarded, with cumulative contract costs amounting to ₱1.425 billion.

Likewise, the NEDA Board confirmed the ICC approval of 27 projects in the amount of ₱1.325 billion, which will be mainly funded either locally or through ODA.

## **Reviewing and evaluation of infrastructure projects as a basis for budget appropriations**

In September 2018, NEDA issued the joint call for the updating of the PIP 2017-2022 and formulation of the TRIP 2020-2022 to strengthen the institutional framework for synchronizing planning and investment programming of NEDA with DBM and provide inputs to the FY 2020 budget preparation.

Relatedly, NEDA also formulated the Infrastructure Cluster-Performance and Projects Roadmap (IC-PPR) pursuant to Section 10 of EO 24, series of 2017. The IC-PPR contains the critical targets including identified deliverables presented in the form of a roadmap of high impact and core investment programs and projects under the PIP 2017-2022. The IC, chaired by DPWH and with NEDA as the secretariat, submitted the IC-PPR to the Office of the President on July 2018.

Meanwhile, the implementation of master plans under the Infrastructure Development Preparation (IDP) Fund continued. The IDP Fund was included in the 2017 GAA to fund the formulation of the Manila Bay Sustainable Development Master Plan (MBSDMP), the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan (PWSSMP) to ensure that the implementation of government programs and projects are harmonized and well-coordinated. To continuously update the PTSMP beyond the contract, another engagement was pursued for capacity building on traffic forecasting and modelling using the remaining obligated amount of the IDP fund.

On the other hand, the Study on the Review/Formulation of Methodology for Quantification of Economic Benefits of Social Infrastructure Projects, which aims to improve the capacity of NEDA in evaluating social infrastructure projects, was successfully completed in 2018. The said study was funded through the 2017 GAA and started implementation on July 2017.

As part of their functions in the Regional Development Council, the NEDA Regional Offices (NROs) spearheaded the review of the budget proposals of the Regional Line Agencies (RLAs), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs),

and other government entities in the various regions, for possible inclusion of projects in the National Government Agencies' budget for FY 2019. Accordingly, the NROs also led the preparation of their Regional Development Investment Programs (RDIPs). As of December 2018, 14 RDIPs have been approved by their respective Regional Development Councils (RDCs). The RDIP is the investment programming document accompanying the RDP. It is updated annually to include new and ongoing PAPs to facilitate efficient and effective investment programming and budgeting, and consistency with the development priorities of the regions.

Among the PAPs endorsed through the RDC for inclusion in the RDIP are the following:

### **Bicol**

Pantao, Libon Bato Coastal Road, Regional Tourism Training Center of DOT, access roads leading to tourist destination such as Hamapon-Bagacay Road in Legaspi City, Catburawan Access Road in Ligao City, Sula-Damacan-MapulangDaga-Namantao-Manaet-Tanangan Road in Bacacay, Albay, SMART Off Grid Power System and Catanduanes Integrated Renewable Energies

### **Eastern Visayas**

Lake Danao Water Project, Samar Island Medical Center, Masterplan for the Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Development for Metro Ormoc

### **Davao**

Mindanao Railway Project Tagum-Davao Digos Segment Change, Davao River Bridge along the Davao City Coastal Bypass Road Project

## **Optimizing resources and investments in infrastructure projects through relevant studies and consultations**

Value-engineering/value analysis (VE/VA) studies were undertaken to ensure that infrastructure projects are approximately designed to minimize cost-overruns or implementation delays, including challenges in scope of work. NEDA facilitated the conduct of six VE/VA studies, two (2) of which were completed, three (3) are ongoing, while one (1) is going through procurement. These studies include consulting services for Panay River Basin Integrated Development Project (PRBIDP); Light Rail Transit (LRT) Lines 4 and 6 Projects; On-the-Job (OTJ) Capacity Building on VE/VA of Infrastructure Projects-Phases 1 and 2; Water Resources Infrastructure Sector or Irrigation

To effectively align ODA with the PDP and harmonize policies related to financing government PAPs, NEDA provided technical inputs and conducted consultations with development partners and provided technical support to high-level meetings in 2018. Among these are the following:

- a. 6th GPH - AFD Bilateral Consultations;
- b. High - Level Meetings between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China;
- c. Bilateral Meeting between President Duterte and Chinese President Xi Jinping;
- d. Philippines - Japan High Level Policy Consultation;
- e. Philippines - Japan High-Level Joint Committee on Infrastructure Development and Economic Cooperation;
- f. Integrated Official Development Assistance Policy Dialogue between the Government of the Philippines and the Government of Korea;
- g. President Rodrigo R. Duterte's Official Visit to Republic of Korea;
- h. 1st National Steering Committee Meeting and Ceremonial Signing of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Country Programming Framework (CPF) for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) in the Philippines 2018-2023;
- i. PFSD Presentation at the Cabinet Assistance System (CAS) Meeting;
- j. Public Investment Management Assessment (PIMA) Mission;
- k. Philippines Development Forum- Pledging Session for the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Marawi City in Davao City; and
- l. Signing and launching of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2018-2024 in the Philippines.

Sub-sector Unit Cost (formerly Development of a Unit Cost Study for the Irrigation Subsector); and the Value Methodology Associate (VMA) Program and VMA Certification for NEDA's technical staff and managers.

In coordination with other government agencies, NEDA prepared a list of "Indicative Projects Proposed for Feasibility Study Assistance by the Chinese Government," submitted through the Chinese Embassy in Manila on August 20, 2018. Likewise, the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) was given a copy of the proposal during the high-level meeting between the Philippines and CIDCA.

Apart from providing inputs, NEDA also coordinated and participated in sub-committee and inter-agency committee meetings relevant to the Philippines's positions in bilateral, regional and multilateral fora. It also conducted technical consultations on economic and financial developments, including policy issues with multilateral organizations and credit rating agencies.

