



# Regional Development Updates



## RDC XII Launches the Updated SOCCSKSARGEN Regional Development Plan, 2013-2016



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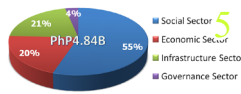
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**About the Cover**

On our cover are pictures of the Launching of the Updated SOCCSKSARGEN Regional Development Plan, 2013-2016 and its accompanying documents on February 13, 2014 in Koronadal City.

# RDC XII Launches the Updated SOCCSKSARGEN Regional Development Plan, 2013-2016

The Regional Development Council (RDC) XII launched the Updated SOCCSKSARGEN Regional Development Plan, 2013-2016, and its companion documents, namely, the Regional Development Investment Program (RDIP), 2014-2016 and the Regional Results Matrices (RRM), on 13 February 2014 in Koronadal City, South Cotabato.

NEDA Deputy Director-General (DDG) Margarita R. Songco, South Cotabato Governor Daisy P. Avance-Fuentes, and officials of the Monitoring and Evaluation Staff and the Regional Offices of NEDA graced the event.

In her message, DDG Margarita R. Songco congratulated RDC XII for spearheading the updating of the RDP and continued leadership in coordinating development efforts in the region. She stressed the importance of updating the RDP, which was undertaken parallel with the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) updating. She said that the RDP provides the regional dimension of the PDP. She enjoined the participants to continuously support the activities of RDC XII.

NEDA XII Regional Director Arturo G. Valero, RDC XII Acting Chairperson, who welcomed the guests and the region's stakeholders, said that the launching aims to inform the region's stakeholders and the general public that SOCCSKSARGEN's blueprints for development for the next three years are now ready for implementation. He hoped that with the activity, broader support for the implementation of the RDP's strategies and priority development projects and activities could be generated

and a sense of ownership of the plan documents will be developed among the people of SOCCSKSARGEN.

An audio-visual presentation (AVP) of the activities leading toward the completion of the updated RDP, and the other plan documents was shown. This was followed by the ceremonial unveiling of the documents by DDG Songco and Governor Fuentes. An AVP highlighting the general framework of the plan and the list of priority programs and projects, tagged as Kilos Abante programs and projects (KAPPs), was likewise presented.

Mr. Alfredo Bronx P. Hebrona, Jr. of the Mindanao Trade Development and Competitiveness Center, representing the private sector, and Governor Avance-Fuentes, representing the government, expressed support to the implementation of the RDP through their respective initiatives. Such expressions of support were sealed by their signatures on the displayed RDP tarpaulin. Subsequently, all the other guests also affixed their signatures on the tarpaulin.

A total of 175 RDC XII members, officials and representatives of



*DDG Songco stressed the importance of updating the RDP, which was undertaken parallel with the PDP.*



*South Cotabato Province Governor Fuentes after she affixed her signature on the RDP Launching tarpaulin as a sign of support to the Plan.*

*RDC XII Launches ... page 11*

# RDC XII backs new DOT XII tourism campaign

The Regional Development Council (RDC) XII passed Resolution No. 7, Series of 2014, supporting the adoption of the “12th Paradise” as Region XII’s Tourism Brand and enjoining the support and participation of RDC XII members in the Programs/Activities of the Department of Tourism (DOT) XII in relation to the promotion of the “12th Paradise.” The new tourism campaign is promoted by DOT XII to offer Region XII as a package of exciting spots and diverse culture to local and foreign tourists.

DOT XII Regional Director Nelly Nita N. Dillera explained that the new tourism brand features 12 unique experiences, which include: (1) Float in Paradise, for cool swimming spots; (2) Shower in Paradise, for waterfalls; (3) Dip in Paradise for the underwater dives; (4) Immerse in Paradise, for the distinct flora and fauna; (5) Wear in Paradise, for the exotic traditional clothing; (6) Dance in Paradise, for the cultural dances; (7) Create in Paradise, for the people’s artistic prowess; (8) Delight in Paradise, for the scenic sites; (9) Marvel in Paradise, for the historical structures; (10) Play in Paradise, for the various sports events; (11) Savor

in Paradise for the delicacies; and (12) Explore in Paradise for the natural adventure activities.

