

**Headline: NEDA Board Regional Development Committee – Mindanao Area Committee (NB RDCOM-MAC) Expressed its Support to the Creation of the Eastern Mindanao Peace and Development Council during its 20<sup>th</sup> Conference**



*(From left to right) USec. Adoracion M. Navarro, NEDA-RDO; Gov. Anthony G. del Rosario, NB RDCOM-MAC Chairperson; Dir. Maria Lourdes D. Lim, Head, NB RDCOM-MAC Secretariat and RDC XI Vice-Chairperson*

**(Davao City, 17 July 2017).** The NB RDCOM-MAC, comprised of representatives from the Regional Development Councils (RDCs) of Mindanao, as well as, the Regional Economic and Development Planning Board (REDPB) of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), convened for its 20<sup>th</sup> Conference on July 13, 2014 at Seda Abreeza Hotel, Davao City.

NB RDCOM-MAC Chairperson Governor Anthony G. del Rosario, in his opening message, informed the members, on how the Mindanao Committee should respond to the RDCOM's mandate of accelerating socio-economic development of the regions, reduce regional growth disparities, and promote rational allocation of resources. "Mindanao has long been in the backseat, thus, it is high time that we move forward and proactively assume our strategic role as a leader in sustainable socio-economic development."

One of the major items tackled by the Committee was the proposed creation of the Eastern Mindanao Peace and Development Council (EMPDC), presented by Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) XI Chairperson and Compostela Valley Governor Jayvee Tyron Uy. Governor Uy mentioned that the concept of the EMPDC originated from the Davao Occidental's Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC) Resolution No 11, series of 2017, proposing to the President of the Philippines, the creation of Southern Mindanao Peace and Order Council (SMPOC) involving Davao Region's neighboring provinces as one of the strategies on how to counter and defeat the local communist movement in the Country through cooperation.

The EMPDC's main objective is the sharing of knowledge and intelligence information among government agencies, Local Government Units (LGUs), and the military engaged in counter insurgencies and peace and order activities in Regions X, XI, XII and CARAGA. Governor Uy explained that dialogues and deliberation on major peace and order and internal security issues among said neighboring Peace and Order Councils (POCs), LGUs, and government agencies shall be easier with the creation of the EMPDC. He added that interoperability and sharing of vital information and action among LGUs and agencies to counter the insurgency, and provision of livelihood and infrastructure development programs can be realized through coordinative mechanisms.

As a result, the Committee passed RDCom-MAC Resolution No. 8, series of 2017 entitled *“Expressing Support the Proposed Creation of the Eastern Mindanao Peace and Development Council, In Principle, Subject to the Formulation of an Appropriate Organizational Structure and Conduct of Consultations with Other Regional Peace and Order Councils and the National Security Council.”* The said proposal shall be presented to the Regional Peace and Order Councils of Regions X, XII, and CARAGA, and the National Security Council (NSC) for their review and endorsement.

(Jaime P. Mallare, Sr. EDS).

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