### **Strengthening the quality of Statistics**

In 2018, the NEDA Regional Offices (NROs) strengthened its linkages with the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the academe, and implementing agencies as sources of baseline data and partners for the conduct of monitoring activities and evaluation studies. This was accomplished through the quarterly meetings of the Regional Statistics Committee (RSC), where they provided direction and guidance to statistical development activities in the regions. Some of which include overseeing the implementation of policy decisions by the National Statistical Coordination Board or PSA Board, and the adoption of prescribed statistical standard methodologies and classification system. The NROs also elevated region-specific statistical matters and submitted periodic reports to the PSA Executive Board.

Alongside this, the NROs participated in the formulation of the Regional Statistics Development Program (RSDP) 2018-2023, which was published in June 2018. The RSDP sets the directions, thrusts and priorities of the Regional Statistical System (RSS). It identifies priority statistical development activities that will generate data and resolve statistical issues at the local level to provide quality statistics for evidence-based decisions.

# National Development Monitoring And Evaluation

As part of its oversight function, NEDA monitors and evaluates plans, programs, policies, and projects in the country. It also provides other evaluation and review services pursuant to laws, rules and regulations, and other issuances, such as: (a) evaluation of requests for contract price escalation, and compliance of government contracts with documentary requirements, (b) review of requests for duty exemptions (c) value analysis of proposed programs and projects, (d) evaluation of impact of programs and projects, among others.

In performing this role, NEDA determines whether plans, major programs, and projects are on track and effective in bringing about intended results. Some of these outcomes are detailed in the official development assistance (ODA) reports, and reports on performance of General Appropriations Act (GAA)-funded programs and projects, and disaster-related programs.

## Accomplishments

To ensure that targets are relevant and integrated within the strategies, programs, and projects outlined in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP), NEDA updated the PDP - Results Matrices (RM) 2017-2022. These RMs facilitate the tracking of achieved gains and also serve as a monitoring and evaluation tool to check the status of programs and projects indicated in the PDP.

For 2018, NEDA also prepared the periodic assessment of the ODA portfolio performance. This included project monitoring visits, drafting of quarterly reports on loan, cost overrun, alert mechanism, and semestral reports on grants.

Pursuant to Republic Act No. 8182, NEDA submitted the 2017 ODA Portfolio Review Report to Congress on June 28, 2018. NEDA conducted the review in consultation with implementing and oversight agencies, and development partners to address implementation bottlenecks, including cost overruns of ODA-assisted programs and projects. The following agencies confirmed the ODA Portfolio Review Report findings:

1. Department of Agriculture
2. Department of Agrarian Reform
3. Development Bank of the Philippines
4. Department of Environment and Natural Resources
5. Department of Education
6. Department of Interior and Local Government
7. Department of Energy
8. Department of Health
9. Department of Transportation
10. Department of Public Works and Highways
11. Department of Social Welfare and Development
12. Department of Trade and Industry
13. Land Bank of the Philippines
14. Local Water Utilities Administration
15. National Irrigation Administration

## **Speeding up the processing and implementation of infrastructure flagship projects**

Through the interim Project Facilitation, Monitoring and Innovation (PFMI) Task Force Secretariat, NEDA conducted preparatory activities to set up the PFMI Task Force and establish a mechanism to monitor and facilitate the development and implementation of the Infrastructure Flagship Projects.

Since the establishment of the PFMI Task Force in June 2017, the interim secretariat has: (a) conducted preparatory monitoring and coordination activities; (b) provided monthly updates on the status of the flagship projects; (c) conducted inter-agency consultation meetings with the agency task teams; (d) engaged consulting services to develop an M&E and facilitation system for the 75 flagship projects (including the development of a knowledge management system, drafting of policy papers, among others); and (e) facilitated DBM approval of the creation of the full-time Secretariat, the organizational structure and staffing complement (approved by the DBM on March 5, 2019).

## **Coordinating the formulation of monitoring and evaluation reports in the national and regional levels**

As an annual assessment of the PDP implementation, the Agency produced the Socioeconomic Report (SER), with inputs gathered from consultations with relevant government agencies and other stakeholders. The SER 2017 was published in the first quarter of 2018. Preparations have also been initiated to draft the SER 2018 which will feature major groundwork that was started in 2017, along with the recommended priority strategies for 2018 and 2019.

To aid in the formulation of relevant strategies for the chapters on good governance and administration of justice, NEDA created the Good Governance Website (GGW) to monitor the country's performance in relation to various international indices that measure performance related to the governance and administration of justice sectors.

Parallel to the formulation of the SER, the NEDA Regional Offices (NROs) prepared their respective 2017 Regional Development Reports (RDRs). The RDR serves as a tool for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of programs, activities and projects (PAPs) espoused under the Regional Development Plans (RDPs).

The NROs also formulated the operational framework of the 2017-2022 RDPs, which were then presented to and approved by the Regional Development Councils (RDCs). The framework defines the coordination and monitoring mechanism, including the roles and responsibilities of government agencies and stakeholders to ensure full support, effective implementation, and attainment of RDP targets.

In addition to drafting the RDPs, the NROs also prepared the Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System (RPMES) Reports, Field Monitoring Visit Reports, and Quarterly Regional Project Monitoring Committee (QRPMC) Reports, all aimed at providing feedback on and validating the progress of implementation of different government programs and projects at the regional level. These reports expected results and immediate outcomes while also discussing issues and problems encountered during project implementation. The NROs also submitted their regular socioeconomic reports such as the Annual Regional Economic Situationer (ARES), Quarterly Regional Economic Situationers (QRES), and the 2017 State of the Region Address (SORA).

## **Evaluating key government projects to promote evidence-based decision-making and greater learning and accountability in the identification, design, and implementation of public programs and projects**

In 2018, NEDA initiated the impact assessment study of the Implementation of the Anti-Red Tape Act (ARTA). The study aims to flesh out ARTA's relationship with frontline services and provide inputs on the execution of the new Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) Law. It also intends to draw lessons from ARTA implementation over the last eight years, particularly on identifying elements and practices that helped improve the efficiency of frontline services, and understanding constraints on the effectiveness of anti-red tape interventions including unintended consequences. Eventually, the results will be used to recommend future actions that the Anti-Red Tape Authority may undertake, consistent with provisions of the EODB and EGSD Act as well as to design standard framework and methodology for the conduct of future impact evaluation of key government programs.