To further promote the region, Dillera revealed that they will be holding a selling mission to Iloilo and Bacolod on March 20-24, 2014.

She also expressed gratitude for the support of RDC 12 on the tourism sector as this will help the region not only to offer fun and adventure but also to advance economic progress.

RDC Acting Chairperson and NEDA Regional Director Arturo G. Valero encouraged other government

offices and the local government units to support the promotion of the tourism sector of the region.

Likewise, RD Valero urged them to coordinate with DOT XII, as well as with RDC XII for the conduct of their activities to support the campaign.

“We need to support this initiative of the DOT. We will not only sell the ‘12th Paradise’ to our neighboring regions but also to the general public. This is also a way to counter the bad impression in Mindanao as not a good place to visit,” Valero emphasized. *(SJDuerme with Allan Biwang-PIA 12)*



## *Explore in Paradise*

*The enigmatic Lake Holon in T'boli, South Cotabato, captured in single frame, together with the 3 Majestic Mountains of Mindanao: Mt. Parker, Mt. Matutum and Mt. Apo.*

*Source: <https://www.facebook.com/lenmj>*



# 2013 RDC XII Accomplishments

The accomplishments of RDC XII in CY 2013 essentially covered the following: updating of the SOCCSKSARGEN Regional Development Plan (RDP) and the validation of the Regional Development Investment Program (RDIP) and the Regional Results Matrix (RRM), investment programming and review and consultation of annual budget proposals, project monitoring and addressing project implementation issues, technical assistance to LGU, agencies and other bodies; coordination of policy review and formulation and reorganization of RDC for 2013-2016 term.

## Regional Development Planning

A mid-term updating of the RDP was mandated by Memorandum Circular No. 43 issued by President Benigno S. Aquino III on February 4, 2013, which RDC XII supported with the passage of Resolution No. 58, Series of 2013, approving the guidelines on the updating of the RDP, 2011-2016. Plan updating involved assessment of the first two years of plan implementation and the subsequent updating of the RDP's companion documents, namely, the Regional Development Investment Program (RDIP) and the Regional Results Matrices (RRM).

The RDC XII sectoral committees served as planning committees tasked to update the RDP through a series of workshops to review the assessment report; review and update the challenges, strategies and targets;

and update the corresponding programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) that will address the objectives of the RDP.

The draft RDP and its accompanying documents were subjected to a series of multi-sectoral consultations to further enhance them and generate support for their implementation.

## Investment Programming and Budgeting

To ensure the linkage between investment programming and budgeting, RDC XII, through its Secretariat, coordinated the conduct of workshops to validate priority programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) of agency regional offices (AROs), state universities and colleges (SUCs), government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), other national government instrumentalities with participation of local government units, to firm up the region's Annual Investment Program (AIP) for CY 2014 for RDC XII's approval and adoption.

The CY 2014 AIP, estimated to require an investment of PhP 36.35 billion, is broken down as follows: PhP 1.254 billion for agricultural development; PhP 5.55 billion for national roads and bridges; PhP 690 million for flood control and drainage systems; PhP 5.73 billion for basic education; PhP 2 billion for health facilities, infrastructure, and equipment; PhP 2.592 billion for conditional cash transfers; and PhP 77.878

million for the National Greening Program.

Subsequently, the 2014 AIP was used as reference in the RDC XII-Executive Committee consultation and review of the FY 2014 budget proposals of RLAs/SUCs and GOC-Cs on February 18-21, 2013 at Phela Grande Hotel, General Santos City.

## Project Monitoring and Evaluation

The Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC), being the monitoring arm of RDC XII, conducted field monitoring visits to 91 projects in the region. Monitoring activities were followed by Problem-Solving Sessions (PSS) to discuss recommendations on projects monitored. Subsequently, recommendations were forwarded to RDC Full Council for appropriate action.

