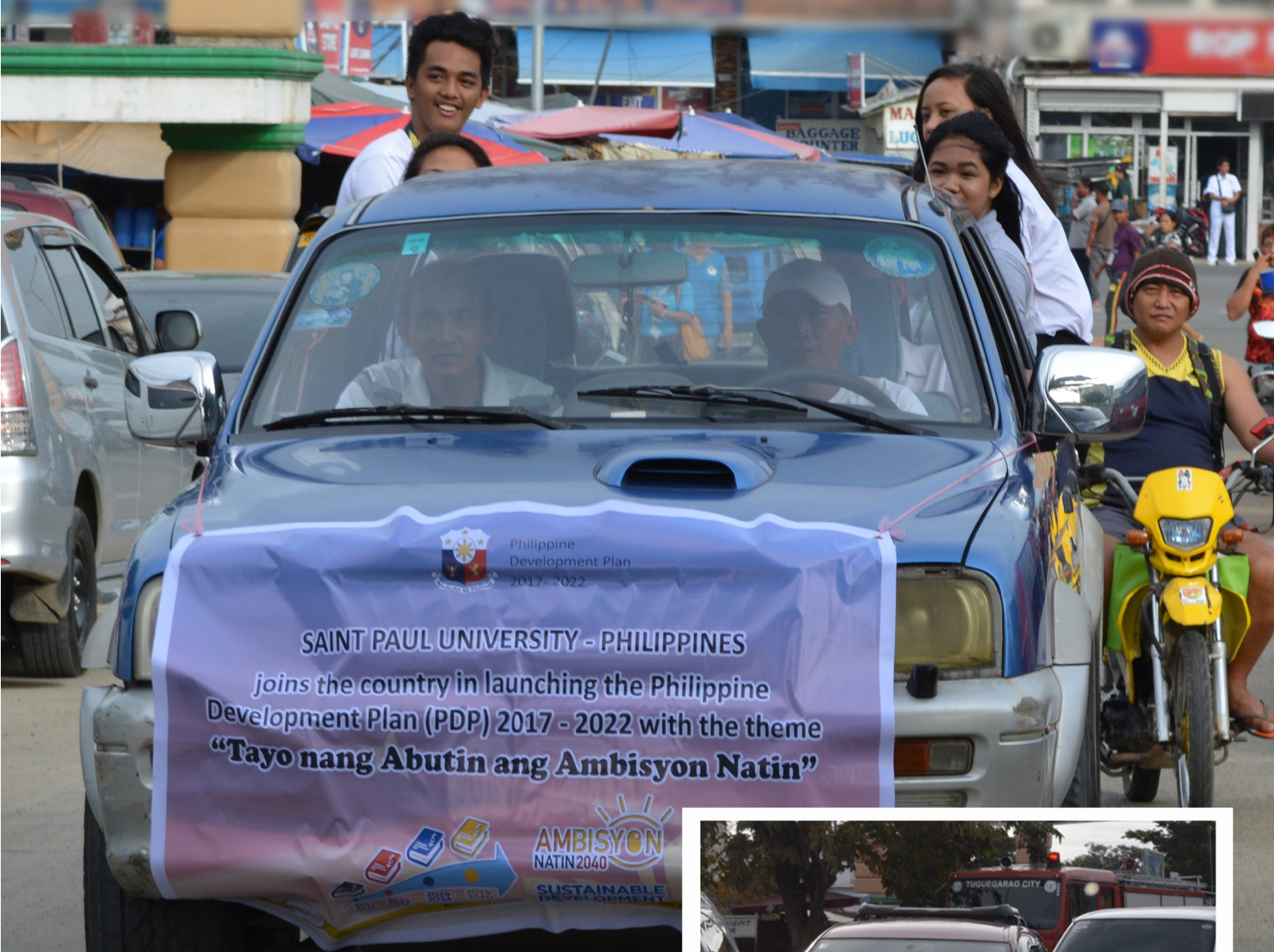




# Linkage

A Publication of the Regional Development Council 02

September 2017



**REGION 2** successfully  
launches **PDP, RDP** with  
overwhelming support from  
development partners





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## ABOUT THE COVER

This issue chronicles the RDC 2's launching of the Philippine Development Plan and the Cagayan Valley Regional Development Plan 2017-2022. Hundreds of the Council's stakeholders and development partners showed their support to this endeavor, highlighting their commitment to contribute to regional development.



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# Linkage

September 2017 Issue

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# THIRD QUARTER REGIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATIONER



The region experienced a more favorable economy during the third quarter of 2017 given the positive performances in the agriculture and industry sectors.

The agriculture sector has shown a relatively strong performance during this quarter as evidenced by the higher total productions in palay, corn, other crops, and poultry.

Cagayan Valley Region maintained its top rank in corn and third spot in palay, contributing 27.14 percent and 8.92 percent, respectively, of the total national output. The province of Isabela remains as the top palay producer among all Region 2 provinces, making up 47 percent of the total regional production.

On other crops, vegetables and root crops and non-food and industrial commercial crops also showed positive performances due to the sustained financial and technical assistance of San Miguel Corporation to contract growers as well as the provision and use of hybrid seeds and the recovery of plantation areas from the damages of super typhoons last year.

On the industry and services sector, key indicators recorded continuous expansion during the period: the Department of Trade and Industry's Business Name Registration (BNR) posted a higher number of

firms registered and more jobs generated. The number and value of construction activities in the region also increased. A favorable business climate was also maintained as crime volume decreased compared to the same quarter of the previous year.