Joint supervision missions and project visits between NEDA and its major development partners were organized to assess the performance of ODA projects. Among the outcomes of the visit were a review of the implementation



progress, catching-up on agreed plans, and documenting results. These joint reviews and supervision missions were conducted on the: (a) Scaling-up of the Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management Project (CHARMP2 Scale-up); (b) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)-funded ConVERGE Mid-term Review Mission; (c) Central Luzon Link Expressway (CLLEX); (d) Road Upgrading and Preservation Project; (e) New Bohol Airport Sustainable Environment Protection Project.

A similar objective is exemplified in the Samar Island Development Agenda (SIDA) 2018-2022, as carried out by NEDA Regional Office Eastern Visayas (NRO VIII), in line with RDC's relentless efforts to address high poverty incidence and other pressing development issues, challenges, and constraints in three provinces of Samar. Consultative workshops were held and a task force was created for the formulation of the Agenda pursuant to RDC VIII Resolution No. 78, series of 2016. The Caraga RDC – Infrastructure Development Committee approved the conduct of an inventory of all roads in the region and adding a classification according to function, i.e. Farm-to-Market, Tourism, Industry and Access/Peace and Development roads, this inventory is expected to provide a clearer picture of the investment requirement needed for all roads in the region, remove duplications of proposals and prepare a list of priority road sections for packaging, and endorsement.



Lastly, the NEDA Secretariat facilitated: (a) Project Implementation Officers' (PIO) meetings, (b) National Project Monitoring Committee (NPMC meetings), (c) Regional Project Monitoring Systems (RPMES) forum, and (d) problem-solving sessions. Specifically, these activities were aimed at addressing various implementation bottlenecks which delayed project completion.



### **Affirming the value of monitoring and evaluation and government's commitment to evidence-based policy making through the M&E Fund**

The M&E Fund has been included in NEDA's budget since 2015 to emphasize the government's commitment towards results-based development management and evidence-based policy making. The fund is intended to finance various M&E initiatives to measure success of development interventions and gain lessons from the implementation of projects, plans, and programs.

With increased funding, the Agency procured and managed the following studies: Impact Evaluation of the Rural Road Network Development Project (MES); Impact Evaluation of the Technical Education and Skills Development Project (MES); and Impact Evaluation of the Light Rail Transit Line 2 (MES). The Agency also reviewed the evaluation proposals and managed the overall implementation of the following NRO-led evaluation studies: Impact Evaluation of the Diversified Farm Income and Farm Management Project (NRO VI); Camiguin Coastal Resource Management Project by (NRO X); Marikina-Infanta Road, Study of Laguna de Bay Institutional Strengthening and Community Participation or LISCOP Project in CALABARZON, and Batangas Port Phase II (NRO IV-A); Cervantes-Mankayan Abatan Road Project (NRO CAR); Impact Assessment of the National Shelter Program (SDS) Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino in Davao (NRO XI); Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Project in Eastern Visayas (NRO VIII); Agri-Pinoy Livestock Program in Samar (NRO VIII); Impact Assessment of the Lower Agusan Development Project (flood control component) in Caraga (NRO XIII); and Impact Evaluation of Awang-API Lebak-Kalamansig Palimbang Sarangani Road (NRO XII).

PART 2 —

## **ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**



# The Journey to ISO 9001:2015



On September 12, 2018, the National Economic and Development Authority received its ISO 9001:2015 Certification for its Quality Management System (QMS) on the Appraisal of Program/Project Proposals and Facilitation of the Investment Coordination Committee (ICC) Action. Several months of confronting challenges in participation, availability, and manpower finally paid off as the agency's ICC process proved compliant with international standards.

NEDA's journey towards the ISO certification started in December 2016, when the ISO-aligned QMS documents were prepared by the different NEDA offices. Given the volume of planning and policy coordination that the agency oversees, working together for this task required numerous consultations. Furthermore, the sense of urgency to complete the QMS was intensified by deadlines from the Government Quality Management Committee. Thus, several considerations had to be made by ManCom members and ISO/QMS Focals as unique procedures, processes, and timelines need to be adopted and unified.

The drafting of the core and support processes gave rise to concerns on improving storage facilities, tight workspaces, and office clutter. A communication strategy on the QMS policies and implementation processes was also set in place. By 2017, the said system was implemented which required internal quality audits and management reviews.

The Stage 1 Third Party Certification Audit was initiated in May 2018, followed by consultative sessions to address the findings.

To ensure success on the second third-party audit, the NEDA Central Office, through the Financial Planning and Management Staff, the Public Investment Staff, and relevant Sector Staff worked hard to address the findings highlighted during the first third-party audit. With perseverance and a unified purpose, NEDA aced the second third-party audit in August 2018. By the succeeding month, the auditors have awarded the ISO certification to NEDA's ICC Process. Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto M. Pernia best describes this journey as "a testament to NEDA's strong commitment to consistently deliver quality service to the Filipino people."

The NEDA QMS was certified and registered against the requirements of the ISO 9001:2015 Standard by AJA Registrars, Inc. The agency plans to enroll more of its processes for ISO certification.



At the regional level, the Quality Management Systems of NROs I, II, VII, X and XI covering the core processes and support processes of regional development coordination were recertified/certified. The NROs satisfied the requirements under ISO 9001:2015 and consequently were successfully recognized by external certifying bodies.

# Organizational Development

The principles of planning, investment, and monitoring and evaluation are evident within the various Staffs of the NEDA Organization. In support of the Agency's role in socioeconomic planning and development, NEDA offices worked together to improve the organization's policies and processes and physical and human assets, while enhancing systems and coordination to boost productivity, and consequently accelerate efforts that translate to a *matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay para sa lahat*.



