

The ARMM Plan **Sustaining Development in Mindanao**

Sustaining peace, security and development has been a recurring problem in the land of the Bangsa Moros. It remains one of the major causes of poverty in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Based on the 2003 Regional Poverty Estimates by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), ARMM ranked second among regions with the highest proportion of poor families registering a 45.7-percent poverty incidence rate.



In 2004, however, ARMM's economic growth rate soared to 5.3 percent from 1.9 percent in 2003 due to the better performance of the agriculture, fishery and forestry (AFF) and industry sectors. The AFF sector, which accounted for 57.8 percent of the region's economy grew by 6.5 percent in 2004 from 0.3 percent in the previous year.

But will better days such as this be sustained?

MACROECONOMIC TARGETS

Consistent with the thrust of the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP), ARMM, as outlined in its Medium-Term Regional Development Plan (MTRDP), targets to increase its gross regional domestic product (GRDP) at an average annual growth rate of 3.0 percent. The region aims to increase the worth of its productivity to PhP11.839 billion in 2010 from PhP9.915 billion in 2002.

The region likewise aims to manage its annual population growth rate at an average of 2.7 percent for 2005 to 2010, increase employment rate from 90.52 percent in 2002 to 96.08 percent in 2010 and reduce poverty incidence from 51.2 percent in 2000 to 47.2 percent in year 2010.

FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS

For strategic economic focus, flagship programs for the region's provinces and city were made.

Maguindanao
"Showcase of Diversified
Agriculture"



Lanao del Sur
"Home of the Lake,
A Hydro-Power in Mindanao"

Sulu
"Exotic Crops Capital
of ARMM"



Tawi-Tawi
"ASEAN's Best: Gateway
to EAGA"



Basilan
"Center of Commercial Crops"

Islamic City of Marawi
"City By the Lake, Center of Islamic Education, Culture and Arts"



SECTORAL STRATEGIES

Among the sectoral strategies of ARMM include the (a) institutionalization of good governance, (b) promotion of peace and maintenance of public order and manageable response to disaster and calamities, (c) intensification, expansion and development of agri-industry, small and medium enterprises and extensive delivery of business services particularly the private sector, (d) development and massive delivery of education, health, housing and welfare of constituency in the remote and underserved communities, (e) protection, conservation, and management of the environment and natural resources for sustainable development, (f) massive infrastructure development to support the requirement of economic and social development, especially the road, communication, airports and seaports, power and water systems, and (g) industrial estate development in the Export Processing Zone.

PRIORITY PROGRAMS

Good governance

- Regional Administration Reform Program: modernization, standardization of the procurement system in ARMM; ARMM Social Fund Project (ASFP), Phase II
- Good Practices in Local Governance Facility for Adoption and Replication (GO-FAR)
- Strategic ARMM Governance Enhancement (SAGE) Project
- Codification of Tribal (*Teduray*) Laws in the Regional Assembly

Peace and Order

- Firearms regulatory and utilization education program (LGUs, PNP, NGOs, Academe)
- Advocacy and promotion of peace program (LGUs, NGO, Academe)
- Community-based Peace Education

Agriculture and Agribusiness

- Sustainable Agri-Fishery Development Program
- Integrated Investment Generation and Enterprise Development Program

Social Development and Direct Poverty Reduction

- On Health: Family planning advocacy within the context of Islam
- On Education
 1. Basic education - Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao (BEAM) Stage 2; Enhanced Science Curriculum for Muslim Indigenous Peoples (IPs)
 2. Madaris Education Program - Textbooks and instructional materials for Madaris;
 3. Fund Assistance to Madaris Execution (FAME) for ARMM
- On Social Welfare: Implementation of Mindanao Natin Program and ASF-CDA

Sustainable Management of Environment

- Integrated Environment and Natural Resources Development Program

Infrastructure

- Road system to induce peace, public order and security: Buldon to Camp Abubakar Road, North Upi and South Upi, Cotabato to North Upi Road, Kabuntalan Bridge connecting Midsayap, Kabuntalan-Datu Piang Bridges, Circumferential Road in Cotabato City
- Expansion and rehabilitation of Jolo Airport
- Construction of Bongao International Transshipment Seaport
- Development of feeder port in the municipalities of Lamitan, Lantawan, Sumisip, Tipo-Tipo and Tuburan
- Barangay energization and electrification program
- Expansion of Polloc Berthing area by 400 meters in response to the implementation of the REZA law

References:

1. Autonomous Region In Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) 2004-2010 Regional Development Plan
2. The Gross Regional Domestic Product Base Year: 1985 published by the National Statistical Coordination Board