



Left to Right: RDC XI Vice-Chairperson and NEDA XI RD Maria Lourdes D. Lim, CESO II, DBM XI RD Gary R. Martel, DBM Asec. Maxine Tanya M. Hamada

Regional Development Council (RDC) XI ExCom Endorses PhP 106.43 Billion Worth of Proposed Programs and Projects of the Davao Region for FY 2017

(Davao City, 22-24 February 2016). The Expanded Executive Committee of the Regional Development Council (RDC) XI endorsed around PhP 106.43 Billion worth of proposed programs, activities and projects (PAPs) of 36 Agency Regional Offices (AROs), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and selected Government-owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) in Davao Region for FY 2017. The proposed amount is ten percent higher compared to what was endorsed by the Council in FY 2016.

In her opening message, RDC XI Vice-Chairperson and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA XI) Regional Director Maria Lourdes D. Lim emphasized that the annual budget preparation and review exercise has been institutionalized by the Council as a continuing effort to strengthen the link across development planning, investment programming and budgeting processes.

Director Lim further informed the RDC XI Executive Committee that pending the formulation of the successor Regional Development Plan, this year's budgeting exercise shall continue to advocate priority PAPs that directly contribute to the attainment of development goals, objectives and targets under the current Davao Regional Development Plan, 2014-2016; as well as the Sustainable Development Goals.

Of the PhP 106.43 Billion proposed budget, PhP 52 Billion or 53% are for PAPs under the Social Development and PhP 44.5 Billion or 42% are for Infrastructure Development while PhP 5.9 Billion or 5% are for the Economic and Development Administration Sectors. The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) XI has the biggest

investment with PhP 42 Billion, followed by the Department of Education (DepEd) XI with Php 40.7 Billion.

Aside from the regular programs of AROs/SUCs/GOCCs, PAPs for Gender and Development (GAD), youth development, Senior Citizens, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and Indigenous Peoples (IPs); Climate-change; Payapa and Masaganang Pamayanan (PAMANA) and other peace building-related concerns; PAPs proposed under the Bottom-up Budgeting and the Davao Region Industry Cluster Roadmaps were integrated into the budget proposals.

During the said RDC XI ExCom Consultation and Review, ASec. Maxine Tanya M. Hamada of the Department of Budget and Management highlighted the important role of the RDCs in promoting meaningful devolution, emphasizing the role of the RDC in harmonizing national and local initiatives. She encouraged RDC XI to add value to the budget proposals by linking the PAPs to the Region's overall development objectives and prioritize PAPs as there is a limit to what the National Government can fund.

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(Emil B. Clarito/Jaime P. Mallare, NEDA XI)