## Establishing organizational reforms in human resource

To ensure that the Agency has sufficient human resources with the right set of competencies, NEDA instituted reforms within the organization. As stated in NEDA's 2018-2020 Strategic Human Resource Development (HRD) Plan, its first year is focused on the development of the competency-based job description (CBJD) through the Enhancement of Competency Framework, Profiles, and Job Description of the Infrastructure Staff personnel. This policy helped identify specific job descriptions and the required proficiency level for the staff's technical positions.

The agency also conducted an Organizational Training Needs Analysis (OTNA) for selected NEDA personnel. This project was funded by the Australia Awards and Alumni Engagement Program-Philippines (AAAEP-P) to identify gaps and capacity needs of partner agencies/ organizations in government that are directly linked to the Build, Build, Build Program. The OTNA in NEDA covers the Infrastructure Staff, the Public Investment Staff, and the Monitoring and Evaluation Staff.

With reference to the Agency's three-year Human Resource Development (HRD) Plan, NEDA also implemented its priority training

The following programs and training modules were also conducted in 2018 at the Central Office to equip its personnel with skills, knowledge and competencies to achieve the Agency's goal and provide better service to the public.

### Human Resource Development Fund

- Leadership and Management Enhancement Training Course for Supervisors
- Investment Appraisal Course
- Policy Development and Analysis (3 Batches)
- Presentation Skills Development
- Unshakeable Self-Confidence
- Human Resource Officer's Forum
- Training on Republic Act No. 9184 and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations
- SW on the Linkage of Work and Financial Plan (WFP) and Annual Procurement Plan (APP)
- SW on Administrative Processes Improvement
- Hiring Right through Behavioral Event Interviewing (BEI)
- Seminar-Workshop on Effective Technical Writing and Editing

### Gender and Development (GAD) Fund

- Training of trainers on Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines (HGDG)
- Practical Gender Sensitivity Training (2 batches)
- Orientation on HGDG

### AAAEP-P Sponsored Programs

- 7 Habits of Highly Effective Government Leaders
- Enhancing the Competency Framework of Infrastructure Staff

### Others

- Chinese-Mandarin and Culture Classes

programs for 2018. The identified programs for the first year of the plan were conducted from March until December 2018: mandatory training programs such as an Orientation Course for New NEDANs, Values Orientation and Supervisory Development Tracks 1, 2 & 3; competency training programs that include the Investment Appraisal Course; Policy Analysis; Capacity Building Program on Public Private Partnership (PPP); Effective Technical Writing; Executive Development Programs including Leadership and Management Enhancement Training Courses for Supervisors; and Kaizen Blitz Workshop, among others.



Trainings conducted by the NROs were the following: Investment Appraisal Course, Risk Management, Seminar on Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law, 7 Habits of Highly Effective Government Leaders Program, Training on Geographic Information System, Basic Photography Workshop, Laws and Rules on Government Expenditures, Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines (HGDG) Orientation and Training of Trainers on HGDG, Learning session on the Philippine Dimensional Model for Cultural Values, Competency-based Recruitment Workshop, Training on Policy Development and Analysis, Course on Methods of Data Presentation using MS Excel, Adoption of Regional Econometric

Model (REM) for GRDP Target-setting and Building Scenarios as Aid in Policy-making Skills, Upgrading of IEC Materials Preparation, Competency Profiling, Orientation on NEDA Data Privacy Manual, Seminar workshop on RA 9470 or National Archives of the Philippines Act of 2007 and Archives Administration, Law on Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines Tool, Procurement and Public Bidding Documents, Laws and Rules on Government Expenditures, NEDA Basic Geographic Information System (GIS) Training, Calibration of Rating Scales, Compliance to Strategic Performance Management System or SPMS Guidelines, Environmental Planning, Capacity building activities on the Agglomeration Model for Mindanao Regions, Training Workshop on PPP Concepts and Processes for NRO focal persons, Land Use Training, Environmental Planning for RDC Secretariat, Completed Staff Work (CSW) and Public Speaking, Training-Workshop on Regional Spatial Strategies and Urban Development Patterns, Public Service Values Program, Transparency and Accountability in Public Service (ITAPS) Seminar Workshop, Basic Statistics, Infographics Training, News and Feature Writing, among others.

Some NROs implemented the Values Restoration Program (VRP), where discussions on patriotism, integrity, excellence, and spirituality were organized after the flag ceremony and before the start of the regular staff meeting. Based on the CSC Announcement No. 40, s. 2017, the VRP aims to “transform the Filipino public servant and the government leadership to subscribe to the code of ethics and values that shall provide the country with righteous, incorruptible and sincere service

towards a graft-free society.” During the VRP, an employee leads the weekly value-focused discussion.

The Agency also provided incentives and succession plans to ensure the organization’s stability through the formulation of human resource development policies such as the NEDA Recognition, Awards and Incentive for Service Excellence (NEDA-RAISE), which provides for the criteria for giving recognition and awards to deserving officials and employees for their excellent performance, for introducing innovations or inventions, for their initiatives and outstanding accomplishments, among other contributions.

Another improvement is the Amended Career Development Internal Scholarship Committee (CDISC) Guidelines which provides a list of requirements and processes involved in promoting the career and professional development of NEDA’s officials and personnel within the HRD Framework. The same guideline is used as reference in the selection of employees from the NCO and NROs who may be nominated for various scholarships and training programs made available to NEDA.



Various scholarship programs, of which 17 were long-term and 52 were short-term courses, were availed by different NEDA personnel in 2018 to grow their knowledge and competency on various disciplines.

Fifty (50) scholarships were foreign grants and two (2) were locally sponsored. Among the 50 scholarships granted were from Australia Awards, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Japan Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship, International Monetary Fund, Korea International Cooperation Agency, Malaysia Technical Cooperation Program, Turkish Cooperation Coordination Agency, Ministry of Commerce-China, Asian Development Bank, KOP-Netherlands Fellowship Program, and Flemish InterUniversity Council Scholarship.

In addition, four NEDA employees attended the Middle Manager's Class of the Public Management Development Program offered by the Development Academy of the Philippines.