## Technical Assistance to Local Government Units and Regional Bodies

Technical assistance was provided in the following: formulation of the GAD Plan and budget of Cotabato province; enhancement of Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plans (PDPFPs) to include disaster risk reduction/climate change adaptation (DRR/CCA) strategies; orientation and/or briefing on road safety to drivers, operators, and employees; formulation of the Regional Contingency Plan for Flooding; for-

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mulation of the Nutrition Strategic Plan; and the organization and operationalization of the Local Competitiveness Committees (LCCs) and the Sub-Committee on Mineral Industry Development (SCMID).

### Policy Review and Formulation

RDC XII passed resolutions requiring policy recommendations and/or support. These recommendations include the following: request for NFA Rice and Corn Council to Review the Importation Process in the Philippines; endorsing the proposed Amendment to Republic Act 8972 raising the age requirement of children of solo parents from 18 years old and below to 21 years old and below who shall be eligible to avail of the benefits and privileges provided under the said Republic Act; POEA Administrator to provide one additional staff to POEA Extension Unit in Region XII in the short term and a full manpower complement Office in the long term; Commission on Indigenous Peoples to take immediate action on the cancellation of Certificate of Ancestral Land Title (CALT) for about 87 hectares within the GSC airport property; requesting the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation to expand its benefit package for mentally-ill persons in Region XII to include maintenance medicines and other out-patient assistance; supporting the Regional Development Council V Resolution No. 39 Series of 2013, endorsing the proposed utilization of the FY 2014 Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF); endorsing the establishment of the first Organic Certifying Body in Mindanao to be supported by the Department of Agriculture and Organic Farmers Organizations in Region XII; and recommending the review of the

Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Organic Act of 2010, particularly on the process of granting subsidy to farmers in securing certification.

### RDC XII Reorganization

RDC XII reorganization commenced with the selection of thirteen (13) private sector representatives and their subsequent confirmation to serve the term 2013-2016. This was followed by the selection of nominees for Chairperson and Co-Chairperson, and then by the Sectoral Committee Reorganization and Confirmation of Special Non-Voting Members (SNVMs).

### Operational Concerns

The Council conducted quarterly meetings during the year, and passed a total of 86 resolutions which were forwarded to concerned agencies/bodies and tracked for further action.

The sectoral committees had four meetings each while the Regional Land Use Committee (RLUC) had two meetings for a total of 18 meetings during the period.

An RDC Week celebration was conducted to improve RDC XII efficiency and effectiveness in carrying out its mandated functions through strengthening linkages and partnerships among its members; to increase the awareness on the region's updated plan, investment program and priority programs and projects; and to generate support for the development of the tourism industry of the region.

## NUTRITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR FILIPINOS



Eat a variety of foods everyday.



Breastfeed infants exclusively from birth to 6 months, and then, give appropriate foods while continuing breastfeeding.



Maintain children's normal growth through proper diet and monitor their growth regularly.



Consume fish, lean meat, poultry or dried beans.



Eat more vegetable, fruits and rootcrops.



Eat foods cooked in edible/cooking oil daily.



Consume milk, milk products or other calcium-rich foods such as small fish and dark green leafy vegetables everyday.



Use iodized salt, but avoid excessive intake of salty foods.



Eat clean and safe foods.



For a healthy lifestyle and good nutrition, exercise regularly, do not smoke, and avoid drinking alcoholic beverages.

Source: <http://www.nnc.gov.ph/>

The celebration opened with a fun walk/run in Koronadal City early morning of September 23, followed by sports events, press conference, and culminated with the conduct of Regional Tourism Summit of the Department of Tourism XII on September 27, 2013 in General Santos City.



