



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL DAVAO REGION

RDC XI APPROVES DAVAO REGION'S SUCCESSOR PLAN, HOSTS FORUM ON FEDERALISM



RDC XI Acting Chairperson Dir. Maria Lourdes D. Lim presides over the Council meeting where DILG XI Dir. Ananias Villacorta (left), presented Committee matters, while Federalism resource speakers Prof. Edmund S. Tayao and Atty. Benedicto Bacani listen intently.

During its 4TH Quarter Meeting on December 13, 2016, the Regional Development Council XI approved the successor *Davao Region Development Plan (DRDP), 2017-2022*. The DRDP serves as the Region's translation of the development directions of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP), 2017-2022 that addresses the long-term vision dubbed as "Ambisyon Natin 2040", and the 0+10-point Socioeconomic Agenda of the Duterte Administration for inclusive growth and a high trust society. Alongside the regional plan, the Davao Region Development Investment Program (DRDIP), 2017-2022 was also approved by the Council. The DRDIP translates the DRDP into priority programs, activities and projects (PAPs) that need to be implemented to achieve Davao Region's goal and strategic outcomes.

During the same meeting, the Council hosted a forum on Federalism in line with the priority political reform agenda of the Duterte Administration. The resource speakers were Prof. Edmund S. Tayao, Executive Director of the Local Government Development Foundation (LOGODEF), whose topic was "*Philippine Semi-Presidential Federal Model of Government*" and, Atty. Benedicto Bacani of the Institute of Autonomy and Governance of the Notre Dame University, who handled the topic on "*Federalism: Local Autonomy, Peace and Development and Economic Empowerment of Local Governments*".

Prof. Tayao enjoined the Council members to actively participate in similar dialogues on Federalism so as to arrive at informed and shared decisions, particularly on the best model of federal system for the country. He emphasized that Federalism is an opportunity to address the concern on regional fragmentation. For his part, Atty. Bacani cited that Federalism is a priority Mindanao agendum, thereby everyone shall play a crucial role. He further opined that Federalism is not the only solution to the Mindanao Conflict but is the best political system for a diverse society as it promotes unity in diversity (*SEDS Alana O. San Pedro*).