The NEDA Merit Selection Plan was also updated last year to comply with the 2018 Omnibus Rules on Appointments and other Human Resource Actions of the Civil Service Commission. The Plan, which covers career positions in the first and second levels, provides a method for assessing and selecting employees on the basis of their qualifications and competence to perform the duties and responsibilities of the position they are applying for. The NROs also received the Civil Service Commission or CSC Enhanced Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management (PRIME-HRM) Maturity Level 2 in 2018. The PRIME-HRM is a mechanism that empowers government agencies by developing and assessing their HR management competencies, systems, and practices to achieve HR excellence. The NROs were recognized by the CSC in the four pillars of HR, namely, Recruitment, Selection and Placement, Learning and Development, Performance Management and Rewards and Recognition.

### **Enhancing personnel capacities on impact evaluation and policy analysis**

A series of Impact Evaluation Training Workshops were conducted under the M&E Fund. These were made available to various NEDA personnel in 2018, to equip them on impact evaluation tools and methodologies, while strengthening their capacity to design, conduct, and manage impact evaluation. The training was conducted through NEDA's Monitoring and Evaluation Staff (MES), which commissioned the De La Salle University-Angelo King Institute (AKI) for Economic and Business Studies to deliver the training course. A total of 118 participants from the NCO and NROs participated in the three batches of training.

Also under the M&E Fund, several NEDA personnel from the NCO and NROs attended the Workshop on the Implementation of Evaluation Studies. This one-day workshop on knowledge-sharing and feedback session on the implementation of evaluation studies was conducted by NEDA to gather lessons on effective evaluation studies including the collection of best practices to help facilitate and improve the M&E Fund implementation. The workshop discussed, among others, the synthesis of evaluation activities conducted through the M&E Fund, challenges and opportunities faced by implementing units in the practice of evaluation and strategies, and the 2019 M&E Fund including outputs from the completed impact evaluation training for NCO and NROs.



### **Systems Improvement and Physical Assets Upgrading to Improve Productivity**

In 2018, NEDA operated and maintained an integrated NEDA-wide information system which also included a quality management assistance system, consistent with and supportive of NEDA's business processes to facilitate sharing of important information between and among units and offices. These systems include implementation, maintenance, and development of the following: Implementation of the Public Investment Program Online Version 2.0 (PIPOLv2), Electronic New Government Accounting System (eENGAS), and Electronic Budget Information Systems (eBudget) of the Commission on Audit (COA), Good Governance Website, QMS Documented Information Control Portal, QMS Knowledge Portal, NEDA Recruitment System/Pre-employment Results Database System, NEDA Integrated Library System (KOHA), ICTS Helpdesk System, and NEDA Cloud, among others.

The Agency also continued the maintenance of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council





(LEDAC) and Ambisyon Natin 2040 Websites. It also completed the development of the Strategic Performance Management System-Information System (SPMS-IS), Enhanced Document Assignment and Tracking System (Edats), Physical Report on Operations Information System (PROIS), and also upgraded the NEDA Inventory System.

Similarly, the NROs implemented, maintained, and developed the Project Tracking System, RDC Resolutions Tracking Systems, Project Monitoring System, Project Management Information System (ProMIS), Regional Development Knowledge Center (RDKC), among others.

Moreover, in support of staff operations, NEDA procured various ICT facilities including software, hardware tools, and supplies to improve the organization's workflow and processes and also increase productivity and efficiency between and among Staffs and offices.

To provide better security, a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Property/Equipment Management Security System/ Solution was

installed at the NEDA Central Office (NCO) premises, including CCTV cameras. Walk-through metal detectors were provided at the main and basement entrances of the NCO building. Moreover, to better interact and connect with people, the Agency acquired video conferencing equipment. Meanwhile, for easier audit, monitoring, and accountability, RFID tags were installed to assigned laptops of NCO personnel.

To strengthen the implementation of security and safety measures, several regional offices installed new CCTV systems and upgraded their fire alarm systems.

In compliance with Administrative Order (AO) 28 "Mandating the Government Agencies to Migrate to the Government Web Hosting Service (GWHS) of the Department of Science and Technology-Information and Communications Technology Office (DOST-ICTO)" the NCO and NROs transferred their internet hosting requirements to the GWHS for more efficient use of technology and better protection against hacking and cyber-attacks. To further enhance data sovereignty

and improve security, some NROs had their system hosted by the Department of Information and Communications Technology's (DICT) Government-Wide Email System (GovMail), which provides a free corporate identity to NEDA and its DICT-hosted Regional Offices, through the use of domain user@agency.gov.ph.

## Establishing and Upgrading Physical Assets

In accordance with ISO standards on the need for conducive working areas and venues where meetings and other functions are to be conducted, conference rooms within the various staff in NCO were renovated. The NEDA Canteen was also spruced-up in May 2018. Additionally, the groundbreaking ceremony for a two-storey earthquake-resilient multipurpose building was held on December 18. The new structure will house a day care center on the first floor, a wellness and fitness center on the mezzanine floor, and conference facilities on the roof deck.

The NEDA Guest House was completed and operational in 2018, to better accommodate NRO officials and employees who travel to Manila on official time. Since its establishment in August 2018, a total of 263 NRO personnel were accommodated and a total of ₱70,350 in fees was collected. The DBM has authorized NEDA to use the collection as a revolving fund for the guest house's operations.

In 2018, the new building of the Calabarzon NEDA Regional Office (NRO IV-A) was completed. The building is located in Barangay Milagrosa, Calamba City and was inaugurated on November 8 with key RDC members and some NEDA officials in attendance.

## Efficient Implementation of Freedom of Information and Data Privacy policies

The Agency, led by its Legal Staff including the NROs, prepared and issued the NEDA Data Privacy Guidelines (Office Circular No. 09-2018). This is in accordance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (RA 10173). An information drive, aimed to educate NCO and NRO personnel on the details and technicalities of the Office Circular, was conducted to ensure NEDA's compliance with the law. It was also intended to standardize all processes related to the implementation of the NEDA Data Privacy Guidelines in all NEDA Offices.

## Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

The growing number of policies and advocacies requiring education, engagement, and participation emphasizes the need to develop and pursue a Communication Plan using the NEDA Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Framework. Alongside NEDA's policy and coordination functions, the framework highlights NEDA's leadership role in steering the implementation of Key Strategies and Policies in the 2017-2022 PDP and RDPs, fostering better understanding of the significant contributions of different development stakeholders, and encouraging richer partnerships with the grassroots.

In 2018, the Development Information Staff (DIS) launched two new initiatives to keep the public informed of socioeconomic progress, promote economic literacy, and maintain NEDA's regular media presence. One is the monthly #AskNEDA media briefing launched in May 2018, and the other is the weekly radio program called Tunog ng Progreso, titled after the song created out of GDP data as the country's anthem for economic progress. The radio show was launched in July. Tunog ng Progreso is an hour-long show aired over Radyo Pilipinas Uno 738AM every Friday at 1:00pm and features a round up of news stories on the economy for the week, a discussion of relevant issues with invited guests, and an Eko & Miya skit aimed at educating the public on economic concepts in a light and often humorous way (see related article). Both #AskNEDA media briefing and Tunog ng Progreso radio show are livestreamed and recorded through NEDA's social media account.

In November 2018, the DIS convened the full Communication and Advocacy Committee, which includes representatives from the NROs and attached

agencies. The full committee adopted the Integrated NEDA Communication Plan for 2019, which aims to sustain the support of stakeholders for NEDA's main advocacies. These include Ambisyon Natin 2040, the PDP 2017-2022, and the annual Economic and Financial Literacy Week.

The integrated communication plan details strategies that NCO and NROs will implement in 2019 to reach out mainly to government stakeholders, organized youth groups, and civil society organizations.

In the same full committee meeting, a draft of the NEDA Crisis Communication Management Guide was finalized and endorsed to top management. It is a comprehensive manual on how to effectively deal with public relations crises. The guide aims to help NEDAns identify potential crises and guide them on how to respond. It also establishes procedures and roles among concerned NEDA officials in the event of a crisis. While the document establishes procedures in the central offices, it states that NROs are advised to create their own regional Crisis Communication Management Teams, which will be responsible for managing crisis situations at the regional level.

The guide emphasizes that effective crisis communication management entails "honest and courageous leadership in taking responsibility for the crisis, speaking up, and defending the agency."

## Advocacy on 2017-2022 Regional Development Plan (RDP), Regional Development Investment Program (RDIP), Results Matrices (RMs), and Ambisyon Natin 2040

The NCO and NROs conducted/attended various communication advocacy campaigns for 2017-2022 RDP, RDIP, RMs and Ambisyon Natin 2040 through various events and activities in the form of roadshows, expos, summits, fora and presentations including provision of IEC materials to various sectors.

Among the events and activities conducted/attended by NCO and NROs include the following:

- Briefing for Development Communication Coordinating Network (DevCom Net) on the Socioeconomic Report
- Symposium on Ambisyon Natin 2040 and the Effective Local Governance for the masteral and doctoral degree students from Jesse M. Robredo Institute of Good Governance of Bicol University
- Roundtable Discussion on Ambisyon Natin 2040

and Bicol RDP 2017-2022 with the Center of Migrant Association

- Advocacy of the RDP, RDIP, RM 2017-2022 and Ambisyon Natin 2040 conducted in Naval State University
- Stakeholder's Forum on the Protection of the Coastal Zone
- Visayas State University's Commencement Exercises highlighting Ambisyon Natin 2040
- Sustained Proactive Advocacy on Ambisyon Natin 2040, PDP, Davao Regional Development Plan (DRDP) 2017-2022
- DRDP North Cluster Roadshow held in Davao Oriental, Davao Del Norte, Davao Del Sur, Davao City
- DRDP Advocacy and Competition Event for the Youth
- UP Junior Finance Association's Philippine Financial Summit
- PDP, RDP 2017-2022 and Ambisyon Natin 2040 Provincial and HUC Roadshows
- Briefing for Local Media and Government Information Officers on Ambisyon Natin 2040, PDP 2017-2022
- Provincial Orientation and Workshop on the Formulation of Provincial RMs

To effectively coordinate government programs and projects, NEDA continued its partnerships with different stakeholders nationwide. Strategic linkages were forged with national, regional, and local partners, agencies and institutions last year through:

- Harmonization Workshop of Convergence Program with DPWH
- Regional Development Council (RDC) Eastern Visayas-RPMC Problem Solving Session (PSS) on roads and bridge projects under the Payapa at Masaganang Pamayan (PAMANA) Program of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace Process (OPAPP) in Samar Island
- Regional Briefing and Orientation by NEDA Regional Office Eastern Visayas (NRO VIII) for the Provincial Grassroots Consultations in the Yolanda Corridor in support of the Office of the President in monitoring the Yolanda Corridor projects
- Caraga Education Summit that gathered around 240 participants from the trifocal education sector: basic, higher and technical/vocational
- Regional Workshop and Stakeholders Consultation for the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan
- Calabarzon RDC outreach activities in the municipalities of Sariaya in Quezon, Lian, Calatagan, and San Juan in Batangas to bring government

services closer to the communities and help address poverty

- Caraga RDC consultation with the Siargao stakeholders on the region's goal to become the Fishery, Agro-Forestry, mineral and Eco-tourism (FAME) center of the country
- Forum on Federalism by the MIMAROPA RDC for regional stakeholders to support any undertaking that will enable and empower Filipinos to enjoy a "*matatag, maginhawa at panatag na buhay*"
- Capacity Building and orientation for the Reorganized Provincial City and Municipal Project Monitoring Committees in Davao on the new RPMES Guidelines and Results-based Monitoring and Evaluation (RbME) for new members
- RPMES orientations for local project monitoring committees (LPMCs) for Zamboanga del Sur and Pagadian City conducted by NRO Zamboanga Peninsula or ZamPen
- Writeshops conducted by NRO VIII on the Rehabilitation and Recovery for Magnitude 6.5 Earthquake-Affected LGUs in Leyte
- Davao Association of Regional Executives of National Agencies (ARENA) Orientation on the Community and Economic Development Program for IPs and former rebels headed by NEDA Davao Regional Director
- Forum on Federalism led by NRO Caraga for regional stakeholders to disseminate information and increase awareness by the Caraganons on federalism including its proposed constitutional change and implications

Also in 2018, the NROs received the BSP's Outstanding Partner award for providing reports on regional economic developments. The NROs received the award for providing data to BSP, which helped in crafting the country's monetary and financial policies. NRO VIII in particular, garnered the Gold Hall of Fame award for three consecutive years.

