# NEDA XI Hosts Opening Ceremony of the 28th National Statistics Month Celebration



*Standing at the back right to left: Mr. Rosendo Aya-ay of PSA XI, PIA XI ASec Efren Elbanbuena, USec Rosemarie Edillon, RD Maria Lourdes D. Lim, CHED XI RD Raul Alvarez, OIC-ARD Priscilla Sonido and CEDS Catherine Laguesma, together with the participants from the National Government Agencies, Local Government Units, Academe, Media and Private Sector Groups*

*Davao City* - The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) XI hosted the Opening Ceremony of the 28th National Statistics Month (NSM) celebration, in partnership with the Philippine Statistics Authority XI, on October 6, 2017 at the Pinnacle Hotel & Suites, Sta. Ana Avenue, Davao City. The event was attended by representatives from Davao Region's local government units, national government agencies, the academe, private sector and media.

The opening ceremony showcased the importance of official statistics in promoting news integrity, innovation, creativity, and intellect of Filipinos with the theme, "Figures for the Future: Statistics for Evidence-based Decision towards AmBisyon Natin 2040". In her welcome message, NEDA XI Regional Director and Chairperson of the Regional Statistics Committee XI Maria Lourdes Lim said that the NSM theme for this year is most significant as the Region endeavours to attain its economic targets and measure its gains in bringing Filipinos closer to their vision.

NEDA Undersecretary Rosemarie Edillon, in her keynote message, emphasized the Filipinos' vision of a Matatag (strongly-bonded relationship), Maginhawa (comfortable lifestyle) and Panatag (secure future) na buhay. She cited that this is the life that Filipinos aspire for as embodied in the results of the AmBisyon Natin 2040 survey, the foundation of which is being laid down in the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022. Usec Edillon then posed the challenge to the statistical community in



*NEDA USec Edillon delivers her keynote message*

Davao Region to keep up with more sophisticated data needs, adopt a systems approach in addressing concerns, and be able to provide predictive data to facilitate evidence-based decisions towards the achievement of Plan targets and the AmBisyon Natin 2040.

To provide the regional perspective, OIC-ARD Pricilla Sonido of NEDA XI presented the socioeconomic situation of Davao Region highlighting performance vis-à-vis the region's targets as contained in the Davao Regional Development Plan 2017-2022. ASec Efren Elbanbuena of PIA XI shared the importance of processing information in this age of social media. He emphasized the risk of too much reliance on social media as fake news are circulating in some of social media sites. Director Raul Alvarez of CHED XI, on the other hand, pointed out the significance of the use of official statistics in the academe as these provide the necessary tools and conceptual foundations in quantitative reasoning. He presented the challenges confronting the academe in the use of statistics which include the slow response of education and curricula to change and the absence of significant research in statistical education. Mr. Rosendo Aya-ay of PSA XI conveyed that the NSM reflects the important role of reliable statics and factual information in determining appropriate strategies in tracking the Philippines' progress towards AmBisyon Natin 2040.



The video "Tunog ng Progreso", which took inspiration from the country's performance was featured during the event. This is dubbed as NEDA's anthem to economic progress. It is desired that, through the song, people will be able to hear and appreciate the economic progress that the Philippines has achieved in recent years.

*The participants of the 28th NSM Opening Ceremony on October 6, 2017*

The month of October was declared as the National Statistics Month through Presidential Proclamation No. 647 issued in 1990. It is annually observed to promote nationwide awareness and appreciation of the value of statistics and to elicit the support of stakeholders to upgrade the quality and standard of statistics in the country.