On inflation, prices of basic goods and services picked up to 3.8 percent, which is still within the inflation target of the government. Prices of food commodities inched up

particularly on rice, corn, meat, fish, and fruits, among others. The same is true for the prices of non-food commodities due to high fuel prices.

In terms of labor situation, the region displayed improvement in employment given a high employment rate (97.7%) and low unemployment and underemployment rate. | ANGELICA A. UMOQUIT, NEDA PFPD

The complete report can be downloaded at [www.rdc2.gov.ph](http://www.rdc2.gov.ph)

## *a quick glance*

### MACROECONOMY

- ◆ Inflation rate at 3.8%
- ◆ Unemployment rate up to 2.3%
- ◆ Underemployment rate up to 8.0%

### AGRICULTURE AND FISHERY

- ◆ Palay production up by 17.82%
- ◆ Corn production up by 21.26%
- ◆ Fruit production down by 7.56%
- ◆ Vegetable and root crop production up by 9.43%
- ◆ Non-food and industrial commercial crop production up by 5.54%
- ◆ Livestock production up by 0.91%
- ◆ Poultry production down by 4.75%
- ◆ Fisheries production down by 7.63%

### OTHER SECTORS

- ◆ BNR number of firms up by 16.62%
- ◆ BNR investments down by 8.73%
- ◆ LBP loans up by 24.89%
- ◆ Number of construction up by 29.04%
- ◆ Value of construction up by 43.35%
- ◆ Crime volume down by 29.20%

*Figures are based on year-on-year comparison between the third quarters of 2016 and 2017.*



## Cua urges RDC 2 to keep momentum of region as emerging agro-industrial hub, tourism destination

“We must keep the momentum of our region not only as a producer of raw materials and high-value products but as an emerging agro-industrial hub and tourism destination.”

This was what Quirino Provincial Governor Junie E. Cua, Chairperson of the Regional Development Council (RDC) 2, said as he addressed the members of the Council during its 110<sup>th</sup> regular business meeting on September 15, 2017 in Cauayan City, Isabela.

Gov. Cua further emphasized the relevance of the agenda to the administration's infrastructure development program.

“Under President Duterte's Build Build Build infrastructure campaign, we now have the opportunity to propose projects that will have regional impact in order to enhance the competitiveness of our region,” the RDC 2 Chair stated.

During this meeting, the RDC 2 endorsed resolutions supporting four infrastructure projects which include the proposed conversion of a provincial road in Tuguegarao City into a national road; the funding request for the concreting of a section of the Tabuk City, Kalinga – Tuao, Cagayan Road; the conduct of a feasibility study for

an international airport in Cagayan; and the CY 2018 Convergence Program of the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Public Works and Highways called the “Roads Leveraging Linkages of Industry and Trade” or ROLL IT.

The RDC 2 also endorsed the request for the strict implementation of policies on overloading, particularly the operationalization and management of weighbridges in Region 2 and the provision of warehouses beside these weighbridges.

On the management of the Regional Government Center (RGC), the Council passed a resolution requesting the City Government of Tuguegarao to relocate the ambulant vendors proliferating in the RGC. These vendors and owners of makeshift stalls have been occupying road sides at the RGC entrance.

Further, two government agencies, namely the Philippine Information Agency and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, were granted a two-year extension of the period given to agencies who were awarded with lots in the RGC to already introduce improvements in their lots. The extended period given to them is from September 2017 up to August 2019. | **NEDA DRD**

## RDC 2 RESOLUTIONS

### *For the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter*

Endorsing the Project Proposals of the Cagayan State University and the Isabela State University for Funding Under the Niche Centers in the Regions for Research and Development (NICER) Program of the Department of Science and Technology

Requesting the Department of Public Works and Highways, Land Transportation Office, and Philippine National Police to Harmonize and Strictly Implement Policies on Overloading Through the Operationalization and Management of Weighbridges in Region 2

Endorsing the Request for the Provision of Warehouses Beside Weighbridges that will Serve as Storage Facility for Unloaded Excess Cargoes

Approving the Request of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation for Another Two-Year Extension of the Memorandum of Agreement Prescribing, among others, the Period Within Which to Introduce Land Improvements and to Construct its Office Building in the Regional Government Center

Approving the Request of the Philippine Information Agency for Another Two-Year Extension of the Memorandum of Agreement Prescribing, among others, the Period Within Which to Introduce Land Improvements and to Construct its Office Building in the Regional Government Center

Requesting the City Government of Tuguegarao to Relocate All the Ambulant Vendors in the Regional Government Center to Another Area

Supporting and Endorsing the Proposed Conversion of the Junction Libag–Capatan Road to Aguinaldo Street Corner Rizal and Luna Streets, Tuguegarao City From a Local Road to a National Road

Endorsing the Request for Funding of the Proposed Construction/ Concreting of the Tabuk City, Kalinga – Tuao, Cagayan Road Via the Burayugan–San Francisco–Naruangan Section

Supporting and Endorsing the Request to the Department of Transportation for the Conduct of a Feasibility Study for an International Airport in the Third District of Cagayan

Favorably Endorsing the CY 2018 Convergence Program of the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Public Works and Highways Called Roads Leveraging Linkages of Industry and Trade (ROLL IT)

Endorsing the Special Non-Voting Membership of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority in the Regional Development Council 2 and in the Economic Development Committee as On-Call Member

Approving and Adopting the Five-Year Eel Management Plan of Region 2



## RDC 2 backs feasibility study for international airport, pushes more road improvements in R2

During its 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter regular business meeting held on September 15, 2017 in Santiago City, Isabela, the Regional Development Council (RDC) 2 passed a resolution requesting the Department of Transportation to conduct a feasibility study for the proposed international airport in Cagayan Province.

