

RDC XI Orients Davao Region's Congressional Representatives, Local Chiefs on RDC Processes; Discusses Budget Allocations



GAINING SUPPORT: *Acting RDC XI Chairperson, Director Maria Lourdes D. Lim of NEDA XI (center), along with Director Gary Martel of DBM XI and Acting RDC XI Secretary, OIC-ARD Priscilla R. Sonido of NEDA XI, orient local chiefs of Davao Region on the RDC processes. (Right photo) Among the Governors and Congressional Representatives who attended the activity were Governor Jayvee Tyron Uy of Compostela Valley, Congresspersons Maria Carmen S. Zamora and Ruwell Peter S. Gonzaga of ComVal, representative of Congressman Antonio R. Floirendo, Mr. Roy Catalan, and Governor Antonio Rafael G. del Rosario of Davao del Norte. (Not in photo) Governor Douglas RA. Cagas of Davao del Sur was also present during the activity while the rest of the LCEs and Congresspersons were represented.*

Davao City - Gathering the newly elected local chief executives (LCEs) and Congressional Representatives, the Regional Development Council (RDC) XI undertakes orientation on the development planning process and status of implementation of the Davao Regional Development Plan (RDP) during the recent *Consultation Meeting/Orientation on RDC XI Mandates and Processes* on 12 August 2016 at the NEDA-RDC XI Convention Center, Bangkal, Davao City.

Regional Director Maria Lourdes D. Lim of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) XI, currently the Acting RDC XI Chairperson, disclosed that the said orientation was undertaken in view of the assumption to office of a new set of Local Chief Executives (LCEs) and Congressional Representatives in the Region. This would ensure that the new set of Officials of the RDC XI Full Council and Advisory Committee are well informed of the mandates, processes, thrusts and priorities of the RDC XI.

Director Lim said that the activity is part of the initiatives of the Council to sustain its strong partnership with the local government units (LGUs) of Davao Region, as well as, gain their support on the priority programs, activities and projects (PAPs) of the Region for FY 2017. The support of Congressional Representatives likewise is sought by RDC XI by way of inclusion of the Region's priority PAPs in the deliberations for the FY 2017 National Expenditure Program and, consequently, in the General Appropriations Act, as well as, in crafting the legislative agenda for inclusion in the Davao Regional Development Plan.

The RDC XI Full Council shall be formally reorganized on August 26, 2016, while the rest of its Committees shall follow right after the Council's reorganization. The RDC XI Advisory Committee is where the Congressional Representatives sit as members.

Among the Governors and Congressional Representatives who attended the activity were Governor Antonio Rafael G. Del Rosario of Davao del Norte, Governor Jayvee Tyron Uy of Compostela Valley, Governor Douglas RA. Cagas of Davao del Sur, Congresspersons Maria Carmen Zamora and Ruwell Peter Gonzaga of ComVal. The rest of the LCEs and Congresspersons were also represented in the said activity.

The Council including the Congresspersons shall meet again on August 26, 2016, after the reorganizational meeting to discuss the priority projects of Davao Region under the 2017 AIP and the Fiscal Year 2017 RDC XI-endorsed Budget Proposal of selected NGAs, SUCs and selected Government-owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs).

The AIP is the RDC XI's main reference for reviewing the list of priority PAPs, annually endorsed by the RDC for inclusion in the budget proposals of national line agencies. The AIP is a list of public sector PAPs of the different regional line agencies, SUCs, and other national government instrumentalities in the region which are necessary to attain the development goals and objectives as provided in the RDP. It constitutes the annual priority PAPs which are focused on expenditure priorities, such as the completion of critical programs/projects, as well as ongoing and proposed interventions in the pursuit of social, economic, infrastructure, and governance and institutions development

The RDC is the highest policy-making body in the region and serves as the counterpart of the NEDA Board at the regional level. As provided for in Executive Order No. 325 (Section 4.d), the RDC is the primary institution that coordinates and sets the direction of all economic and social development efforts in the region. It also serves as the forum where local efforts can be related and integrated with national development activities to ensure sustainable, participatory and equitable development. Its primary task is to coordinate development planning and policy making in the region. The said functions allow the RDC to ensure that the multi-year priority development plan and investment programs of the regions are funded by way of their inclusion in the National Government budget.

The same Executive Order provides for the creation of an Advisory Committee to the RDC composed of the members of the House of Representatives representing the provinces and districts of the Region, aimed at further strengthening the coordinating and consultative mechanisms in the Region and to advise, assist and support the Council in carrying out its functions. (*Mia Glenda G. Aracid, DRD-NEDA XI*)

#####