



Left to Right: DBM XI RD Gary R. Martel, RDC XI Acting Chairperson and NEDA XI RD Maria Lourdes D. Lim, CESO II, RDC XI Acting Secretary and NEDA XI ARD Priscilla R. Sonido

Regional Development Council (RDC) XI ExCom Endorses PhP 134.23 Billion Budget for FY 2018 Proposed Programs and Projects of the Davao Region

(Davao City, 6 February 2017). The Regional Development Council (RDC) XI Expanded Executive Committee endorsed around PhP 134.23 Billion worth of proposed programs, activities and projects (PAPs) of 37 Agency Regional Offices (AROs), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and selected Government-owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) in Davao Region for FY 2018. The proposed amount is twenty percent higher from the previous year endorsed by the Council.

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

Director Lim cited that the National Budget Memorandum No. 127, released on December 28, 2016, signed by Secretary Benjamin Diokno, signaled the start of the first budgeting exercise under the Duterte Administration. She emphasized that programs, activities, and projects (PAPs) for FY 2018 shall support the development objectives of the Davao Region Development Program (DRDP), 2017-2022 which is anchored on the President's 0+10 Point socio-economic agenda and the "AmBisyon Natin 2040" or Philippines' Long Term Vision for 2040. Director Lim also underscored that programs, activities and projects (PAPs) prepared by Agencies for FY 2018 should be "shovel ready", as termed by Secretary Benjamin Diokno, or are ready for implementation especially for projects in the infrastructure sector.

Of the total PhP 134.23 Billion proposed budget of the 37 Agencies, PAPs under the Infrastructure Sector have the biggest proposal of PhP 63.4 Billion; followed by PAPs for the Social Sector amounting to PhP 63.02 Billion. The budget endorsed for the Economic and Development Administration Sectors were PhP 4.92 Billion and PhP 2.9 Billion respectively. Among the agencies, the Department of Public Works and Highways

(DPWH) XI proposed the biggest investment of PhP 59 Billion, followed by the Department of Education (DepEd) XI with PhP 36.9 Billion.

Apart from the regular programs of agencies, PAs for Gender and Development (GAD), youth development, Senior Citizens, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and Indigenous Peoples (IPs); Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate-change; PAs under the Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan (PAMANA) and other peace building-related concerns; PAs proposed for the Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs) in Davao Region, and the Davao Region Industry Cluster Roadmaps were integrated into the budget proposals.

#

(Jaime P. Mallare, NEDA XI)