“There is a need for an international airport in the region that is able to provide and accommodate the necessary facilities to effectively cater to and accelerate the economic prosperity of the province and the region as a whole on a long-term development perspective,” reported Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Assistant Regional Director Engr. Alexander D. Nola who was reporting for the Infrastructure Development Committee (IDC).

The proposal stemmed from one of the initiatives identified in the Cagayan Development Agenda (CAGANDA) 2025 of Cagayan Governor Manuel N. Mamba which aims to boost the economic prosperity of the province through an improved and integrated transportation network that would bolster agriculture, industry, and tourism development.

“The proposed feasibility study should consider the three identified potential sites, which include the tri-boundary of the municipalities of Solana,

Tuao, and Piat where a 500-hectare land has been identified and made available by the Provincial Government of Cagayan and two other sites have also been identified by the City Government of Tuguegarao,” ARD Nola further said.

The two sites in Tuguegarao City include the eastern barangays of Namabbalan Norte, Namabbalan Sur, and Dadda and a 400-hectare agricultural land in barangays Pengue-Ruyu, Linao East, Linao Norte, and Carig Sur for the upgrading of the existing Tuguegarao Domestic Airport.

According to the Provincial Government of Cagayan, the proposed international airport will have a runway that could accommodate Airbus A320 aircrafts and will be fully-equipped.

### ***More road improvements***

Aside from the request for the feasibility study for the international airport, the RDC 2 also endorsed resolutions approving the proposed conversion of the Junction Libag-Capatan Road from a local to a national road and the proposed concreting of a section of the Tabuk-Tuao Road.

ARD Nola explained that the Junction Libag-Capatan Road to Aguinaldo St. corner Rizal and Luna Streets in Tuguegarao City provides the shortest route

from the eastern barangays and nearby municipalities to the City proper through the Pinacanauan-Capatan overflow bridge.

“However, this overflow bridge is frequently impassable during the rainy season, making emergency response and delivery of basic services difficult,” the Director said.

He further stated that the conversion of this 2.45-km road to a national road will support the construction of a permanent bridge, replacing the flood-prone Pinacanauan-Capatan overflow bridge.

At the same time, the RDC 2 also endorsed the request of the Provincial Government of Cagayan for funding for the proposed concreting of the Tabuk City, Kalinga-Tuao, Cagayan Road via the Burayugan-San Francisco-Naruangan Section.

“This road has an existing Portland Cement Concrete Pavement of 6.4 km and an unpaved balance of 4.2 km,” ARD Nola said. “The construction of this road section will require an estimated amount of PHP259 million.”

“The project further supports the thrust of the Cagayan Valley Regional Development Plan 2017-2022 on the acceleration of infrastructure and the development of industries,” ARD Nola said.

Once completed, this interregional road will provide access to tourism sites and industries in Region 2 and in the Cordillera Autonomous Region. | NEDA DRD



## RDC 2 partners with CCC for 5<sup>th</sup> Planners Convention

In its efforts to address and discuss emerging development concerns in the region, the Regional Development Council (RDC) 2 conducted the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Planners Convention with the theme “Accessing People’s Survival Fund (PSF) and Project ReBUILD” in partnership with the Climate Change Commission (CCC) on September 20-22, 2017 at the Isabela Zen Hotel in Santiago City.

This momentous event is an annual commemoration of the founding anniversary of the RDC 2 every September of each year.

This year’s Planners Convention was designed to gather local government units (LGUs) and community organizations to learn, write, and present their adaptation project proposals to the CCC–PSF Secretariat and to members of the National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE).

The event was a great opportunity for the CCC to assess the draft Project Concept Notes of the LGUs in terms of their alignment with the National Climate Change Action Plan strategic priorities and PSF priority areas, as well as their PSF documentary compliance.

National agencies and state universities and colleges also took part in the three-day activity to establish collaborative linkages with the LGUs for project conceptualization and development.

CCC Commissioner Noel Antonio V. Gaerlan emphasized

that the convention’s main goal was to make LGUs understand the risks involved in every occurrence of meteorological hazards, to establish vulnerabilities of the elements at risk, and to assess and identify adaptive strategies to address climate change through good proposals for PSF support.

He assured that the CCC shall continue to coordinate with partner agencies, monitor and evaluate the climate change programs and action plans of the government, and deliberately reach out to LGUs for data and information which can be shared for their planning, investment programming, and project development activities.

Resource persons came from NEDA, CCC, PSF Unit, University of the Philippines Resilience Institute, and Global Green Growth Institute who discussed topics on: End-to-end Support System to transform Climate-Vulnerable to Climate-Smart Provinces, Cities, and Municipalities; Integrated Watershed Ecosystems Planning; Geospatial Analytics Platform; and a briefing on the Regional Development Plan 2017-2022 and the AmBisyon Natin 2040.

The open forum that ensued was facilitated by the CCC and the NPTE led by CCC Ambassador Lourdes Tibig.



Meanwhile, Ms Katherine Firmeza, Senior Adviser of Project ReBUILD, said that “having updated and CCA-DRR-enhanced plans based on climate vulnerability and disaster risk assessment gives the LGUs an edge in accessing climate finance as it provides the context and justification of any funding request from sources like the PSF.”