The Philippine Commission on Women issued a commendation to the Western Visayas Regional Gender and Development Committee (RGADC VI) for organizing the Multi-Stakeholder Research Forum entitled Voices and Standpoint: Putting Women in the Regional Research Agenda on September 25, 2018. PCW also conferred the Outstanding Secretariat Award to NRO Western Visayas for providing exceptional technical & administrative support to the RGADC VI resulting in the successful implementation of its plans, projects and activities.



# EKO & MIYA

## Making economic and financial literacy interesting

*An unspoken goal during the concept stage of the NEDA Tunog ng Progreso (TNP) radio show was to make it sound and feel like an actual AM radio program to appeal to casual listeners who might not appreciate an hour-long government show. And since the initial idea already had news, interviews, and Q&A segments, it needed just one other thing to complete the AM radio format.*

### Why not a radio drama?

So along with public service announcements and promotional bits for AmBisyon Natin 2040, TNP aired “Eko and Miya” between segments. The 5-minute radio sketch follows the exploits of the eponymous 12-year-olds as they encounter everyday problems and receive explanations from adults using Economics and Finance concepts.

### A formula for fun

Divided into two acts, each episode sets up a problem or question explainable by an economic concept. The premiere episode involved the characters haggling over the price of buko juice with a vendor outside their school, who eventually explained that price is determined by the law of supply and demand.

Eko is curious but a bit slow on the uptake – serving as the audience surrogate (and straight man in the comedy duo) as he asks obvious questions. Miya understands the concepts but needs the adults to clarify matters and introduce her to the jargon. Helping them are the adults in the neighborhood – teachers, vendors, even relatives – who are generally smart and able to explain common phenomena using economic concepts. Episodes are typically humorous, with the tone of an educational children’s show.



### How it's made

It begins with a concept – a particular topic discussed in a basic economics textbook. The challenge is finding a simple small town story to illustrate it. Once the initial idea is clear (e.g. “Market vendors argue about competition and monopoly” or “Eko gets dollars from an uncle abroad and wonders about foreign exchange”) the dialogue is written and undergoes two stages of editing.

Episodes are taped in batches of three to four per session at the Radyo Pilipinas studios using talent from NEDA Central Office. Regular staff, who auditioned for the various parts, voice the main characters and guests.

After being taped as live – each act is one continuous take – the episodes are then edited to include background music and sound effects.

### What's next

The characters have since branched into other media. Eko and Miya starred in an animated explainer for the National ID system and a series of comic strips are being developed for economic and financial literacy (EFL) brochures and web content.

“Eko and Miya” began as challenge: can economic concepts be explained by a radio play? Over half a year into the experiment and the answer seems to be “yes” – economic and financial literacy advocacy campaigns can be different and fun, too.





# Attached Agencies

NEDA has six (6) attached agencies specializing in statistics, research, public-private partnerships, volunteerism, and tariff concerns to help further its role in development planning and policy coordination.



## Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)

As the central statistical authority of the Philippines, the PSA provided timely and accurate statistics essential to our country's development and planning efforts. The data collected and disseminated by the Agency is a valuable reference for policymakers, development partners, and the private sector.

In 2018, the PSA conducted 38 surveys, 41 data dissemination fora, and nine (9) statistical advocacy activities. The agency also accomplished 100 percent of its target date of release on statistical products. Through its statistical policy and coordination program, 29 percent of local government units and

another 29 percent of national government agencies adopted the statistical standards and classification systems. Alongside this, 58 percent of agencies with designated statistics submitted their budget proposals for review and endorsement to the Department of Budget and Management.

As part of its service to the public, 90 percent of the civil registry documents are now accessible through an online system, with 40 servicing outlets maintained regularly. Moreover, 125 of its local civil registrars received training in laws, regulations, and systems on civil registration.



## Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS)

In 2018, PIDS conducted 38 evaluation studies on key government issues. It provided comments and inputs to the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Philippines on more than 30 proposed legislative measures related to poverty alleviation, disaster response and preparedness, innovation, small business entrepreneurship, transportation, and agriculture, among others.

To carry out its mandate on research dissemination and research utilization and outreach, the institute continued to

build the Socioeconomic Research Portal for the Philippine (SERP-P) Project and Economic and Social Database (ESD) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) through promotional activities and other initiatives. Its staff also received 10 in-house trainings in 2018.

Among the highlights of the institute's accomplishments is its continuous recognition as among the top think tanks in the Asia Pacific Region.



## Philippine National Volunteer Services Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA)

The PNVSCA worked closely with members of various government and private organizations, the academe, media, and other stakeholders to ensure that volunteering efforts and resources are aligned with national priorities, giving emphasis on providing assistance to the marginalized sectors and communities in the country. It also led activities that recognize the volunteers' contributions towards nation-building and international cooperation.

In 2018, PNVSCA pursued dialogues with volunteer stakeholders nationwide to craft the National Policy Agenda and Action Plan on Volunteerism (NPAAPV). Five (5) regional forums were conducted in Regions VI, VIII, CAR and ARMM participated

in by representatives from government, non-government organizations, the academe, corporate, and the private sector.

A significant outcome of PNVSCA's advocacy activities in 2018 was the integration of volunteerism in the National Service Training Program (NSTP), a collaborative effort of PNVSCA and the Philippine Society of NSTP Educators and Implementers, Inc. (PSNEI).

The NEDA regional offices also took part in promoting PNVSCA's programs and projects for volunteers. They provided technical and secretariat support during the agency's Search for Outstanding Volunteers (SOV)-Regional Research Committee.



## Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute (PSRTI)

As the country's leading statistical research and training institute, PSRTI continued the conduct of high-quality, timely, and responsive research and training to ensure the quality of statistics generated by the Philippine Statistical System.

In 2018, the institute conducted around 87 regular and customized training courses on Descriptive Statistics, Statistics for Gender and Development, Effective Presentation and Statistical Reports, and Data Visualization Using Infographics,

among others. More than 1,800 participants from the Philippine Competition Commission, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Finance, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippine Statistics Authority, and the Department of Education attended the training modules.

In line with the national and global development objectives, the institute also conducted ten (10) training courses on the Sustainable Development Goals, which was attended by 1,012 participants.



## Tariff Commission (TC)

To provide an enabling environment for growth and international competitiveness of Philippine industries, the Commission continued its administration of the ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) 2017 and Philippine tariff schedules. It updated its online Philippine Tariff Finder (PTF) facility – from eight (8) to eleven (11) tariff schedules. It issued 725 advance rulings (AR) on tariff classification, which are valuable importation and or exportation tools for traders and businesses.

The Commission also established the Tariff Classification Dispute Ruling (DR) system to provide rulings on goods with disputed tariff classifications. This dispute ruling system is aligned with the

standards in the Revised Kyoto Convention, the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Trade Facilitation, the ATIGA, the WCO Harmonized System Convention, other relevant international trade agreements, relevant Philippine laws, and international best customs practices, and to increase the level of stakeholders' compliance through an informed customs compliance regime.

In line with its commitment to responsive public service, the commission received its certification on ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS) before the end of 2018.



## Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center

The PPP Center continued to deliver its mandate to coordinate and monitor PPP Projects and conduct project facilitation and assistance to the national government agencies (NGAs), including government-owned and controlled cooperation (GOCCs), and local government units (LGUs).

Among its accomplishments for 2018, the PPP Center was able to facilitate the board approval of three (3) policy circulars and related policy instruments that aim to streamline the PPP process.

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between NEDA and PPP Center to establish PPP Knowledge Corners (KCs), 15 centers were launched at the NROs. These KCs act as information hubs where LGUs, other local implementing agencies (IAs) and stakeholders can get accurate and updated information and knowledge on PPPs. These also serve as the regions' access points to avail of the services that the PPP Center provides to help local governments develop successful and well-structured PPP projects.

Apart from helping evaluate the PPP projects elevated to the Investment Coordination Committee (ICC), the PPP Center's Project Monitoring Division (PMD) also compiled issues and lessons learned during project implementation activities to identify best practices that can be replicated during development of future PPP projects.

Also in 2018, the NROs partnered with PPP Center in launching their respective PPP KCs. The KCs were established nationwide after the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on the establishment of PPP KCs in all NROs. This initiative forms part of the government's strategy to engage more local implementing agencies in rolling out bankable and viable PPP projects in the countryside, as it builds on government's thrust to expand development in the regions and spread economic growth outside Metro Manila.



## Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM)

On December 13, 2018, President Rodrigo Duterte signed Executive Order No. 71 which renames the Commission on Population (POPCOM) to the Commission on Population and Development and reverting its attachment to NEDA from the Department of Health (DOH).

POPCOM was an attached agency of NEDA from 1991 until 2003 before its supervision was placed under the DOH.

The Agency is mandated to formulate and adopt coherent, integrated and comprehensive long-term plans, programs, and recommendations on population and family planning as it relates to economic and social development.

"In order to strengthen the development and implementation of population-related plans, policies, programs, and projects in pursuit of socioeconomic development programs, there is a need to enhance its coordination with the NEDA," EO No. 71 states.

The Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022, the country's development blueprint crafted by NEDA, has identified the integration of population and development as one of the key strategies to accelerate the country's economic growth and improve the quality of Filipinos' lives.

# Consolidated Statement of Financial Performance

For the Year Ended December 31, 2018  
(In Philippine Peso)

## REVENUE

Service and Business Income	18.28	
Shares, Grants, and Donations	3,719,206.82	
Miscellaneous Income	1,163,983.95	
Total Revenue		4,883,209.05

## LESS CURRENT OPERATING EXPENSES:

Personal Services	867,460,095.14	
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	482,746,155.20	
Financial Expenses	5,437.00	
Non-Cash Expenses	71,178,346.58	
Total Current Operating Expenses		1,421,390,033.92

**SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) FROM CURRENT OPERATIONS** (1,416,506,824.87)

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE/SUBSIDY

Net Financial Assistance/Subsidy	1,513,194,789.13
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## OTHER NON-OPERATING INCOME

Sale of Assets	-
Gains	1,000.00
Losses	29,500.00

**Surplus/(Deficit) for the Period** 96,659,464.26



# Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

For the Year Ended December 31, 2018  
(In Philippine Peso)

## ASSETS

### Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	64,199,194.13	
Receivables	331,739,951.89	
Inventories	8,835,224.30	
Other Current Assets	9,058,380.84	413,832,751.16

### Non-Current Assets

Long-Term Investments	233,120.00	
Property, Plant, and Equipment (PPE)	1,325,960,561.59	
Intangible Assets	11,320,063.21	
Other Non-Current Assets	8,584,039.63	1,348,223,791.63

### Total Assets

**1,762,056,542.79**

## LIABILITIES

### Current Liabilities

Financial Liabilities	22,699,649.32	
Inter-Agency Payables	11,770,986.33	
Intra-Agency Payables	14,360.00	
Trust Liabilities	22,182,464.57	
Deferred Credits/Unearned Income	254,313.67	
Other Payables	1,027,756.01	57,949,529.90

### Non-Current Liabilities

Trust Liabilities	45,754,647.05	
Other Payables	6,908,866.04	52,663,513.09

## NET ASSETS/EQUITY

Accumulated Surpluses/(Deficits)		1,651,443,499.80
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### Total Liabilities and Net Assets

**1,762,056,542.79**

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As of December 31, 2018

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