(Rosa D. Lemana, DRD/NEDA XII)

# PROJECT MONITORING

for the 1st Quarter of CY 2014

## Sultan Kudarat Province and Cotabato City (February 5-7, 2014)

- 1) Road Upgrading (Gravel to Concrete) of Awang-Upi-Lebak-Kalamansig-Palimbang Road (Tambis-Sangay Section) K1963+400 to K1976+000 with exception
- 2) Road Upgrading (Gravel) along Awang-Upi-Lebak-Kalamansig-Palimbang Road (Tambis-Sangay Section), Km 1971+040 to Km.1971+510 (Furtherance)
- 3) Completion of Permanent Bridge (Sta. Clara Bridge) along Senator Ninoy Aquino (SNA)-Lebak-Kalamansig Road
- 4) Completion of Permanent Bridge of Limulan Bridge Along SNA-Lebak-Kalamansig Road
- 5) Construction of Kalamansig-Lebak-Palembang (KALEPA) District Hospital
- 6) Construction of Matampay Bridge (Completion) along Cotabato City Access Road, Sta 0+498 to Sta 0+598
- 7) Concreting of Access Road of Matampay Bridge II
- 8) Rehabilitation/Reconstruction of Cotabato City Circumferential Road (Access Road to Seaport, Cotabato City)
- 9) Construction of Two (2) –Storey Health Facilities Enhancement Program (Expansion of Cotabato City Health Office)
- 10) Cotabato Airport Development Project
- 11) Initial Dredging of Rio Grande de Mindanao, Phase V
- 12) Dredging of Rio Grande de Mindanao, Phase VI (Sta. 0+000 to Sta. 1+500)

## Cotabato Province (February 17-20, 2014)

- 1) MMIP Rehabilitation and Improvement of Maridagao River Irrigation System (MRIS) – PhP305 Million
- 2) Upper Malitubog Service Area Repair and Improvement Works (UMARIW) – PhP46 Million
- 3) Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project (MMIP) Phase II CY 2012 – PhP391 Million
- 4) Upper Malitubog Irrigation Project (MMIP Phase II) CY 2013 – PhP200 Million



Construction of Matampay Bridge along Cotabato City Access Road.



Completion of permanent bridge along Senator Ninoy Aquino-Lebak-Kalamansig Road.



Construction of the head gate of the Right Main Canal Extension 2 under the CY 2012 PhP391 Million Budget of the Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project (MMIP) II.



Hanging Bridge under Package 13 of the Rehabilitation and Improvement of Maridagao River Irrigation System in Cotabato Province.

# NPMC Holds 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Meeting in Koronadal City



*The National Project Monitoring Committee headed by NEDA DDG Margarita R. Songco (9<sup>th</sup> from left), during the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Meeting on February 12, 2014 at the Farm, Carpenter Hill, Koronadal City.*

The National Project Monitoring Committee (NPMC) headed by NEDA Deputy Director-General Margarita R. Songco held its 1st quarter meeting of the year at the Farm@Carpenter Hill, Koronadal City, South Cotabato on 12 February 2014.

The NPMC is an inter-agency committee of the national government mandated to coordinate and oversee, among others, the implementation of the Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System (RPMES) established under Executive Order No. 376 issued by the late President Corazon C. Aquino on 2 November 1989. It ensures a comprehensive interaction by the project monitoring committees created under the RPMES at the national down to the regional and local levels.

Aside from DDG Songco, the NPMC is currently composed of Undersecretary Mario L. Relampagos of the Department of Budget and Management, Undersecretary Ferdinand B. Cui, Jr. of the Project Manage-

ment Staff of the office of the President, and Ms. Teresita T. Daguman of the Office of Project Development Services of the Department of the Interior and Local Government. The NEDA Regional Directors, who also serve as the chairpersons of the Regional Project Monitoring Committees (RPMCs), are invited to NPMC meetings. The NEDA Monitoring and Evaluation Staff, headed by Director Roderick Planta, serves as the NPMC Secretariat.

