



DBM Affirms the Role of Regional Development Council XI on the Davao Regional Budget Review



DBM Asec Maxine Tanya M. Hamada presents at the RDC XI Expanded Executive Committee FY 2017 Budget Proposal Consultation and Review. (In photo (from left to right): RDC XI Vice-Chairperson and NEDA XI Regional Director Maria Lourdes D. Lim, CESO II, DBM Director Gary C. Martel, DBM ASec Maxine Tanya M. Hamada)

Davao City - Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Assistant Secretary Maxine Tanya M. Hamada emphasized the role of the Regional Development Councils (RDCs) in complementing national with local project plans and programs. During the RDC XI Expanded Executive Committee FY 2017 Budget Proposal Consultation and Review conducted at the NEDA Regional Office XI, ASec Hamada cited that, in the past, the RDC's inputs were not given value in the budget preparation process.

"To make governance reforms really work, RDCs role is affirmed to bring together national and local initiatives", Asec Hamada said. She added that meaningful devolution is where top-down and bottom-up budgeting are harmonized and to give focus on barangays to increase the capacities of LGUs as the frontline agencies for development.

Recognizing the importance of RDC XI in the budget preparations, ASec Hamada encouraged the Council to use its recommendations and to give more meaning and value to the budget process. The RDC XI was enjoined to align priority projects with that of the LGUs to strengthen local partnerships and to do a geospatial check on these projects to ensure the implementation would benefit the target priority areas. Also, the new initiatives of the DBM, such as the utilization of the Budget Form C, the form used to summarize the recommendations of the RDCs on the budget proposal submitted by Regional Line Agencies (RLAs), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), and selected Government Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), would strengthen the roles of RDC XI by focusing more on local/regional priorities rather than national projects.

The "Konkreto at Ayos na LanSangan at DAan tungo sa Pangkalahatang Kaunlaran" or KALSADA Program, which focuses on roads and bridges, was given emphasis for RDC XI

to prioritize in the FY 2017 budget preparations. ASec Hamada said that there is a need to invest in 180,000 kilometers of local roads to close the gap between the business centers and rural areas in terms of access to basic services, economic prosperity, competitiveness, and peace-building.

RDC XI Vice-Chairperson and NEDA XI Regional Director Maria Lourdes D. Lim added that “the RDCs paradigm shift would require: (1) reorientation to RDCs for Programs, Activities and Projects (PAPs) to have geospatial focus; (2) appreciate better what the Results Matrices (RMs) represent which are the agencies’ contribution to realizing the goals of the Region; and (3) linking the PAPs to the Region’s overall development objective”.

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(Jaime P. Mallare, NEDA XI)