She made mention that the use of science-based risk assessment in the two pilot localities, i.e Tuguegarao City and Iguig in Cagayan Province, empowered decision-makers to understand location-specific risks and anticipate the possible impacts of climate change on natural hazards.

Former Senator Heherson T. Alvarez, a climate change visionary who was the special guest of the event, discussed the cause and effects of global warming. He shared that the region is one of the most vulnerable to climate change impacts owing to its location. He encouraged everyone to be part of the advocacy of the country in reducing fossil fuel use through the use of renewable energy. He commended the pledges of commitment of planners to build better and stronger measures and protect future generations. |

**MILDRED B. MAGLAYA, NEDA PFPD**



On August 10-11, 2017, members of the local development councils in Region 2 shared their inputs in the Regional Workshop on National/Regional Strategic Priorities and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Alignment.

Held in Tuguegarao City, the activity was spearheaded by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Regional Office 2 in coordination with the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Regional Office 2.

The workshop aimed to facilitate the alignment of local level programs, projects, and activities to the SDGs and to national and regional priorities in order for local government units (LGUs) to develop more responsive local investment programs.

Among the participants were members of the Provincial Development Council Executive Committee, particularly the Provincial Administrators, the Chairpersons on Appropriation of the Provincial Council (Sangguniang Panlalawigan), Representative Mayors, Provincial Chapter Presidents of the League of Barangays, and some civil service organizations.

Some Provincial Planning and Development Coordinators and staff of the Provincial Planning and Development Office, DILG Regional and Provincial focal persons, and staff of the DILG Local Government Capability Development Division also attended the workshop. Resource persons came from the DILG, NEDA, and the Philippine Statistics Authority.

## Localizing the PDP: Local Development Councils attend workshop



DILG RD Jonathan Paul M. Leusen said that local development councils of each province and city/municipality play an important role in helping realize the AmBisyon Natin 2040.

NEDA OIC-Assistant Regional Director Engr. Ronilo H. Bulseco, also the Interim Secretary of the Regional Development Council (RDC) 2, presented the salient features of the Philippine Development Plan and the Regional Development Plan for 2017-2022.

ARD Bulseco also discussed how the national long-term vision, or AmBisyon Natin 2040, to have a “Matatag, Maginhawa, at Panatag na Buhay” aims to lay a stronger foundation for inclusive growth, a high-trust society, and a globally-competitive knowledge economy.

Further, the workshop was intended to support the SDG localization at the same time strengthening the statutory local development planning process.

It utilized the Provincial Development Investment Program (PDIP) Alignment Form and NEDA’s SDG Implementation Roadmap to ensure harmonization

and alignment of the national and regional priorities with the local development plan that the LGUs were expected to come up with.

Results of the workshop will be the initial inputs for the updating of each province’s Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plans.

A series of provincial, municipal, and barangay-level workshops was also conducted following this regional workshop.

DILG Regional Director Jonathan Paul M. Leusen, Jr. accentuated the major role of the LDCs in turning the AmBisyon Natin 2040 into reality and help Filipinos and the Philippines attain “Malasakit, Pagbabago, at Patuloy na Pag-unlad”.

He said that the journey to success and sustainable development would be easier if everyone walks through the same road and all aim for a common vision. | **ARLENE SUETOS, DILG RO2, AND NEDA DRD**



On July 26, 2017, the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) and the Cagayan Valley Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2017-2022 were formally launched in Region 2 through a roadshow which was celebrated with a motorcade and a regional forum.

A total of 202 individuals from 31 regional line agencies (RLAs), local government units (LGUs), higher education institutions (HEIs), and private sector organizations (PSOs) showed their support to the launching by joining the motorcade around Tuguegarao City in the morning.

Another set of 265 individuals from 31 RLAs, 42 LGUs, four HEIs, four PSOs, and four media outfits took part in the regional forum which was held in the afternoon in Tuguegarao City.

The roadshow aimed to further increase and broaden public awareness on the PDP and the RDP, which are the first of the four medium-term development plans that will help realize the country's long-term vision, the AmBisyon Natin 2040.

"The PDP and the RDP both etch concrete strategies, policy



More than 50 vehicles and motorcycles of the RDC2's development partners joined the motorcade around Tuguegarao City.

## Region 2 launches PDP, RDP THRU ROADSHOW

directions, and interventions to promote inclusive growth, a high-trust and resilient society, and a globally competitive knowledge economy," underscored Regional Development Council (RDC) 2 Vice Chairperson MaryAnne ER. Darauay during the regional forum. Dir. Darauay is the Regional Director of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Regional Office 2, the secretariat to the RDC 2.

"Particularly for the Cagayan Valley Region, the RDP is

focused on bringing inclusive growth and reducing poverty by capitalizing on the region's strengths and potentials, that is, to make Region 2 the "Prime Water Resource, Agro-Industrial Hub, and Emerging Tourism Destination" by 2022. This is our regional vision," she added.

NEDA Undersecretary for National Development Policy and Planning Dr. Rosemarie G. Edillon presented the key messages of the PDP 2017-2022 and elaborated that these two plans were crafted as a step



The venue during the launching of the PDP and the RDP was jam-packed with more than 200 attendees comprised of student leaders, government workers, private sector individuals, and local government officials and staff members.



to fulfill the vision of a matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay.

“Both the PDP and the RDP adopted a framework which stands on the pillars of malasakit, pagbabago, at patuloy na pag-unlad,” stated Usec. Edillon.

She went on to emphasize how LGUs can contribute to lay down the foundation for inclusive growth, a high-trust and resilient society, and a globally-competitive knowledge economy.