The NPMC meeting resulted to



*Former NEDA RO XII Directors, Teresita Socorro C. Ramos and Ma. Lourdes D. Lim, during the NPMC Meeting in Koronadal City on February 12, 2014.*

the following agreements, namely: (a) dissemination of final Results Matrices, which provide the indicators to be tracked in the implementation of the updated Philippine Development Plan, 2013-2016, to the RPMCs as reference; (b) submission to Socio-economic Planning Secretary and NEDA Director-General Arsenio M. Balisacan a report on issues related to the Reconstruction Assistance on Yolanda (RAY), including the monitoring and evaluation arrangements of interventions that will be implemented; (c) formulation of an outcome framework for RAY; and (d) revision of the RPMES Manual. The Committee also agreed to have its 2nd quarter meeting in Caraga region.

After the meeting, Koronadal City Mayor Peter B. Miguel hosted a dinner for the NPMC, its Secretariat, and RPMC officials at FB Hotel, the newest hotel in the city. The Mayor warmly welcomed and encouraged them to spread the information and learnings they gained from their stay

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**RDC Form 2.  
BUDGET SUMMARY PROPOSAL  
FOR FY 2015 (In P'000)**



PROGRAM/ ACTIVITY/ PROJECT	TOTAL PROPOSED PROGRAM			TOTAL
	PS	MOOE	CAPITAL OUTLAYS	
GAS	8,322	4,524	727	13,574
SUBSIDIES AND OTHERS				43
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	15,185	9,311	1,000	25,496
Capital Expenditures	24,512	1,419	2,277	28,208
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,512</b>	<b>1,419</b>	<b>2,277</b>	<b>28,208</b>

**RDC XII ENDORSES  
PHP 129.6 BILLION  
BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR FY 2014**



*NEDA RO XII Assistant Regional Director Noel E. Quiratman presented the Budget Proposal of the RDC/ NEDA XII for Fiscal Year 2015 during the consultation and review of the budget proposals on February 20, 2014 in Koronadal City.*

The RDC XII Expanded Executive Committee (ExCom) conducted a five-day consultation and review of the budget proposals for FY 2015 of thirty-one (31) regional line agencies, seven (7) government owned and controlled corporations, and five (5) state universities and colleges at FB Hotel, Koronadal City.

Social Contract and key result areas of the President, the Updated Philippine Development Plan (PDP), the Updated Regional Development Plan (RDP), the Updated Regional Development Investment Program (RDIP) for CY 2014-2016, and in particular, the CY 2015 Annual Investment Program (AIP).

The RDC XII review of the budget proposals is in consonance with RDC's mandate as provided for in EO No. 325, Series of 1996, and in compliance with National Budget Memorandum No. 120 (Budget Call for FY 2015) dated 06 January 2014.

In terms of contribution to the attainment of the region's strategic development outcomes, the biggest amount of the FY 2015 budget proposal was for social development at P108.3 Billion (83.54%). Accelerating infrastructure support received PhP 11 Billion (8.71%) and the competitive and sustainable agriculture and fishery sector got PhP 6 Billion (4.61%).

Eighteen (18) RLAs included in their proposals the construction of office buildings in Koronadal City. The total requirement for this purpose amounted to PhP 766.038 Million.

These budget proposals were confirmed by the RDC XII full council during its meeting on 05 March 2015 in Koronadal City. (Liberty B. Arumpac, DRD/NEDA XII)

The panel members during the budget review were the following: RDC XII Acting Chairperson Arturo G. Valero, two Committee Chairpersons, three Committee Co-Chairpersons, Regional Directors of DBM and DILG, five Private Sector representatives, three representatives from LGUs, NSCB representative, and a representative from OP-PMS XII.

The RDC ExCom favorably endorsed the budget proposals which amounted to P129 billion pesos. The programs/projects/activities (PPAs) included in these budget proposals were found to be supportive of the



## *Congresspersons Pledge... from page 12*

Cong. Acharon inquired on the big difference of the budget and the proposals of the different Congressional districts or provinces/cities. He proposed that despite the budget ceilings, the region should propose for greater allocation for its priority projects because the PDAF is already scrapped.

