



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY XI

RDC XI Calls on Agencies to Allocate 1% of their Budgets for IPs

Davao City – The Regional Development Council (RDC) XI, the highest policy-making body in Davao Region, urged National Government Agencies to allocate at least one (1) percent of their respective annual budgets for programs and projects for indigenous peoples (IPs). This policy initiative was further pushed with its integration in the RDC XI FY 2017 Budget Preparation Guidelines.

The RDC XI considers the IPs as among the most vulnerable sectors in society requiring the prime attention of government. Based on the testimonies of the IP sector, up to now, the IPs still find it difficult to access government services. In particular, IPs have difficulty competing with thousands of applicants in view of the scholarship requirements of scholarship-granting agencies; resulting in very few qualified IP scholars. CHED XI, however, clarified that there are also some scholarship grants intended only for IPs.

As discussed in the RDC XI Social Development Committee (SDC) which handles human resource development and social protection concerns in the Region, RDC XI Vice-chairperson and NEDA XI Regional Director Maria Lourdes D. Lim stated that there is a strong need to aid the IP sector in efforts to make them more productive members of society through the budget allocation. She said that this approach has been employed for gender and development, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and the youth through providing allocations in the General Appropriations Act. For Davao Region, this initial call comes from the RDC XI urging agencies to provide 1 percent, at the very least, for programs and projects that benefit the IPs.

This effort was institutionalized by the inclusion of the 1% allocation in the RDC XI FY 2017 Budget Preparation Guidelines and exercised during the FY 2017 Review of Agency Budget Proposals by the RDC XI in February 2016. This ensured that the agency budgets included programs and projects for the IPs, in line with the RDC XI's efforts of linking its programs and projects to overall regional development objectives, which included social protection for the vulnerable sectors.

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