She also described the role of LGUs in line with the PDP’s bedrock strategies to attain the overall objectives such as on peace and security, infrastructure development, safety and resilience, and ecological integrity, and a clean and healthy environment.

For the presentation of the RDP on the other hand, Engr. Ferdinand P. Tumaliuan of NEDA emphasized how the RDP is aligned with the PDP and how this will address the diverse challenges towards realizing the regional vision.

“Basically, the RDP revolves on contributing to the national goal and vision by first allowing us to achieve our regional vision,” he said.

To do this, Engr. Tumaliuan said that the Cagayan River Basin needs to be rehabilitated and sustainably managed by implementing the programs and projects identified in the Cagayan River Basin Master Plan.

“We also need to develop our renewable energy potentials and to integrate disaster risk reduction / climate change adaptation in our local plans,” he added.



NEDA Undersecretary for National Development Policy and Planning Rosemarie G. Edillon (right) and RDC2 Vice Chair and NEDA RD MaryAnne ER. Darauay led the successful launching of the PDP and the RDP 2017-2022 in Region 2.

“It is also necessary for the region to improve its productivity in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries and to increase local and foreign investments, as well as improve the productivity and resilience of micro, small, and medium enterprises,” he stated.

An open forum ensued after the presentations wherein the audience were free to ask their questions or raise clarifications. | **NEDA DRD**

More than 200 individuals from various regional line agencies, local government units, higher education institutions, and private sector organizations showed their overwhelming support to the launching of the PDP and the RDP during the motorcade on July 26. From top: Representatives from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples; some of the vehicles who participated during the motorcade; staff members from the Iguig local government unit; and a staff of the Philippine Army preparing for the motorcade.





In a bid to start the crafting of the Regional Development Investment Program (RDIP) for 2017-2022, the Regional Development Council (RDC) 2 conducted a series of workshops for regional line agencies (RLAs), state universities and colleges (SUCs), and provincial and city local government units on August 23-25 and September 19, 2017 at the NEDA-RDC2 Building in Tuguegarao City.

The RDIP is the accompanying document of the Cagayan Valley Regional Development Plan (RDP) for the same period, which has been earlier completed and adopted by the RDC 2.

While the RDP enunciates the development goals and strategies

## RDIP 2017-2022 formulation underway

articulated in the Philippine Development Plan, the RDIP, on the other hand, shall complement this with the translation of sectoral targets indicated in the RDP's Results Matrices (RMs) into concrete programs, projects, and activities (PPAs).

The workshops served as venues for consultation on the formulation process including the criteria, typologies, and classification of programs and projects that are eligible for inclusion in the RDIP.

After the workshops, the submitted PPAs were validated vis-à-vis the RMs prior to the presentation of the draft RDIP document to the sectoral committees of the Council.

The firmed-up RDIP shall then be subjected to deliberation by the Council in December.

Through the RDIP, development strategies and targets embodied in the RDP shall redound to the realization of regional development goals. It shall, therefore, serve as a basis for the Department of Budget and Management in the review, prioritization, and endorsement of annual budgetary allocations of the RLAs and SUCs.

**| MARK S. PAGULAYAN, NEDA PDIPBD**

## CSU, ISU get 2 new projects under DOST's NICER program

Two of the region's state universities are soon to implement two new projects each after getting the endorsement of the RDC 2 last September.

The Cagayan State University (CSU) and the Isabela State University (ISU) are the new recipients of projects to be funded under the Niche Centers in the Regions (NICER) Program of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

In his presentation during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter regular meeting of the RDC 2, DOST Regional Director Sancho A. Mabborang explained that the NICER program provides institutional grants for higher education institutions (HEIs) to build their capacities on research

and development (R&D) and to improve their infrastructures on science and technology.

Dir. Mabborang currently sits as chair of the Regional Research and Development Committee which endorsed the proposal.

"Through this program, HEIs will be able to integrate regional development needs with R&D and with local resources," he said.

CSU will soon work on (1) the establishment of the Regional Agri-Trade and Industrial Research and Development Service Center and (2) the establishment of the Peanut Resources Research and Development and Training Center.

Meanwhile, ISU will embark on the establishment of the (1) Water Resources Research and Development Center and (2) Freshwater Fisheries Center in Cagayan Valley.

"These projects will be funded under the NICER program of the FY 2019 budget of the DOST on a 90/10 counterpart scheme," said Dir. Mabborang.

This supports the acceleration of technology adoption and simulated innovation as envisioned in the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022.

At the local front, the Cagayan Valley Regional Development Plan also identifies science, technology, and innovation as key drivers for productivity, growth, and advancement and for increasing the competitiveness and resiliency of the region. |

**NEDA DRD**

About 25 staff members of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Regional Office 02, which serves as secretariat of the Regional Development Council (RDC) 2, successfully completed the in-house training on Statistics for Policy Analysis in May at the NEDA-RDC Building in Tuguegarao City.

The three-day activity, facilitated by Mr. Rodger Valientes and Mr. Jefferson Arapoc, both economics professors at the University of the Philippines Los Baños, provided the participants basic statistical

## RDC 2 secretariat trains on policy analysis

concepts and tools which they can use in the analysis of public policies.

The activity likewise equipped the participants with a deeper understanding of various concepts in policy analysis, an important skill in fulfilling their tasks as technical secretariat to the RDC.

This is the third and last module of the Basic Economics Course

which commenced in October 2014. The first two modules were on basic microeconomics and macroeconomics. Overall, the course intended to enhance the knowledge and understanding of the participants on the basic theories and principles of economics, leading towards improved economic performance reporting and socioeconomic development planning. | KARYLL GEM L. BAYUBAY, NEDA PDIPBD

In support of the 2017-2022 Philippine Development Plan (PDP), the Regional Forum on Volunteerism was conducted on August 3, 2017 to get inputs from the region's various stakeholder groups on their vision for volunteerism.

About 37 participants from the academe, regional line agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations, local government units, the private sector, and non-government and civil society organizations participated in the regional forum held in Tuguegarao City.

The activity was initiated by the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency and

## Forum on volunteerism for development held

co-facilitated and coordinated by the NEDA Regional Office 2. It serves as a core activity to implement the Volunteerism for Development Communication and Advocacy Program (V4DCAP) 2017-2022.

RDC 2 Acting Vice Chair and NEDA OIC-Regional Director Ferdinand P. Tumaliuan, in his welcome remarks, encouraged the participants to take this opportunity to be part of

the crafting of the vision for volunteerism and the national policy for volunteerism for the succeeding years.

After the presentations on the AmBisyon Natin 2040 and the PDP as well as the Cagayan Valley Regional Development Plan for 2017-2022, and on the benefits of volunteerism, the participants underwent a visioning exercise for the voluntary sector in the country through posters. The forum also generated inputs from the participants for the formulation of a policy agenda and action plan for the volunteer program to support the PDP and contribute to the achievement of the AmBisyon Natin 2040. | JOEL T. UNCIANO, NEDA PMED





To equip its target beneficiaries with vital learning on entrepreneurship which will eventually aid in their reintegration, the National Reintegration Center for Overseas Filipino Workers (NRCO) in Region 2 spearheaded the conduct of the Entrepreneurial Development Training (EDT) to 50 distressed OFWs on July 17, 2017 at the Tuguegarao City Hall.

The EDT is part of the social preparation activities intended to assist distressed OFW livelihood beneficiaries as they start their business ventures, according to Sheilane Mamuric, NRCO Coordinator in Region 2.

"It aims to provide them access to additional tools in building their financial literacy skills and make them learn to manage their money more sensibly," Mamuric said.

Representatives from the Department of Trade and Industry Region 2 - Small and Medium Enterprise Roving Academy imparted knowledge to the participants as they enter into the world of entrepreneurship.

## Distressed OFWs in Cagayan undergo entrepreneurial training

The training included self-preparation for entrepreneurial roles, business planning, and business management. It also gave financial awareness tips to help OFWs handle their finances better and open avenues for future business enterprises.

Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Regional Director Manuel C. Roldan said that the EDT aims to capacitate the beneficiaries with necessary business understanding that will greatly aid them in planning and operating a livelihood undertaking.

"This kind of training is a rare opportunity for you to have something to start with," Dir. Roldan said.

The activity also intended to teach the OFWs how to save, hold, and make additional money and to help them plan, create a personal mission, and set

a timeline for their accomplishments as entrepreneurs.

The target beneficiaries were displaced by hostilities or wars/political conflict in their host country and are either victims of illegal recruitment or human trafficking who were repatriated before finishing their contracts or those who do not want to work overseas anymore.

Those who have undergone the training and passed all the requirements will be beneficiaries of the *Balik Pinas, Balik Hanapbuhay!* Program which grants a non-cash livelihood assistance amounting to PHP10,000.00.

The NRCO is an attached agency of the DOLE that is tasked to reintegrate distressed OFWs to the mainstream of Philippine society. | JOLINA V. PELOVELLO, DOLE R02

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Region 2 has launched its new online regional product catalogue, inDOStriya.ph, to help and support micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the region.

inDOStriya.ph features products proudly made in the region and aims to help Negosyo Center clients reach out to new markets through online presence and to open opportunities for market matching and linkages.

During the launching, resource speaker Mark Joseph Panganiban, Digital Commerce Association of the Philippines Executive Director, encouraged entrepreneurs to maximize the opportunity to promote their products online.



Meanwhile, DTI 2 OIC-Regional Director Ruben Diciano said that MSMEs with market-ready products are encouraged to enroll in the website provided that they meet the requirements.

According to Manilyn Ponce, Information Officer of DTI 2, MSMEs who are interested to enroll must be duly registered with either the DTI for sole proprietorship, with the Securities and Exchange Commission for partnership/corporation, and with the Cooperative Development Authority for cooperatives.

She added that they must have the proper business permits and licenses from the city or municipality where the business is located. For enterprises engaged in food and cosmetics, they must have a license to operate issued by the Food and Drug Administration.

"They are required to submit a business profile of about 2-3 paragraphs and high resolution individual pictures of products to be enrolled," said Ponce.

As of September 25, there are already 27 MSMEs enrolled in the website, with a total of more than 70 product lines categorized as food and beverages, and homestyle and wearables. | MARK DJERON C. TUMABAO, PIA R02, with reports from MANILYN PONCE, DTI R02

## DPWH completes flood control & education infra projects, conducts outreach to children

For this quarter, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Regional Office 2 has completed some flood control and education infrastructures in different provinces in Cagayan Valley Region.

Gattaran town in Cagayan and three towns in Nueva Vizcaya are the recipients of new flood control structures.

“With the completion of the flood mitigation control structure here in Gattaran, which costs PHP73.6 million, thousands of residents will benefit as it will save lives and properties and increase protection in times of flood and storms,” said DPWH Regional Director Melanio C. Briosos as he reported the completion of the flood control project in Barangay Centro in Gattaran.

In Nueva Vizcaya, the three completed flood control projects have a total cost of PHP102 million. These are located in Barangays Banganan and Calitlitan in Aritao, Barangay Lamo in Dupax del Norte, and Barangay Gabut in Dupax del Sur.

These barangays are located in low-lying areas and are vulnerable

to flooding during the rainy season.

### *School buildings*

Meanwhile, under the Basic Educational Facilities Fund of the Department of Education, three units of two-storey buildings, each having 10 standard classrooms, amounting to PHP40 million were constructed at the Sanchez Mira School of Arts and Trades (SMSAT) in Sanchez Mira, Cagayan.

In Nueva Vizcaya, Aritao and Kayapa towns are the beneficiaries of the school building project which have a cost of around PHP40 million. A three-storey building equipped with six classrooms was constructed at the Aritao National High School while a two-storey building with eight classrooms was constructed at the Sta. Clara National High School, also in Aritao.

The Napo-Tuyak Integrated School in Kayapa also now has a new two-storey building with four classrooms.

### *Outreach Activities*

Over in Isabela, the Second District Engineering Office conducted a blood-letting activity wherein 21 of their employees donated blood. This was conducted in partnership with the Red Cross – Isabela



Provincial Chapter and Manuel A. Roxas District Hospital.

They also held a gift-giving activity to around 110 pupils of Mallabo Elementary School in San Mariano, Isabela where they distributed t-shirts and school materials to the children.

The Quirino District Engineering Office also conducted an outreach activity by distributing school supplies such as notebooks, papers, pencils, and umbrellas to around 100 pupils of Banuar Elementary School. | **WILSON A. VALDEZ, MARICEL B. ASEJO, HERBERT AGUDELO & RAQUEL S. SALIBAD, DPWH RO2**



## QUIRINO COUNCIL FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS CREATED



The Sanggunian Panlalawigan (SP) of Quirino recently enacted an ordinance creating the Quirino Council for Culture and the Arts (QCCA) which aims to ensure the protection, enrichment, and promotion of culture and the arts and to advocate national legacy of and pride for the province.

The council is headed by Governor Junie E. Cua and co-chaired by SP member Joel B. Badongen, chairperson on Culture and the Arts. Other members include the Indigenous Peoples (IP) representative to the SP, Provincial Tourism Council, Provincial Planning and Development Office, Philippine Information Agency, Provincial Budget Office, National Commission on the Indigenous Peoples, Office of the Local Historical/Conservation Society, and representatives from the private sector, academe, and from each IP group and cultural community present in the area.

Section 4 of the said ordinance provides that the council is mandated to conceptualize, craft, and implement plans, policies, programs, and projects on culture and the arts for the province.

The QCCA is also tasked to prepare an annual plan to be integrated in the local development plan, formulate programs and recommendations, ensure the protection and preservation of the local cultural and historical heritage, conduct cultural events such as festivals, competitions, lectures, seminars, fora, symposia,

and set up exhibits during fiestas and other related activities.

The council will conduct periodic consultations with stakeholders to identify grassroots-based cultural concerns, issues, and agenda and coordinate with existing local culture and the arts councils.

The council is also expected to conduct a periodic inventory of local cultural objects and sites in coordination with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Cultural Center of the Philippines, National Historical Commission, and other national cultural agencies. | **THELMA C. BICARME, PIA R02**

## ISABELA HEALTH PERSONNEL UNDERGO LIFE SUPPORT TRAINING



Staff nurses, pharmacists, midwives, and other hospital personnel in four province-run hospitals in Isabela underwent a one-day basic life support and cardiopulmonary resuscitation training in September.

The hospital workers who participated in this activity are assigned at the Gov. Faustino N. Dy Sr. Memorial Hospital in Ilagan City, Echague District Hospital, Milagros Albano District Hospital in Cabagan, and San Mariano Medicare Community Hospital.

Edmond Guzman, Isabela Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer, said the training aimed to equip the participants with the basic skills in saving lives which

they can readily apply when there are accidents in their areas.

The training was composed of lectures and actual demonstrations from the province's Rescue 831 trained rescue personnel.

"Basic life support and pulmonary resuscitation training are necessary to enable hospital personnel to save lives," Guzman said.

The training was conducted at the Rescue Academy at the Provincial Capitol compound in Ilagan City. | **MARK DJERON C. TUMABAO & MERLITO G. EDALE, JR., PIA R02**

## PLGU BATANES TO STRICTLY MONITOR QUARRYING ACTS



The Provincial Government of Batanes has mandated its municipal officials to strictly monitor quarrying activities within the island following the observations that non-Ivatans and project contractors extract quarry materials from the island.

Governor Marilou H. Cayco's memorandum highlighted the local ordinance prohibiting the sale of any quarry materials from the island to contractors.

"We don't have much quarry materials in our province so we have to regulate the operation," Gov. Cayco said. "It could not even satisfy the requirements of big infrastructure projects here."

Gov. Cayco said contractors of major government infrastructure

projects for the province need to transport quarry materials from the mainland which causes a very high project cost.

On the other hand, should local government units and barangays wish to quarry, Cayco said they need to secure permits first from the provincial government before they can be allowed to do so. |

**MARK DJERON C. TUMABAO & OLIVER T. BACCAY, PIA R02**

## CAGAYAN PLGU CONDUCTS CLEAN-UP DRIVE FOR TOURISM



On Sept. 8, 2017, in celebration of Tourism Month, the Provincial Government of

Cagayan conducted a clean-up drive in some of the province's tourist sites such as the Cagayan Sports Complex, Pinacanan River, Rizal Park in Tuguegarao City, Callao Caves and Tawi River in Peñablanca, Nassiping Eco-Park in Gattaran, and the Sub-Capitol in Lallo.

According to Mr. Arnold Alonzo, the provincial government's consultant for tourism, culture and arts, the activity aimed to bring focus on eco-tourism which puts premium on the importance of caring for the environment.

"Ang clean-up drive na ito ay hindi lamang ginagawa upang mapanatiling malinis ang ating mga tourist destinations kundi ito din ay may impact sa komunidad dahil naipapaalam natin sa ating mga kababayan ang kahalagahan ng maayos, masinop at malinis na kapaligiran," he explained.

"Sa pamamagitan ng awareness, nakahihikayat tayo na maging bahagi din sila ng ating hangarin na mapanatiling maganda at kaaya-aya ang ating paligid, lalo na ang ating mga pinagmamalaking tourist attractions," he added.

With the theme, "Cagayan: Dalusan, Pabaruen, Pasyaren", the activity was also simultaneously conducted in other municipalities following Governor Manuel N. Mamba's desire for all municipalities and barangays to play a role in developing the province's tourism potential.

In Gonzaga town, a tree planting activity was also conducted in response to the Governor's goal for each barangay to have its own forest park. This was spearheaded by the Provincial Office for People Empowerment as a first step in turning strategic areas in each barangay into tourist spots.

"Sadyang napakahalaga ng partisipasyon ng lahat ng Cagayano sa pagpapalago ng industriya ng turismo sa Cagayan," said Mr. Alonzo. | **MIELMIA MARIE T. BAQUIRAN, PLGU-CAGAYAN** (Original article written in Filipino published in [www.cagayan.gov.ph](http://www.cagayan.gov.ph))

## NV PLGU PARTNERS WITH SN ABOITIZ FOR TRAINING, LIVELIHOOD FOR WORKERS



Nutrition workers here are set to receive funds for their additional training to further inspire them to work for the reduction of malnutrition incidents in the province.

Governor Carlos M. Padilla said that through the Provincial Nutrition Office, a partnership with SN Aboitiz Power (SNAP) Magat, Inc. was forged for the funding and implementation of a training and livelihood project for the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Team formed in 15 towns of the province.

A funding assistance amounting to PHP0.6 million will be given by SNAP-Magat after the IYCF completes a refresher training course for their enhancement.

The IYCF Team, composed mostly of barangay nutrition scholars, health workers, midwives and mother leaders, is set to have training sessions in October and November.

Gov. Padilla added that the provincial government will also pitch in PHP0.1 million for the organizational management structure development of the IYCF Team and another PHP0.3 million for training and capacity building which will be sourced from the Department of Health - Center for Health Development.

He also said that the project will provide stakeholders access to alternative choices in decision-making to improve practices on healthy lifestyle, utilization of functional foods available in the community, and the fortification of foods to be used in supplementary and complimentary feeding programs for the targeted sectors.

Gov. Padilla said that a significant improvement in the nutritional status of pre-school and school children has already been achieved because of the combined efforts of government agencies and private organizations. | **MARK DJERON C. TUMABAO & BENJAMIN MOSES EBREO, PIA R02**



# RPMC visits irrigation projects in Cagayan, Isabela

For their third quarter field monitoring activity, the Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC) visited two irrigation facility projects located in Cagayan and Isabela on September 28-29, 2017. Both projects are being funded by the World Bank through the Participatory Irrigation Development Project (PIDP).

The Zinundungan River Irrigation System (ZRIS) in Lasam, Cagayan and the Mallig River Irrigation System (Mallig RIS) in Mallig, Isabela were reported to be experiencing bottlenecks in their implementation as was raised during the problem-solving session of the RPMC in March.

At the ZRIS site, the RPMC monitoring team was informed that slow negotiations on right-of-way and the incapacity of the project contractor contributed much to the delay and eventual termination of the project. Only 42% was completed with the construction of the diversion dam, spurdike, and portions of canal structures. Minimal accomplishments were done due to the shortage of construction materials, lack of equipment, and limited technical staff to supervise project activities.



Because of the appeal of the farmer-beneficiaries for the project, the Philippine government through the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) will continue the remaining works. After being re-bid, the project will continue to be implemented in three packages to be carried out by two local contractors based in Tuguegarao City and in Gattaran, Cagayan.

Once completed, the ZRIS is expected to irrigate a total of 3,200 hectares covering 26 barangays in Lasam, Cagayan, which will contribute an additional palay production of 8,319 metric tons per annum.

Meanwhile, at the Mallig RIS, the monitoring team was shown several portions of completed activities funded under various sources. Among these are the additional height of the dam, gabion-type protection, and

the repaired sluice gate, all funded by the PIDP, and the concrete canal linings, structures, and canalization works funded under the Rehabilitation and Restoration of Existing National Irrigation Systems (NIS) program of NIA.

At the time of visit, the following activities were ongoing at the Mallig RIS site: construction of canal, canal lining, and canal structures, including the repair of a portion of the Casili Dam, downstream protection dike, Mallig Dam main canal eroded embankment, and the office building. The repaired structures suffered damages during the onslaught of Super Typhoon *Lawin* in October last year.

The Mallig RIS now irrigates 2,741 hectares, contributing an additional palay production of 1,512 metric tons per annum and benefits around 1,552 farmers in the area.

| MAGELINE S. DE LAZA, JOEL T. UNCIANO,  
NEDA PMED