Cong. Catamco also aired her apprehension on the failure of some National Government agencies to participate in the consultations she conducted. She assured the line agencies of their support for project proposals as long as these are closely coordinated with the region's House Representatives.

Some of the actions to be pursued based on the recommendations raised during the meeting are: (1) sustained collaboration between NEDA, line agencies and LGUs in terms of updating of the list of new priority projects, as well as the identification of priority projects; (2) submission of RDC XII resolution expediting the GenSan Airport project with letter

from the Congresspersons supporting the project and to be followed-up by NEDA XII; (2) interlinking major roads in investment-potential areas of SOCCSKSARGEN and connecting these roads to major sea ports in the region; (4) increasing the allocation of funds for the Regional Trial Courts and requesting the Supreme Court to activate legislated trial courts; (4) establishment of food terminals beside the public sea ports and land transport terminals; (5) the establishment of Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) regional office in Koronadal City to minimize expenses of professionals in securing or renewing their professional licenses; (6) passage of policy on funding sources for secondary roads requiring more than P50 million; and (7) the appointment of the Chairperson for the Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC).

The AdCom members were also updated regarding the development of the implementation of some projects. The CY 2015 Annual Investment Program was likewise presented along with the schedule for the re-

view of the FY 2015 budget proposals. For closer coordination with the region's House Representatives, the AdCom agreed that congresspersons be invited to meetings of the different sectoral committees. They were also provided with RDC resolutions of endorsements of programs and projects requiring funding and those related to policy reforms or legislation.

RDC XII AdCom is composed of the nine (9) congresspersons of Region XII and the Executive Committee (ExCom) members of RDC XII. ExCom, which comprises one-fourth of the duly constituted membership of the Council, is composed of the RDC XII Chairperson and Co-Chairperson who are appointed by the President of the Philippines; Vice Chairperson Arturo G. Valero, regional director of NEDA XII; the RDC XII sectoral committee chairpersons, namely: PSR Alfredo Bronx P. Hebrona, Jr. of the Infrastructure and Utilities Development Committee (InfraCom), PSR Richlie Lyndon L. Magtulis of the Regional Social Development Committee (RSDC), PSR Rolando S. Doria of the Economic Development Committee (EDC) and PSR Darlene Magnolia R. Antonino-Custodio of the Macro-Economy Development, Administration and Finance Committee (MEDAFC); the co-chairpersons of the RDC XII sectoral committees, namely: Mayor Ronnel C. Rivera of the InfraCom, Gov. Daisy P. Avance-Fuentes of RSDC, Mayor Peter B. Miguel, EDC and Mayor Lina O. Montilla of MEDAFC; and RD Alikhan Marohombsar and RD Reynaldo S. Bungubung of DBM XII and DILG XII, respectively.



*South Cotabato Governor Daisy P. Avance-Fuentes with the District Representatives of Region XII, Pedro B. Acharon, Jr., Ferdinand L. Hernandez, and Nancy A. Catamco during the RDC XII Advisory Committee Meeting on January 14, 2014 in Koronadal City.*

### ***RDC XII Launches ... from page 3***

the different regional line agencies, state universities and colleges, private higher education institutions, non-governmental organizations and members of media attended the activity. The South Cotabato Chorale, which recently won in an international chorale competition, led the singing of the doxology, the National Anthem, the South Cotabato hymn, and the Martsa ng Koronadal City; while the South Cotabato Dance Troupe showcased the region's cul-

ture through a series of ethnic dances.

In closing, RDC XII Secretary and NEDA XII Assistant Regional Director Noel E. Quiratman thanked everyone for witnessing the event and for sealing their support to the updated RDP. He urged everyone to provide feedback during the assessment of the updated plan's implementation. 🌐 (Helen L. Vestal, DRD/NEDA XII)



*View from the back. The Launching was attended by RLAs, SUCs, Private HEIs, NGOs and members of media.*

### ***National Project ... from page 8***

in Region XII and Koronadal City. He said he just arrived from Singapore where he promoted the region and the city.

Aside from the sumptuous dinner, the NMPC entourage were treated to a showcase of the city's talents in singing and dancing. Mayor Miguel also sang for the group and some of the NPMC staff gamely joined him. At the close of the event, RD Valero expressed thanks to Mayor Miguel for his hospitality and assured him of NEDA's support to the city's growth and development. 🌐 (Rosa D. Lemana, DRD/NEDA XII)



*Koronadal City Mayor Peter B. Miguel (center) hosted the dinner for the NPMC, its Secretariat, and RPMC officials at FB Hotel, the newest hotel in the city. In picture (L-R), RD Valero of NEDA XII, Mayor Miguel and DDG Songco of NEDA CO.*

### ***Congresspersons Pledge... from page 10***

Congresspersons present were: Ferdinand L. Hernandez of the 2nd district of South Cotabato, Pedro B. Acharon, Jr. of the 1st district of South Cotabato, Nancy A. Catamco of the 2nd district of North Cotabato, Atty. Noel Tiampong representing Cong. Bai Sandra A. Sema of the 1st district of Maguindanao and Cotabato City, and Mr. Joseph John J. Aguilar, representing Cong. Emmanuel D. Pacquiao of the lone district of Sarangani.



The RDC XII AdCom advises, assists, and supports the RDC in the following: (a) preparation of the Regional Development Plan (RDP) and the Regional Development Investment Program (RDIP) and their implementation; (b) preparation of annual budget proposals of regional

line agencies and state universities and colleges; and (c) generation of policy recommendations that need legislation and/or action of the President or the Cabinet. 🌐 (Sheila M. Bayquin, Notre Dame of Marbel University and Rosa D. Lemana, DRD/NEDA XII)

# Congresspersons Pledge Closer Collaboration with RDC XII and Support to RDP



The members of the House of Representatives from Region XII committed to work closely with the Regional Development Council (RDC) XII during the reorganization of the Council's Advisory Committee (AdCom) on 14 January 2014 at the Farm at Carpenter Hill, Koronadal City.

This was bared by Hon. Ferdinand L. Hernandez, representative of South Cotabato's 2nd Congressional District and lead convenor of the Region XII Congresspersons, during his

opening message of the reorganization meeting.

Cong. Hernandez mentioned some of the development initiatives for Region XII that the Congresspersons are supporting, namely: (1) the complete transfer of regional headquarters and all regional operations of line agencies to Koronadal City; (2) further improvement of road and infrastructure network linking key production areas to national roads and to major air and sea ports; (3) the planned upgrading of General Santos City International Airport; (4) the retention of government funding in 2014 for the repair and rehabilitation of irrigation facilities—which has been successfully lobbied; (5) the establishment of a regional hospital for South Cotabato; (6) the establishment of a new SUC in South Cotabato and

of the new Regional Learning Center within SOCCSKSARGEN; and (7) the improvement of the energy outlook for the Mindanao grid.

Cong. Hernandez also said that the legislators are supporting the Updated Regional Development Plan and hoped that the document would be something they can all work on “despite personal differences and political affiliations.” He emphasized the need for sustained collaboration of efforts in order to make efficient the use of government resources, “... development should be institutionalized...let us collaborate and work closer together for development,” he said, “so that the use of government resources can be optimized, more so at this time, that the pork barrel funds have been abolished and the probability that the Supreme Court will also declare the development assistance fund (DAF) unconstitutional.” The congresspersons agreed to synchronize their priorities with Region XII's development.

*Advisory Committee lead convenor, Hon. Ferdinand L. Hernandez, District Representative of South Cotabato, 2nd District, delivered his opening message during the reorganizational meeting on January 14, 2014 in Koronadal City.*



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To: