



SOCCSKSARGEN

Regional Development Plan

2011 - 2016





REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2011-2016

SOCCSKSARGEN:

*Establishing Its Role as the
Sustainable Food Center of the South*

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

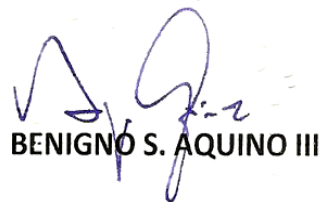
MESSAGE



I commend the NEDA Regional Development Councils and all stakeholders in the 17 regions for coming together to formulate your respective Regional Development Plans. May this partnership among regional and local institutions, the private sector, and civil society ensure the continued success of these programs and the distribution of their benefits throughout the country.

Along with the Philippine Development Plan, the RDPs will guide our development efforts in the next five years, and will act as a common roadmap for our country's development and for the establishment of the necessary infrastructure that will help us achieve our goal of increasing economic and social opportunities for our people. Guided by our commitment to the UN Millennium Development Goals, our concerted efforts will not only help accelerate economic growth, but will also give our provinces improved access to quality education, health, and social services.

We came to government with a mandate to eradicate poverty and create a better future for our nation. As we carry out key reforms in the bureaucracy, we also strive to set in place an environment of sustainable and equitable progress in the coming years. Together, let us fulfill the potential of our great nation.


BENIGNO S. AQUINO III

MANILA
May 2011



NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
NEDA sa Pasig, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

MESSAGE

The Regional Development Plans (RDPs) represent the aspirations of Filipinos in different areas of the country. As accompanying documents of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP), 2011-2016, the RDPs also provide the spatial dimension to the national plan by identifying the regions' contributions to our goal of a high, sustained and broad-based growth. This “inclusive growth” involves rapid economic expansion that must reach population groups throughout the country through the provision of productive employment opportunities, thereby reducing poverty.

The attainment of our goals requires massive investments in infrastructure, social services and other productive activities. The PDP, along with the RDPs are the key instruments that will guide the proper and equitable allocation of resources to ensure improvements in the welfare of our people. Likewise, our plans shall direct our efforts in protecting the environment, reducing climate and disaster risks, promoting good governance and ensuring peace and stability.

The RDPs provide the framework for local development. We thus enjoin the local government units to align their local plans and programs with the RDPs. We likewise seek the support of regional institutions and the private institutions in the realization of the plans which many of them have helped prepare. We need to strengthen multistakeholder cooperation particularly as we promote public-private partnership to improve the provision of services for our people.

I thank the Regional Development Councils (RDC) for spearheading the preparation of the RDPs and we count on their continued leadership in coordinating development efforts in the regions.


CAYETANO W. PADERANGA JR.
Secretary of Socioeconomic Planning



REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
SOCCSKSARGEN Region, Koronadal City



FOREWORD

The Regional Development Plan, 2011-2016 is the roadmap charted by the Regional Development Council and the stakeholders of SOCCSKSARGEN towards a vibrant and sustained growth of the economy; in which everyone is included and no one is excluded. Over the years, despite the region's rich development potentials, it continued to face the challenges of slow economic productivity and high poverty as it struggled with natural disasters and lack of peace in some areas.

This Regional Development Plan enunciates our vision for Region XII. It spells out the major programs and projects and the priorities that shall be pursued to increase and sustain economic growth; generate employment opportunities; improve access to basic social services; improve infrastructure facilities; sustain peace and order in SOCCSKSARGEN; and, strengthen government and non-government partnership in local development planning. We believe we can attain these through our dynamic and progressive partnership with the private sector.

I wish to extend my commendation to all Planning Committees led by our Private Sector Representatives (PSRs); concerned Regional Line Agencies (RLAs); Local Government Units (LGUs); and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and People's Organizations (POs) for their efficiency and hard work in the formulation of the Regional Development Plan, 2011-2016.

Mabuhay!


DARLENE MAGNOLIA R. ANTONINO-CUSTODIO
Chairperson, RDC XII and
Mayor, General Santos City



NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Regional Office No. XII, Koronadal City

P R E F A C E

This Regional Development Plan (RDP) is the blueprint of Region XII's development directions guided by the vision that *"By 2016, Region XII is the home of God-centered and empowered culturally diverse people, provider of world class high value crops, fishery, mineral and tourism products and services, propelled by dynamic and dedicated leaders and, living in a green and healthy environment."*

With this vision, the plan fleshes out the region's strategic outcomes upholding the dreams and aspirations of its people generated through a series of consultations. Further, it addresses the development challenges on: a) low economic productivity; b) inadequate access to quality basic social services; c) inadequate infrastructure support; d) inadequate and unreliable energy supply; e) environmental degradation; f) good governance; and, g) sustaining peace and development.

The formulation of the SOCCSKSARGEN RDP is in harmony with the over-arching goal of President Benigno S. Aquino's Social Contract with the Filipino People which is to *"stabilize the macro-economic situation by attaining a broad-based, inclusive and sustainable growth in a peaceful society"*.

The Region XII RDP, is a product of the efforts of the RDC XII Sectoral Planning Committees led by the Private Sector Representatives, with the support of the Local Chief Executives and Heads of key regional line agencies.

It is a plan crafted out of broad-based consultation and participation of the region's stakeholders. Hence, on behalf of NEDA Regional Office XII, the technical backbone of Regional Development Council XII, I wish to express my deep gratitude for all the support and cooperation given by various stakeholders during the formulation of the Plan.

At this point, what is important is for us to move forward and put this plan into action. Together let us propel the region towards our vision..... *"Kilos Abante, Rehiyon Dosel!"*

God Bless us.

TERESITA SOCORRO C. RAMOS
Vice Chairperson, RDC XII and
Regional Director, NEDA XII



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Excerpts from the Minutes of the RDC XII Special Meeting on the Draft Medium-Term Regional Development Plan (MTRDP) 2011-2016 on December 7, 2010 at Family Country Hotel and Convention Center, General Santos City

RDC XII Resolution No. 73, series of 2010

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE
REGION XII MEDIUM-TERM REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (MTRDP), 2011-2016**

WHEREAS, in consonance with the formulation of the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) and Medium-Term Public Investment Program (MTPIP) for 2011-2016 as enunciated by the President through Memorandum Circular No. 3, series of 2010, Regional Development Council (RDC) XII per EO 325, series of 1996 has embarked on the preparation of the Region XII Medium-Term Regional Development Plan (MTRDP), 2011-2016;

WHEREAS, following the issuance of the Planning Committees for the formulation of the MTPDP by the NEDA, RDC XII approved and adopted the Supplemental Guidelines on the Formulation of the Medium-Term Regional Development Plan (MTRDP) for 2011-2016 and the corresponding Calendar of Activities for plan formulation;

WHEREAS, during the 31st Regular Meeting of the Council, Resolution No. 30, series of 2010 was passed, approving the SOCCSKSARGEN Regional Development Agenda (RDA) 2010-2020 as a major reference in the formulation of the MTRDP, 2011-2016;

WHEREAS, using the RDA as its basic document, a series of workshops was conducted by the various RDC XII Planning Committees/Technical Working Groups to formulate the initial draft MTRDP; and, the same was subjected to Multi-Sectoral Stakeholders' Consultations in the four provinces and two cities of the region;

WHEREAS, the draft plan was thereafter enhanced and subjected to a final review by the four RDC XII Sectoral Committees and subsequently endorsed to the Council on December 1, 2010;

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of Hon. Alfredo Bronx P. Hebrona, Jr., Private Sector Representative and Chairperson of the Infrastructure and Utilities Development Committee (InfraCom) and unanimously seconded, **BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,** That RDC XII approve and adopt the Region XII MTRDP, 2011-2016, subject to the consideration of comments and recommendations of the Council in its finalization.


RESOLVED FURTHER, That a copy of this resolution be provided to all members of the Council, the Office of the President, the NEDA Regional Development Office (RDO), and other concerned entities, for consideration and/or appropriate action.

DONE this 7th day of December 2010, in General Santos City, Philippines.

Certified Correct:

Attested:


PHILORITA A. RIDAO
OIC-Secretary, RDC XII


TERESITA SOCORRO C. RAMOS
Vice Chairperson, RDC XII and
Presiding Officer

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ACO	Agency Central Office
ACT	Action for Conflict Transformation
AO	Administrative Order
ADSPP	Ancestral Domains Sustainable Development and Protection Plan
AFF	Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry
AFP	Armed Forces of the Philippines
AIP	Annual Investment Plan
ALMAMA	Alabel-Malungon-Malapatan
AMO	Agency Municipal Office
APO	Agency Provincial Office
ARMM	Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
ARO	Agency Regional Office
ARTA	Anti-Red Tape Act
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
AVLDA	Allah Valley Landscape Development Alliance
BFAD	Bureau of Food and Drugs
BFAR	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
BFP	Bureau of Fire Protection
BIMP-EAGA	Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines - East ASEAN Growth Area
BIR	Bureau of Internal Revenue
BJMP	Bureau of Jail Management and Penology
BLGF	Bureau of Local Government Finance
BMBE	Barangay Micro Business Enterprises
BnB	Botika ng Barangay
BPO	Business Process Outsourcing
BSP	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
CAAP	Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines
CARP	Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCCH	Ceasefire Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities
CCSPC	Cotabato City State Polytechnic College
CCTV	Closed-Circuit Television
CDA	Cooperative Development Authority
CDC	City Development Council
CDP	Comprehensive Development Plan
CEMS	Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems
CFCST	Cotabato Foundation College for Science and Technology
CFL	Compact Fluorescent Lamp
CG	Criminal Group
CHED	Commission on Higher Education
CHR	Commission on Human Rights

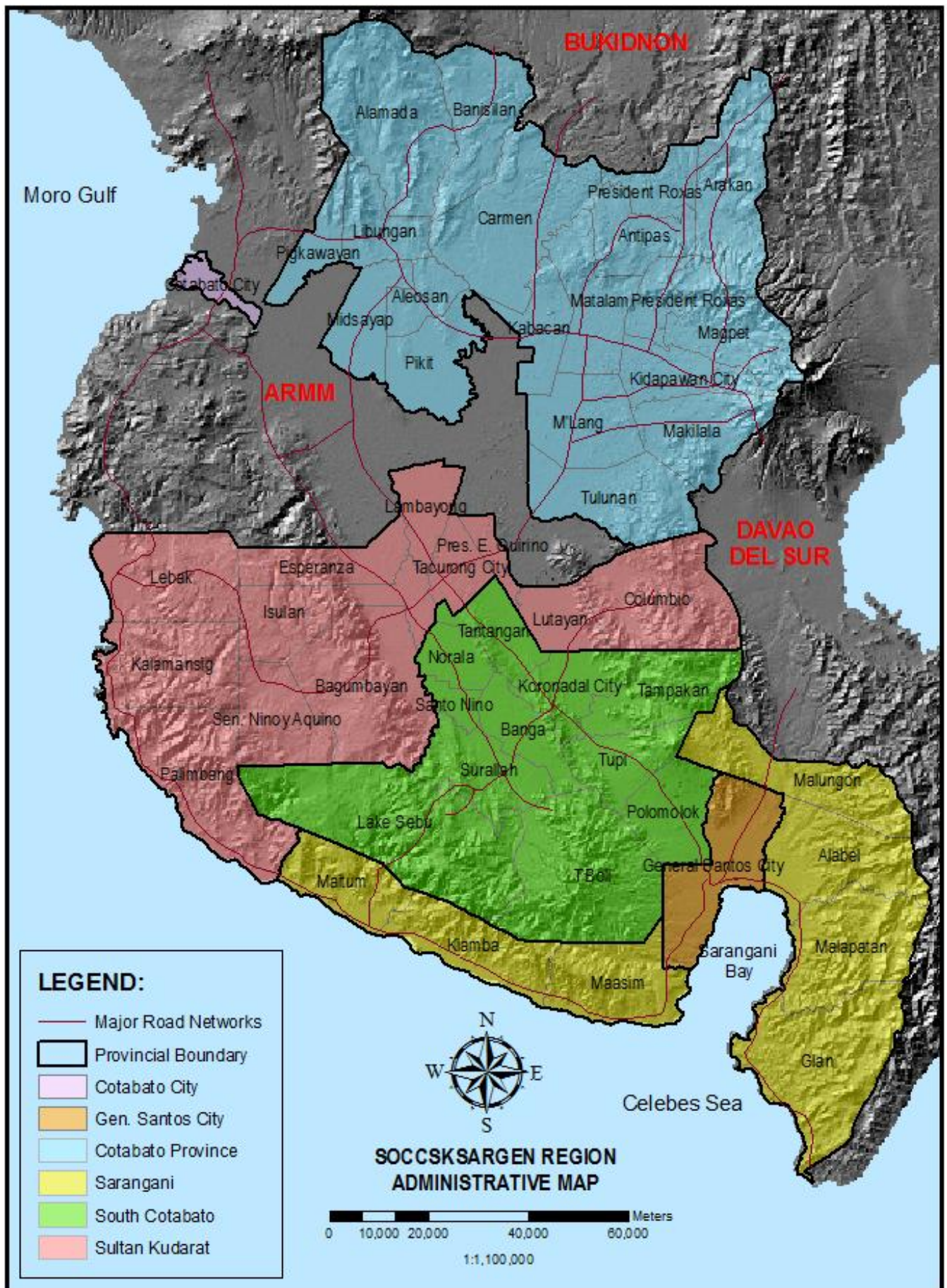
CIDSS	Comprehensive Integrated Delivery of Social Services
CIPH	City-wide Investment Plan for Health
CIP	Communal Irrigation Project
CIS	Communal Irrigation System
CLUP	Comprehensive Land Use Plan
CNN	Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front
CNO	Certificate of Non-Overlap
CNSP	Children in Need of Special Protection
COE	Centers of Excellence
CoP	Culture of Peace
CPP-NPA-NDF	Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front
CPR	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate
CSC	Civil Service Commission
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSR	Cohort Survival Rate
CY	Calendar Year
DA	Department of Agriculture
DAR	Department of Agrarian Reform
DBM	Department of Budget and Management
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DepED	Department of Education
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs
DILG	Department of the Interior and Local Government
DOE	Department of Energy
DOF	Department of Finance
DOH	Department of Health
DOJ-PPA	Department of Justice - Parole and Probation Administration
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment
DOST	Department of Science and Technology
DOT	Department of Tourism
DOTC	Department of Transportation and Communications
DPWH	Department of Public Works and Highways
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRRMO	Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
ECC	Environmental Compliance Certificate
EC	Electric Cooperative
EDC	Economic Development Committee
EFA	Education for All
EIB	Efficiency and Integrity Board
ELA	Executive-Legislative Agenda
EMB	Environmental Management Bureau

EO	Executive Order
EP	Exploration Permit
EPIRA	Electric Power Industry Reform Act
FAD	Fishing Using Aggregate Device
FIC	Full Immunization of Children / Fully-Immunized Children
FIES	Family Income and Expenditure Survey
FPA	Final Peace Agreement
FPIC	Free and Prior Informed Consent
FTAA	Financial Technical Assistance Agreement
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GID	Governance and Institutions Development
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPH	Government of the Philippines
GRDP	Gross Regional Domestic Product
GRP	Government of the Republic of the Philippines
GSC	General Santos City
GVA	Gross Value Added
GWh	Gigawatt-hour
HEI	Higher Education Institution
HIV-AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus - Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HLRB	Housing and Landuse Regulatory Board
HUDCC	Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
HVCC	High Value Commercial Crop
IA	Irrigator's Association
ICC	Indigenous Cultural Communities
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
ILHZ	Inter-Local Health Zones
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
INFRACOM	Infrastructure and Utilities Development Committee
IPRA	Indigenous Peoples Rights Act
IPs	Indigenous Peoples
IPSP	Internal Peace and Security Plan
IRA	Internal Revenue Allotment
JAGSCT	Jose Abad Santos-Glan-Sarangani Cooperation Triangle
K2MIPP	Kabulnan-2 Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project
KALAHI	Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan
KFRG	Kidnap for Ransom Group
KMM	Kidapawan-Magpet-Makilala
KP	Kalusugan Pangkalahatan
KV	KiloVolts
LBP	Land Bank of the Philippines
LDC	Local Development Council

LGFSF	Local Government Finance Support Project
LGPMS	Local Governance Performance Management System
LGU	Local Government Unit
LPOC	Local Peace and Order Council
LTO	Land Transportation Office
MAKIMA	Maitum-Kiamba-Maasim
MATUMLA	Makilala-Tulun-an-M'lang
MCLET	Municipal Coastal Law Enforcement Teams
MDC	Municipal Development Council
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MEDAFC	Macro-Economy, Development Administration and Finance Committee
MFPC	Multi-Sectoral Forest Protection Committee
MGB	Mines and Geosciences Bureau
MILF	Moro Islamic Liberation Front
MINDA	Mindanao Development Authority
MIPH	Municipal-wide Investment Plan for Health
MKDA	Metro Kutawato Development Alliance
MMIP	Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
MNCHN	Maternal, Neo-natal and Child Health and Nutrition Strategy
MNLF	Moro National Liberation Front
MPSA	Mineral Production Sharing Agreement
MRB	Mindanao River Basin
MRDP	Mindanao Rural Development Program
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
MSU-GENSAN	Mindanao State University-General Santos
MT	Metric Tons
MTF-RDP	Mindanao Trust Fund for Reconstruction and Development Project
MTRDP	Medium-Term Regional Development Plan
MVUC	Motor Vehicle Users' Charge
NAPOLCOM	National Police Commission
NAT	National Achievement Test
NBI	National Bureau of Investigation
NCBTS	National Competency-Based Teacher Standard
NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
NCMF	National Commission on Muslim Filipinos
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
NER	Net Enrolment Rate
NFA	National Food Authority
NGCP	National Grid Corporation of the Philippines
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
NHA	National Housing Authority
NHIP	National Health Insurance Program

NHTS	National Household Targeting System
NIA	National Irrigation Administration
NICA	National Intelligence Coordinating Agency
NIPAS	National Integrated Protected Areas
NIS	National Irrigation System
NNC	National Nutrition Council
NSCB	National Statistical Coordination Board
NSO	National Statistics Office
NSTP	National Services Training Program
NTIC	National Tuna Industry Council
NYC	National Youth Commission
OCD	Office of Civil Defense
OCG	Organized Crime Group
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OP	Office of the President
OPANGC	Office of the Presidential Adviser on New Government Centers
OPAPP	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process
PA	Philippine Army
PAG	Private Armed Group
PAMANA	Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan
PAMB	Protected Area Management Board
PAO	Public Attorney's Office
PAR	Philippine Area of Responsibility
PCCP	Portland Cement Concrete Pavement
PCJS	Philippine Criminal Justice System
PDC	Provincial Development Council
PDP	Philippine Development Plan
PDPFP	Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan
PIA	Philippine Information Agency
PIPH	Province-wide Investment Plan for Health
PMS	Presidential Management Staff
PNP	Philippine National Police
POPCOM	Commission on Population
PPA	Philippine Ports Authority
P-PALMA	Pikit-Pigcawayan, Alamada, Libunga, Midsayap, Aleosan
PRO	Police Regional Office
PSR	Private Sector Representative
PWDs	Persons With Disabilities
RPOC	Regional Peace and Order Council
RA	Republic Act
RATE	Run After Tax Evader
RDC	Regional Development Council
RDCC	Regional Disaster Coordinating Council

RDCom	Regional Development Committee
RDP	Regional Development Plan
REMM	Results Evaluation and Monitoring Matrix
RGC	Regional Government Center
RPMC	Regional Project Monitoring Committee
RPMES	Regional Project Monitoring Evaluation System
RSDC	Regional Social Development Committee
SDAH	Sector-wide Development Approach for Health
SDEC	Social Drug Education Center
SERD-CAAM	Socio-Economic Reconstruction and Development of Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao
SK	Sultan Kudarat Province
SKSU	Sultan Kudarat State University
SLF	Sanitary Landfill
SLR	School Leaver Rate
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SMI	Sagittarius Mines Incorporated
SNA	Senator Ninoy Aquino
SOCCSKSARGEN	South Cotabato, Cotabato Province, Cotabato City, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, General Santos City
SRIP	Small River Impounding Project
SUCs	State Universities and Colleges
TB	Tuberculosis
TESDA	Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
TRANSCO	Transmission Corporation
TVET	Technical-Vocational Education and Training
TVIs	Technical Vocational Institutions
U5MR	Under-5 Mortality Rate
UDHA	Urban Development and Housing Act
UDP	Upland Development Program
UHC	Universal Health Care
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UP	University of the Philippines
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USM	University of Southern Mindanao
WB	World Bank
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WDP	Wastewater Discharge Permit
WFP	World Food Programme
WQMA	Water Quality Management Area
ZO	Zoning Ordinance



CHAPTER 1:

Area and Physical Features of the SOCCSKSARGEN Region

The SOCCSKSARGEN Region or Region XII is strategically located at the heart of Mindanao (Figure 1.1). It has a total land area of 19,165.87 square kilometers or about 17% of the total land area of Mindanao.

The region is composed of four provinces, five cities, 45 municipalities and 1,192 barangays. The provinces are Cotabato, South Cotabato, Sarangani and Sultan Kudarat. The cities are Cotabato, General Santos, Kidapawan, Koronadal, and Tacurong. Koronadal City is the administrative center of Region XII and is located in South Cotabato (Figure 1.2). The municipalities and cities of the region are grouped into seven congressional districts.

Among the provinces, Cotabato has the largest land area with 6,019.78 sq. km., or about 30.4% of the region's land area, while Sultan Kudarat has the smallest at 4,401.06 sq. km. Of the cities, General Santos City has the biggest land area at 668.49 sq. km., while Tacurong City has the smallest at 161.96 sq. km.

The physiographic characteristics of the region vary from flat, fertile plains to irregular landscapes to wide valleys, scattered hills and intensive mountain ranges. Its coastline is extensive and stretches to 320 kilometers, particularly along the Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos City coastal zone.

The region falls under the 4th Climatic Type having rainfall that is more or less evenly distributed throughout the year. This rainfall pattern contributes to the high production levels in agriculture of the region.

The region is also richly endowed with abundant watersheds and water resources more than adequate to supply the region's requirement for irrigation, domestic and industrial uses. There are several river basins in the region. Five of these basins have been proclaimed and given priority for their conservation and development. These watersheds are Siguel River, Allah Valley, Lake Sebu, Mt. Matutum and Malitubog-Maridagao River. Among the major rivers that traverse the region are the Rio Grande de Mindanao and the Ala River. In addition, SOCCSKSARGEN is located within the second largest basin in the Philippines which is known as the Mindanao River Basin.

Figure 1.1
Location Map of Region XII



Source: NAMRIA

Figure 1.2
Map of Region XII



Source: NAMRIA

CHAPTER 2:

Comparative Advantages of the SOCCSKSARGEN Region

Given its natural endowment, SOCCSKSARGEN Region has great potentials for high levels of agriculture production, tourism development, energy generation, and other resource-based industries. Support to develop these industries includes the implementation of high impact infrastructure amenities, such as airports and irrigation dams.

The following are among the comparative advantages of Region XII:

- a. Region XII is strategically located in Mindanao and the BIMP-East ASEAN Growth Area (EAGA). Its location facilitates the export of various products and eases mobility of people in the area. (Figure 2.1).
- b. SOCCSKSARGEN is among the leaders in the country in palay and corn production. It is the top producer of high value crops like coffee, banana, asparagus, and oil palm. General Santos City is host to 80 percent of tuna industry in the country. And the region is No. 7 in terms of livestock inventory.
- c. With the establishment of Halal Laboratory, the region could become the source of Halal-certified products for export to the billion dollar Halal markets in Southeast Asia and the Middle East.
- d. The region has world-class infrastructure facilities, such as the General Santos International Airport and the General Santos Port. In support of the development of the agriculture and fishery sector, the Malitubog-Maridagao River Irrigation System currently services around 5,500 hectares of rice fields in the Provinces of Cotabato (Pikit, Carmen) and Maguindanao (Pagalungan, Pagagawan).

Figure 2.1
Region XII Location Map
within the BIMP-EAGA



Source: MINDA



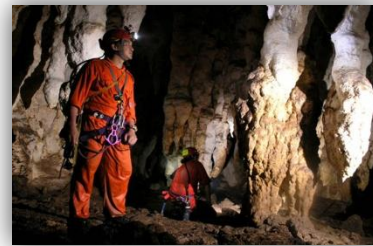
- e. Eighty percent of the country's tuna canneries are located at the General Santos Fishport Complex.



- f. The Mt. Apo Geothermal Plant located in Kidapawan City, Cotabato Province contributes to the power requirement of the Mindanao Grid.



- g. The region boasts of various eco-tourism destinations, such as, Lake Sebu, Mt. Apo, and the Gumasa beaches, including diving sites, historic caves and bird and bat sanctuaries.



- h. The development of mining industry has great potential for spurring economic growth in the region. Investments in this sector is expected to reach 191.4 billion pesos that would generate around 15,000 jobs in the next six years.
- i. The socioeconomic growth and development of the region is propelled by talented and highly skilled population.

CHAPTER 3:

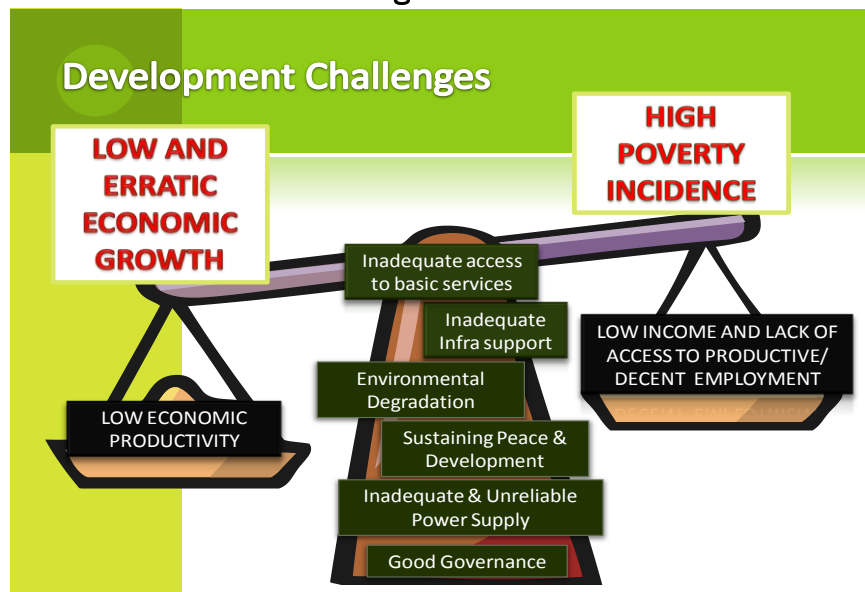
Development Challenges that Need to be Addressed in 2011-2016

Over the past six years, the region pursued strategies towards increasing economic growth and job generation, the provision of basic social and infrastructure services, and sustainable peace and good governance.

Actual performance of regional development indicated low and erratic economic growth trend and high poverty incidence. (Figure 3.1). These two major challenges were attributed to low economic productivity and low income because of lack of access to productive and decent employment.

Persistent challenges such as inadequate access of the people to basic services, low infrastructure support, inadequate and unreliable power supply for socioeconomic development, environmental degradation, and poor governance, further push economic productivity down and poverty levels up. If these challenges are not addressed, the development of the region would remain unbalanced. Majority of its people will remain poor and would not benefit from the little gains of economic growth.

Figure 3.1



3.1 Low Economic Productivity

The economic productivity of the region is measured by the gross regional domestic product (GRDP). Over the years, the GRDP posted irregular trends and recorded a slight shift in the structure which remains predominantly agriculture.

3.1.1 Gross Regional Domestic Product

The GRDP measures the contribution of all the industry sectors to total regional economic output and growth. For the period 2004 to 2009, the GRDP grew at an average annual rate of 4.6%. This is lower than the targeted growth range of 5.8% – 6.4% in 2009. Figure 3.2 reflect the fluctuating annual growth rate pattern of GRDP. The regional output was adversely affected by both natural and man-made calamities that hit the region during the period.

The agriculture, fishery and forestry (AFF) sector contributed the biggest share to total GRDP. However, a slight decrease was noted in its contribution to the regional output from 43.6% in 2004 to 41.5% in 2009.

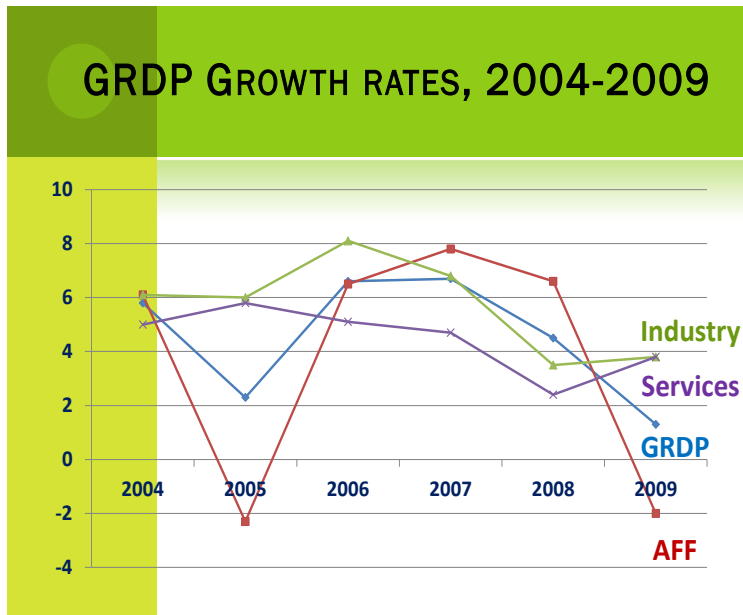
The decline in fishery production was attributed to a drop in commercial fishing. This was due to the three-month ban on fishing using aggregate device or FAD that was imposed by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission during the spawning period of tuna to accelerate its restocking.. The closure of high sea pockets in the Pacific Ocean due to overfishing of various types of tuna had also adversely affected the region's tuna production. Furthermore, the observed scarcity of tuna within Philippine fishing grounds and the rising prices of oil and fuels adversely affected commercial fishing production.

On the other hand, the share of industry increased from 29.8% in 2004 to 31.8% in 2009. The sources of growth were from intensified manufacturing and construction activities in the region. A turnaround was noted in construction and mining and quarrying as they recovered from their negative growths in 2005. Sharp decline was recorded in 2008 due the global financial crisis.

The share of the Services GVA to total GRDP remained constant at around 27% during the two periods. It recorded a 5.8 % growth in 2005, from a 5.0% growth in 2004. But the services expanded in 2009 with almost all of its subsectors posting accelerated growths except for ODRE.

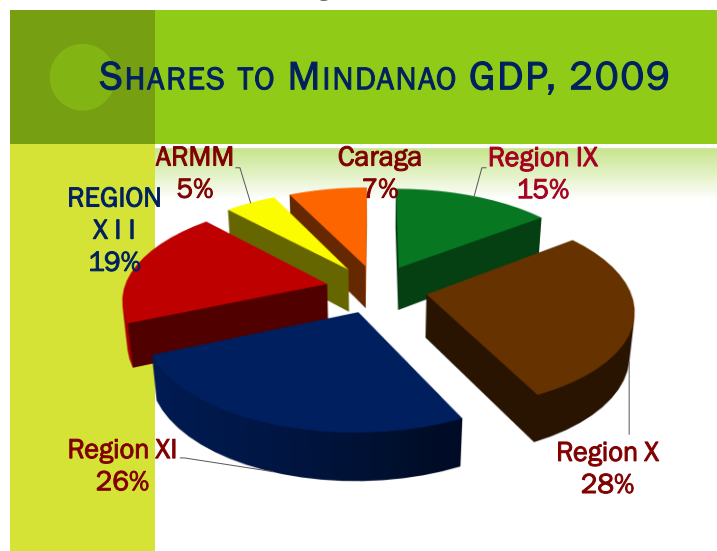
Tourism as one of the sources of growth in the Services GVA posted sluggish growth. Tourist arrivals was recorded at 557,463 in 2004 and 659,163 in 2009, registering an average annual growth rate of 3.44%. Hotel occupancy rates showed minimal increase from 2004 to 2009 and is observed to be supported heavily by domestic travels consisting 98.67% for the last five years.

Figure 3.2



Source: NSCB XII

Figure 3.3



Source: NSCB XII

In 2009, SOCCSKSARGEN GRDP ranked third among the Mindanao regions in terms of its contribution to the total Mindanao (Figure 3.3). The largest share came from Region X at 28%, followed by Region XI at 26%. Region XII contributed about 19% to total Mindanao GDP.

3.1.2 Investments and Exports

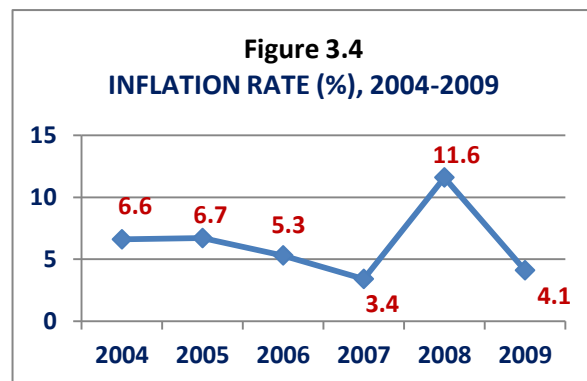
Total investments consistently increased, from 2.77 billion pesos in 2004 to 6.49 billion pesos in 2008, registering a high annual average growth rate of 25.78%. Increases were attributed to the establishment of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through investment mission, business matching, business name registration, and investment facilitation; and, the conduct of information and communication technology (ICT) activities.

Exports recorded fluctuating trends and these were affected by market-based regulations. Exports value was recorded at \$346.81 million US dollars in 2004 to \$541.98 million in 2009, registering an average annual growth rate of 10.92%. The marine sector dominates regional export trade accounting for 50% of aggregate exports with canned and fresh tuna taking up a combined share of 45%. Fruits and vegetables comprise the second largest exports with canned and fresh pineapples accounting for 27% of total. Resource-based products are the third largest exports with crude coconut oil accounting for 17% of total exports. Exports are supplied by General Santos City, South Cotabato and Sarangani. Cotabato Province is also an exporting province; however, its products are mainly shipped via ports in Davao City. The United States remains to be the region's largest individual export destination, followed by European Union and Japan. On the whole, Region XII contributes less than 1% to the national export performance.

3.1.3 Prices

The region targeted to maintain below 5 percent inflation rate from 2004 to 2010. However, in 2004, inflation rate was over the target at 6.6 percent and increased to 6.7 percent in 2005. While it dropped to 5.3 percent in 2006 and 3.4 percent in 2007, it surged anew to 11.6 percent in 2008. The double-digit inflation rate during the period was attributed to the escalating prices of fuel and rice.

The average inflation rate in 2004-2009 was estimated at 6.2 percent. The commodity groups that posted high inflation rates were: a) Fuel, light and water which recorded at an average inflation rate of 8.7 percent; b) Food at an average rate of 7.4 percent, due to price increases in corn, cereals, rice, cereal preparation, fruits and vegetables and dairy products; and c) Services with an average of 6.1 percent, due to price increases in transportation and communication, medical and educational services.



Source: NSO XII

The purchasing power of the peso in 2004 was estimated at 0.84 considering the year 2000 as the base period. This means that the one peso (P1.00) in 2000 has a real value of eighty four cents (P0.84) in 2004. In 2006, purchasing power of peso was 0.75 and further decreased to

0.62 in 2009. The declining purchasing power of peso is due to the increasing prices of goods and services.

3.2 Low Income and Lack of Access to Productive / Decent Employment

3.2.1 Population

The 2007 census reported that the population of Region XII was about 3.8 million. Among the 17 regions nationwide, Region XII ranked 12th in terms of population count. Its population is also about 18 percent of the total population of Mindanao and 4.3 percent of the total population of the country.

The population of the region grew at an annual average of 2.41% between 2000 and 2007, which is 0.37 percentage point higher than the national growth rate of 2.04 percent.

Table 3.1
Total Population and Growth Rate by Province/City, 2000 and 2007

Province/City	Total Population		Average Annual Growth Rate (%)
	2000	2007	
Philippines	76,506,928	88,574,614	2.04
Mindanao	18,133,864	21,582,540	2.43
Region XII	3,222,169	3,829,081	2.41
Cotabato Province	857,438	1,004,364	2.21
South Cotabato Province	556,942	617,632	1.44
Sarangani Province	410,622	475,514	2.04
Sultan Kudarat Province	510,151	593,098	2.10
Cotabato City	163,849	259,153	6.53
General Santos City	411,822	529,542	3.53
Tacurong City	76,354	82,546	1.08
Kidapawan City	101,205	117,610	2.09
Koronadal City	133,786	149,622	1.56

Source: NSO XII

3.2.2 Average Family Income

Average Annual Family Income (at current prices) in the region increased by about P40,000.00, from P114,000.00 in 2006 to P154,000.00 in 2009. The 2009 figure is P52,000.00 lower than the average annual family income of P206,000.00 at the national level. (Table 3.2)

At constant prices, average annual family income in the country in 2009 was P129,000. This is about 3.2% higher than the 2006 figure of P125,000.00. In the region, 2006 average annual family income was P85,000.00. It increased by about 12.9% in 2009 that recorded an average income of P96,000.00.

Table 3.2
Average Annual Family Income In Thousand Pesos, 2006 and 2009

Area	At Constant 2000 Prices		At Current Prices	
	2006	2009	2006	2009
Philippines	125	129	173	206
Region 12	85	96	114	154

Source: NSO XII

3.2.3 Poverty and Food Threshold

The annual per capita poverty threshold is the amount needed by an individual to satisfy the food and other basic needs for the year. In 2009, the threshold in Region XII was estimated at P15,762.00 (Table 3.3). This was higher by P3,232.00 compared with the 2006 poverty threshold. Cotabato City posted the highest poverty threshold at P16,520.00, while Sarangani Province had the least P14,987.00.

The annual per capita food threshold of the region was P11,014 in 2009. This amount was higher by P2,257 than the P8,757 estimate in 2006. This implies that a family of five would be needing P55,070 per year (or P4,589.16 per month) for its food requirements. The total number of families whose earnings cannot cope their food requirements was estimated to be about 10,204 families or about 11.3% of the total families in the region.

Table 3.3
Annual Per Capita Poverty Threshold and Poverty Incidence by Area, 2003, 2006 and 2009

Area	Annual Per Capita Poverty Threshold (In Pesos)			Poverty Incidence Among Families (%)		
	2003	2006	2009	2003	2006	2009
Region XII	10,277	12,530	15,762	27.2	27.1	28.1
North Cotabato	10,104	12,314	15,486	22.2	23.3	25.6
Sarangani	9,780	11,953	14,987	36.7	34.0	40.7
South Cotabato	10,702	13,046	16,413	22.8	22.8	23.6
Sultan Kudarat	10,215	12,463	15,661	37.3	38.7	35.2
Cotabato City	10,768	13,133	16,520	25.3	20.6	23.7

Source: NSCB XII

3.2.4 Poverty Incidence

While the average family income rose from 2006 to 2009 based on the Family Income and Expenditure Survey, poverty incidence among families in 2009 was estimated at 28.1% or an increase of 1.0 percentage point from the 2006 estimate of 27.1%. This means that out of the total 321,370 families of the region in 2009, 28.1% or about 90,305 families were living below the poverty threshold or whose earnings were not enough to meet their basic needs. The Region XII poverty incidence was 7.2% higher than the national estimate of 20.9%. Nonetheless, the Region XII incidence was about 9.9 percentage points lower than the MTRDP target of 38%.

Among the eight basic sectors, the children sector posted the most number of poor individuals, followed by the women sector in 2006 (Table 3.4). In terms of poverty incidence, it was highest among fishermen (47.3%); followed by children (47.2%), farmers (41.0%), and women (38.1%).

Poverty incidence of most of the sectors showed improvement between 2000 and 2006. However, the fishermen group remained almost in the same poverty situation.

Table 3.4
Poverty Incidence by Basic Sector, Region XII

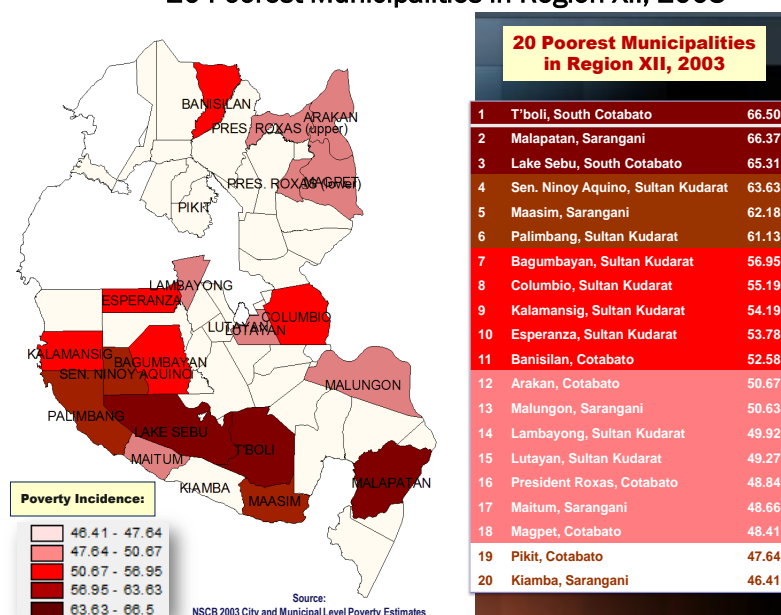
Sector	2000		2003		2006	
	Poverty Incidence	Magnitude of Poor	Poverty Incidence	Magnitude of Poor	Poverty Incidence	Magnitude of Poor
Women	46.5	765,776	38.5	646,018	38.1	684,760
Youth	38.0	383,873	34.2	343,079	35.5	381,174
Children	54.4	848,175	46.6	749,942	47.2	755,053
Senior Citizens	39.4	60,483	24.8	43,014	24.9	53,021
Urban Poor	30.0	400,484	32.3	334,207	28.7	318,163
Migrant and formal sector workers	34.8	175,822	30.7	201,439	28.9	195,519
Farmers	51.6	180,106	39.7	110,534	41.0	123,503
Fishermen	47.4	14,061	50.2	22,828	47.3	19,931

Source: NSCB XII

3.2.5 Poorest Municipalities in Region XII

Based on the 2003 Small Area Poverty Statistics, the poorest municipality of Region XII was T'boli in South Cotabato with poverty incidence of 66.50%. At the national level, it ranked 107th. The rest of the ten poorest municipalities in the region are: Malapatan, Lake Sebu, Maasim, Senator Ninoy Aquino, Palimbang, Bagumbayan, Columbio, Kalamansig and Esperanza. Figure 3.5 shows the top 20 poorest municipalities of the region. Thirteen of these have poverty incidence of more than 50%.

Figure 3.5
20 Poorest Municipalities in Region XII, 2003



Source: NSCB XII

3.2.6 Livelihood and Employment

a. Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment

A declining labor force participation rate was recorded from 68.8% in 2004 to 65.1% in 2007, but showed a slight increase in 2009 at 66.6%. The average annual growth rate was 66.5%. On the average, around 65% of the employed were males and 35% were females. By major occupation group, 55% were absorbed by the agriculture, fishery and forestry activities; while 37% were engaged in services. The remaining 8% were into industry activities. Conversely, unemployment rate dropped from 9.6% in 2004 to 3.6% in 2009.

While the region's employment rate showed increasing trend, underemployment remained to be high. Underemployed persons are employed persons who expressed the desire to have additional hours of work in their present job or in an additional job, or to have a new job with longer working hours. The desire is caused mainly by low paying jobs and the need to augment income to satisfy the basic needs of the family. Underemployment rate was recorded at 21.7% in 2004. This increased to 30.4% in 2005. However, it went down to 20.6% in 2009.

b. Livelihood and Employment Opportunities

Even with high and increasing employment in the past six years, there is a need to intensify the provision of livelihood and employment opportunities, particularly for the vulnerable groups. Livelihood and microfinance assistance should be boosted to provide a highly sustained source of income particularly for self employed individuals. The influx of skills not needed by the industries also contributes to unemployment and underemployment. The job mismatch problem must be addressed to encourage competitiveness and productivity.

3.3 Inadequate Access to Quality Basic Social Services

The high incidence of poverty in the region, underpins the critical role of the social development sector in ensuring equal and broader access to quality basic social services. These services must enable families and individuals to live a life of dignity, as mandated in the Constitution. With the growing number of people living below the poverty line, it is but unfortunate that the services, policies, programs, and structures that the government needs to provide are not sufficient to meet the burgeoning demand for these services.

3.3.1 Education

a. Basic Education

The State mandates that basic education should be free in all public schools to ensure that even the poorest would have access to basic education. In Region XII, out of its total 1,194 barangays, there were still 66 barangays which had no day care centers, as of 2010.

The Net Enrolment Rate (NER), commonly known as the Participation Rate, showed a declining pattern during the first half of 2004-2010 (Table 3.17). An improvement was observed with 72.99% in SY 2007-2008 to 77.01% in SY 2009-2010 (the latter represents data for public schools only). The region would need an increase of about 23 percentage points to meet the the MDG target of 100% NER in 2015. The secondary level attainment of MDG targets is similarly situated.

The growth in Cohort Survival Rate (CSR) has not likewise been sustained. The CSR in the elementary level showed minimal increases between SY 2006 to 2008. The figure sharply dropped by 4.07 percentage points in SY 2009-2010, placing the CSR at 61.94. The region needs to fast track providing the necessary interventions to close the gap between 61.94% and the EFA target of 95% by 2015.

The MDG target for school leaver rate by 2015 is zero. However, regional figures went up during the period 2007-2008 to 2009-2010, from 8.33% to 12.44%, respectively.

Data showed that the NER, CSR and the SLR for the secondary level are even much lower hence the likelihood to achieve the MDG and EFA goals is even more remote, and the gap is more acute. There is also a need to review the accreditation policies and curriculum standards of madaris to boost the quality of and access to education by the Muslim school-going population. Lastly, instructional classroom backlog is severe at 1,973 in the elementary level, and 1,102 in the secondary level. Teacher backlog is also high at 1,330 for elementary teachers and 1,136 for secondary teachers as of 2010. School facilities and resources have to be upgraded to contribute to the attainment of lifting the standards of education to its highest desired level.

b. Higher Education and Manpower Development

Total enrolment in both public and private higher education institutions (HEIs) showed fluctuating trend over the period 2004-2009. Compared to SY 2004-2005, a deceleration in enrolment was observed for SY 2005-2006 and SY 2007-2008. The decline in enrolment may be attributed to the high cost of school fees and other incidental expenses, poverty and economic difficulties brought about by external shocks like oil price hike and economic recession. However, total enrolment showed increments in SY 2006-2007 to SY 2009-2010. Generally, it was observed that concomitant to the increased number of enrollees in the aforementioned school years were the increases in the number of scholars/grantees/ beneficiaries of government-funded scholarship programs during the same period. Enrolment in public HEIs grew at an average of 0.61 percent, while enrolment in private HEIs grew at an average of 0.37 percent.

Access to quality and higher education has been found wanting in the region. The higher education sector must similarly address the mismatch in education sector outputs with the manpower requirements of an agri-industrial economy. Appropriate curricula must be developed to be attuned to the needs of industries in the region. The region is in urgent need of a Regional Training Center to cater to the increasing number of young boys and girls who dropped out of school for lack of financial capability to pursue degree programs. The center shall also serve the unemployed and employed who need up-skilling and or re-skilling to respond to the needs of the labor market, both domestically and internationally.

3.3.2 Health and Nutrition

Basic health services are aimed at nurturing healthy individuals to make them productive members of the society. The lack of access to health and nutrition is due to non-availability, non-affordability, and poor quality of health services. With very little improvements, there is small likelihood to meet MDG targets by 2015.

The incidence of maternal deaths remains high and the probability of hitting the MDG target is very remote. The infant mortality ratio and the under-five mortality ratio showed declining trend, indicating good results on efforts to bring down IMR and Under Five (U5) mortality rate. However,

there is still a need to intensify interventions designed to thwart incidence of child deaths. Record shows that Full Immunization of Children (FIC) in the region (89.09% in 2009 against the target of 95%) is still low. Also, the proportion of births delivered utilizing health facilities (RHUs, hospitals, clinics) remained low (40% only). Some of the birth deliveries in far-flung areas, especially those outside of health facilities, were not attended by the trained health personnel. The number of dengue cases in the region is increasing. Some cases of HIV-Aids have also been reported. On manpower resources, there is an acute need for doctors, medical technologist, sanitary engineers and inspectors especially in district hospitals and municipalities.

3.3.3 Land and Land Rights

Ensuring greater access of the vulnerable groups of indigenous people to land and land rights, and mainstreaming them into the society remain to be the major challenge of the sector. In 2009, 54 applications for certification precondition were received by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, but only one was issued with the said certificate, 4 were issued with certification of non-overlap (CNO).

Other concerns that need to be addressed include concerns on social justice and preservation of indigenous culture, rights and traditions; and, the lack of knowledge by the target groups on the IPRA law.

3.3.4 Housing

The demand for decent housing in Region XII is still unmet despite past efforts to address the problem. There is still a need to increase the supply of low-cost housing, especially for the poor who have less or no access to financing or credit. To address local housing needs, LGUs should endeavor to formulate or update their respective shelter plans. The participation of the private sector is likewise needed to address the housing backlogs in the region.

3.4 Inadequate Infrastructure Support

The presence of infrastructure support facility provides an enabling environment that contributes to accelerated economic growth and poverty reduction. Areas of strategic importance are still not linked by road network and not yet served by transportation facilities. As an agricultural economy, the need for farm-to-market roads and production support facilities need to be sustainably addressed.

3.4.1 Roads and Bridges

There is a need to provide an integrated and effective transportation system that connects to other industrial and social services facilities, and provides linkage with other institutions. The sector is still faced with several challenges. Many sections of concrete pavement along arterial national roads have already deteriorated. Several stretches of roads of strategic importance, roads along potential economic corridors, roads that connect growth centers and access roads to tourism sites still await construction and/or improvement. The deterioration of major roads and bridges may be attributed to the overloading of vehicles due to non-observance of tonnage limit. The two-lane width of most arterial national roads and bridges is no longer appropriate for the increasing volume of traffic along these major highways. Road signage and road safety

structures need to be placed in required sections of the roads, particularly, along-accident prone areas. There is a lack of bicycle and motorcycle lanes along major thoroughfares.

3.4.2 Seaport and Airport

Facilities of some seaports in the region are still inadequate, while those of the airports need upgrading/improvement. Despite being categorized as an international airport, the General Santos Airport still lacks facilities to make it at par with international standard. Passengers have to deal with a lot of inconvenience boarding and disembarking the airplane and walk some length under the heat of the sun. Even the trolleys which are supposed to be a necessity for moving luggage are used by passengers for a fee. The airport needs a jet bridge, an enclosed, movable connector which extends from the airport terminal gate to the airplane that will allow passengers to board and disembark without having to go outside. Trolleys and other airport facilities should be made available for free considering that passengers already pay terminal fees.

3.4.3 Water Resources Development

a. Irrigation

There is low and poor maintenance of irrigation facilities in the region. Only about 55.19% of the total potential irrigable area of 173,410 hectares in the region is provided with irrigation facilities. About 77,705 hectares of agricultural land still await irrigation development.

From 2006 to 2009, the rate of irrigation development of the region increased by 6.58%. However, in 2007 there was a slight decrease due to the closure of communal irrigation systems (CIS) in Sultan Kudarat Province (Lebak CIS and Senator Ninoy Aquino CIS) and some CIS in Cotabato Province that underwent major rehabilitation funded by the Mindanao Rural Development Program (MRDP).

Other reasons for the drop in areas for irrigation development include the conversion of irrigated land into residential areas and the flash flood in 2009 caused by typhoon Frank which damaged irrigation facilities and affected about 3,500 hectares of irrigated land in particularly in Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat.

b. Water Supply

The access of the region's households to safe water supply remains inadequate. About 11.19 percent of the region's total household still have no access to safe water as of December 2009, despite abundance of water sources, e.g. springs, rivers, underground water. Most local government units do not have water supply master plan.

While the region is on track in attaining its Millennium Development Goal (MDG) in terms of the population having access to safe drinking water, there remains a number of households which have unsafe sources and without access to water supply facilities. In 2009, the total number of households served with potable water was estimated at 713,391 households or 88.81 percent of the total households in the region. Among the provinces, Cotabato posted the highest access to potable water with 92.88 percent of its household already served with potable water, while Sultan Kudarat had the lowest access with only 80.19 percent.

c. Flood Control and Drainage

Recent years saw the occurrence of flooding that resulted to displacement of people, destruction of property and infrastructure facilities, disruption of economic activity resulting to income loss, and realignment of budget from basic social services to rehabilitation. The flooding is attributed to river siltation caused by denuded forest. In settlement areas, flooding in is due to poor drainage and improper garbage disposal. Interventions are inadequate to address the flooding problem in the region.

3.4.4 Communications

During the last four years, from 2005 to 2009, mobile phone companies were into a massive construction of cell site towers to expand and improve cellular phone signal in the region. In 2006, a total of 131 cell site towers were constructed and this increased to 233 in 2009. Aside from the provision of cellular sites, a total of 22 Local e-Centers were established in the region in CY 2006. These e-Centers provide internet services to the municipalities in the region.

In spite of these investments infused in Region XII to improve communication services in the region, the challenge of linking many areas in the region which do not have cellular sites or where signals are weak, remain. Some areas experience difficulty in linking telecommunication services among private telephone companies, especially landline long distance communications to other provinces within the region and local inter-connection calls within the city areas. Due to increasing demand for the use of internet for generating information and networking, the establishment of internet connections at municipal centers has been found to be very necessary.

3.4.5 Energization

The region is continually being confronted with inadequate and unreliable energy supply due to continued increase in demand for energy. While the region is host to various sources of energy, these sources have remained untapped due to lack of investors in the energy sector. In 2009, the region attained 94.79% barangay energization. However, this is still short of the target of 100% by 2010.

The Mindanao gross power generation mix has an average of 7,758.67 Gigawatt-hour (GWh) from 2006-2008. This includes all types of generating facilities, such as, hydro, oil-based, solar, coal and geothermal. However, in 2009, there was an abrupt decline in power generation of 3,909 GWh, a huge decrease of more than fifty percent in the supply of power for Mindanao. The drop in generation capacity was due to the decrease in power generation in Agus-Pulangi Hydro Complexes in Iligan City.

Region XII is solely dependent on the Mindanao Grid. In 2009, the Mindanao Grid continued to experience deficiency in power supply generation. Widespread power outages have become prevalent in Region XII. As the grid continues to experience deficiency in power supply generation, Region XII also suffered much. Most of the Electric Cooperatives (ECs) in the region implemented power rationing within their franchise areas. In highly urbanized cities, business establishments have incurred considerable losses caused by widespread and continuing power outages.

The existing generating capacity can no longer meet the future demand for energy in the region. Although the region hosts the Mt. Apo Geothermal Plant in Kidapawan City and the Southern

Philippines Power Corporation in Alabel, Sarangani, these power plants still transmit their power outputs to the Mindanao Grid. From the grid, power is transmitted to the electric cooperatives in the region through the facilities of the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP). NGCP, thus, dictates how much load is to be forwarded to each electric cooperative (EC) in the region.

3.5 Environmental Degradation

The general trend of forestland utilization particularly for activities such as commercial monocrop farming, road development, formation of settlements, continued harvesting and/ or cutting of forest cover, result in widespread loss of biodiversity, erosion and sedimentation of water bodies.

3.5.1 Forest Condition

The Mindanao River Basin (MRB) has a forest area of about 1,048,648 hectares. Only about 19 percent of the forest land has a closed canopy, meaning with mature trees covering >50 percent; 18 percent is open canopy with mature trees covering less than 50 percent while 63 percent of the forest land has been converted to various land uses. Subbasins that greatly impact in the region, such as Ala, Arakan, Banga, Buayan-Malungun, Buluan, Cotabato, have forestlands with mixed uses as follows: 49%, 80%, 89%, 78%, 80%, and 96%, respectively.

If no interventions are put in place to reverse the state of the MRB, perennial problems on erosion of the uplands and sedimentation of water bodies will continue and subsequently cause other disasters such as flooding in settlements and production areas. While new reforestation is being undertaken every year, the sector also maintains the forest plantations it has completed for the previous years.

Accomplishment on forest maintenance was alarmingly low considering that the annual targets of 2,408 hectares for forest maintenance and 1,245 hectares for forest protection have not been met. There is a need to reverse the declining trend noted in forest protection program which was attributed to limited funds allotted for the program. Hence, activities were sustained to only those areas identified with high stumpage value.

3.5.2 Flooding in Settlement and Production Areas

Flooding such as those brought about by Typhoon Frank was attributed to the siltation of major rivers in the region such as Ala, Mindanao and Tamontaka; siltation of Liguasan Marsh which functions as a natural flood control; and, the accumulation of water hyacinths which congested the Mindanao River and diverted the flow of upstream waters in the low-lying areas of Cotabato City, Sultan Kudarat and other neighboring areas. A total of 49,135 families were affected and the damage was estimated at P2.483 billion pesos. Poor solid waste management and pollution of waterways have also contributed to flooding in settlement areas.

3.5.3 Low Rehabilitation Rate of Degraded Forest and Mangrove Areas

While appropriate forest cover is only about 37 percent as indicated by the closed and open canopy cover aforementioned, accomplishments of the sector show minimal interventions relative to the areas needing immediate rehabilitation.

Management of the Coastal and Marine Resources were also undertaken in support to the rehabilitation efforts of degraded forest and mangrove areas in the region. However, the sector needs to seriously consider pushing more efforts in the establishment of mangrove plantations to other areas not yet covered while simultaneously maintaining those that were already established.

3.5.4 Weak Enforcement of Environmental Laws

Environmental laws to address concerns on poor air and water quality as well as problems on solid wastes are in place. Potential sources of air pollution were monitored based on the compliance to DENR's emission standards. The high cost of installing Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (CEMS) prevented the achievement of the target of 28 units to be installed for the whole plan period. Companies practicing self-regulation by requesting the services of Accredited Third Party sampler to monitor the emissions of their Air Pollution Source Equipment and Control Facilities were regularly monitored.

Efforts toward enhancing water quality in Sarangani Bay and Silway River have been initiated with the designation of Sarangani Bay and Silway River as Water Quality Management Areas (WQMA).

Solid waste is one of the pressing problems which is being addressed by the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act. Under the law, LGUs are required to establish Sanitary Landfill (SLF), Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) and other forms of technology to manage solid waste. Twenty one (21) LGUs in the region have either closed or converted their open dumps to controlled dumps.

3.6 Sustaining Peace and Development

In Region XII, among the strategies toward attaining peace and development include the acceleration of barangay-focused rehabilitation and development in the conflict affected areas; mobilizing and strengthening peace and order councils; intensification of activities to establish presence of government in far-flung communities; and the review and assessment of the accomplishments of the 1996 Final Peace Agreement (FPA) between the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP).

3.6.1 Rehabilitation and Development in Conflict-Affected Areas

With the aim of accelerating the rehabilitation and development of conflict-affected areas in Region XII, barangay-focused interventions were implemented. Through the concerted efforts of concerned local government units and regional line agencies, including the Armed Forces of the Philippines and donor agencies, several barangays in the region have been recipient of various peace and development projects.

Among the programs and projects implemented were: (a) Sala'am Projects, Police Centers and Conflict Management and Peacebuilding activities; (b) The ACT for Peace Programme, that are aimed at strengthening communities; (c) KALAH! - The Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (KALAH!) is the Government's Program for Poverty-Reduction; (d) Socio-economic Reconstruction and Development in Conflict Affected Areas in Mindanao (SERD-CAAM) Project; and, (e) Mindanao Trust Fund for Reconstruction and Development Project (MTF-RDP).

3.6.2 Peace and Order Councils

The Regional and Local (Provincial/City/Municipal) Peace and Order Councils (R/LPOCs) in the region were strengthened, particularly along finding solutions to peace related pressing issues and concerns, as well as, in mitigating possible escalation of hostilities and untoward incidents in their respective areas of concern. In 2006, there were about 1,248 Regional/Provincial/City/Municipal Peace and Order Councils organized. A total of two hundred sixty four (264) meetings were conducted at all levels to address local peace and order concerns.

3.6.3 Presence of Government in Far-flung Communities

The region likewise strengthened its efforts to establish government presence in far-flung communities. This is to make people appreciate and be aware of the various government services available for them. Various line agencies, including the Regional Development Council (RDC) XII, have initiated convergence projects among the poorest communities in the region. The government military forces, on the other hand, continued to extend technical, manpower and equipment assistance to communities in need.

3.6.4 Spaces for Peace

The Spaces for Peace is a Grassroots Peace Process resulting from the efforts of the Church, Non-Government Organizations, the Local Government Unit (Municipality and Barangays), and the residents themselves to finally put an end to confrontation and evacuation and establish lasting peace in GiNaPaLaDTaKa. Having experienced the long suffering brought about by armed hostilities between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), seven (7) barangays in the Municipality of Pikit, Province of North Cotabato decided to declare their communities as “Spaces for Peace.”

3.6.5 Peace Talks with Various Groups

The region remains supportive in pursuing government’s peace agenda toward the completion of comprehensive agreements with rebel groups resulting in the permanent cessation of armed hostilities. The government has existing peace negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF); the Communist Party of the Philippines – New People’s Army – National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF).

3.6.6 Public Order, Peace and Security

The effective enforcement of the law coupled with the active participation of the different LGUs and citizenry in maintaining peace and order have minimized conflicts that resulted to peaceful environment in most areas of Region XII. The region lagged behind In terms of the ideal police to population ratio of 1:500.

Moreover, the military played a vital role in securing government flagship projects and vital installations, as well as, in rendering support to the LGUs and government agencies in implementing development projects, particularly those in remote areas of Region XII. To facilitate its operations, the AFP created Task Forces/Task Groups to address imminent threat and danger posed by terrorist groups for the major urban areas of the region.

3.7 Good Governance

Despite fiscal, as well as, political constraints in the implementation of programs and projects geared toward the attainment of good governance, the region made progress in institutionalizing some reforms which resulted to gaining the trust and confidence of the population. This has been proven with the active participation of the civil society in most of the government's efforts for development.

3.7.1 Reforms in Institutions

Efficient and Effective Governance. The provision of capability building programs/trainings was institutionalized in almost all government entities at all levels. These were aimed at enhancing the workers'skills, as well as, engendering commitments to provide honest and dedicated public services to the population. Rights-based approach to development had been integrated in all these trainings which were conducted/facilitated by all government entities in the region.

Elimination of Graft and Corruption. Efforts towards the goal of eliminating graft and corruption in government service was likewise pursued. However, considering the absence of data, the region's stride towards eliminating graft and corruption was difficult to assess. Nonetheless, with the introduction and implementation of different government systems, particularly on the processing of documents, delivery of services, employment of qualified work force, disseminating information, indicate the region's quest of minimizing, if not, eliminating graft and corruption in all levels of governance.

Administration of Justice. To uphold the dignity of the government workforce, administrative cases, both disciplinary and non-disciplinary, filed against some government personnel from 2007-2010 were given priority actions by the concerned government agency.

Advocacy. To make government services accessible and known by its constituents, the region continually intensified its advocacy on government activities and services. Websites were developed. Radio, print and TV were utilized. With the cooperation of all agencies and LGUs, this collegial effort was also geared towards marketing the region as a potential investment and tourism area to ward off the negative image tagged to Region XII.

Monitoring and Evaluation. Regular monitoring and evaluation of Official Development Assistance and nationally funded projects in the region were also regularly undertaken by the Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC) XII and various agencies and monitoring bodies to ensure efficient and effective implementation of development programs and projects and quality and timely delivery and completion of projects in the region. At the local level, monitoring of locally funded programs and projects were undertaken by the local monitoring bodies. In addition, post monitoring meetings, as well as, problem solving sessions were conducted to discuss findings and issues gathered during the monitoring activities and generate recommendations for the resolution of issues discussed.

Mainstreaming Gender Concerns. Gender concerns on the other hand, have already been mainstreamed in the development planning process in the region, as evidenced by the implementation of gender-sensitive programs and projects. At the local level, some LGUs gave priority on gender-related concern, such as the putting up of women's desks, women training centers and the organization of Local Council for Women.

Promotion of Human Rights. Geared towards promoting social justice, respect for human rights and ethnic tradition, police investigation were mostly undertaken in close coordination with other agencies, particularly with those concerned with legal/judicial services for the affected population. Representation of indigents in judicial cases, investigation of human rights violations, inmates and parolees' welfares, parolees and other services were likewise provided during the period. Among the programs and projects implemented were free legal services to the indigent members of the community, legal documentation assistance, and investigation of human violations, mediation and conciliation services, and legal assistance extended to walk-in clients with regard to human rights violations.

Strengthening of Regional and Local Development Councils and Other Special Bodies. In its effort to strengthen the linkage of regional and local planning and programming, the Regional Development Council (RDC) XII has been steadfast in exercising its mandate to coordinate and facilitate the preparation of the plan and investment program for the region. It likewise, spearheaded the conduct of regional budget reviews to ensure that the regional priorities are appropriately addressed by the regional line agencies through their respective budget proposals. In addition, the RDC reviewed and forwarded appropriate recommendations on the issues/concerns affecting the implementation of laws and policy proposals affecting regional development, among others.

In response to the administration's thrusts on mitigating the effects of global financial crisis, the RDC facilitated the formulation of Economic Resiliency Plan with inputs coming from all regional line agencies and local government units.

Parallel to RDC, the local development councils (LDCs) have also been focusing to local level governance as mandated under the Local Government Code of 1991. Aside from the LDCs, there are other special bodies at the local level which tackle issues that need action from the concerned local entities, such as the Local Health and Local School Boards.

The region has likewise, been active in pursuing and supporting development agenda for Mindanao, in general, and Region XII in particular through the Regional Development Committee (RDCom)-Mindanao.

3.7.2 Local Governance

In 2009, the application of Local Governance Performance Management System (LGPMS) revealed that all 54 local government units of Region XII have complied with the requirements of the system. This implies that the performance of the LGUs had been moderate, particularly in line with the use of their financial and human resources and delivery of services.

3.7.3 Revenue Generation and Expenditures

Total revenue collection in the region increased over the 6-year period, but this is below target. Aggregate income of LGUs increased from P6.3 Billion in 2004 to P9.7 Billion in 2008, while the aggregate expenditures also increased from P5.6 Billion in 2004 to P8.8 Billion in 2008.

The total internal revenue allotment for all LGUs in Region XII for the period 2004-2009 amounted to P 43 Trillion, with Region XII ranking No. 13 among the 17 regions of the country.

On real property tax, the collection in Region XII during the period reached P3.17 Billion with an average annual accomplishment of 89.05%. In 2008, the onslaught of typhoons Frank and Cosme adversely affected the accomplishments of the local government units, particularly Sultan Kudarat Province. In consideration of the extent of damage to production areas brought about by typhoons, as well as, the unstable peace and order condition, the Bureau of Local Government Finance deliberately adjusted the targets for real property tax in all areas of the region.

Local tax revenues generated significantly increased during the period 2004-2009. Total collection reached P5.24 Billion or about an average annual accomplishment of 112.24%. The collection performance in 2009 recorded a high 177% accomplishment. The bulk of the collection was generated from business taxes. General Santos City was the top contributor with P308.07 Million collection.

In terms of internal revenue collection, the region posted an average annual accomplishment of 96.19% for the period 2004-2009. However, the collection trend vis-à-vis the yearly target had been decreasing. From a 102.38% accomplishment in 2004, it went down to 87.93% in 2009. Among the reasons cited for the decrease and unmet revenue collection targets were as follows: (a) implementation of Republic Act 9504 in 2008 – which increased the personal exemptions of taxpayers and consequently affected the collection from withholding tax on compensation; (b) the adverse effect of Typhoons (Ondoy and Cosme) that brought damage to agricultural products; (c) Transfer-out of taxpayers to other regions and the direct remittance (of centralized account/multinational corporations) to Large Taxpayers Division in Manila; (d) Non-compliant taxpayers which included the stop filers; (e) effects of global financial crisis; and, (e) the unstable peace and order condition.

The average annual expenditure of provincial LGUs for the period 2004-2008 was P2.3 Billion. For the cities and municipalities, their average annual expenditure was estimated at P1.7 Billion and P3.0 Billion, respectively. Expenditures for general services, education, labor, social services and debt servicing exhibited a decreasing trend from 2004-2008. The highest decrease was recorded in education with 0.87 percentage point difference between 2004 and 2008. Health, housing, economic and other services showed increasing expenditure trends, with other services recorded the highest increase of 1.21 percentage points. In terms of average annual expenditure by service, the highest was spent for general services at about 44.11 percent, followed by economic services (17.98%), other services (17.31%), and health services (10.55%). About 3.37% was allotted for education and 2.36% for social services. Below one percent (1%) was for housing and labor services.

3.7.4 Disaster Risk Reduction

Although Region XII is typically a typhoon-free region, recent occurrences of tropical storms that entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) have also affected Mindanao and the region, as well. Typhoons Frank, Cosme, Jolina, Ondoy and Pepeng triggered flashfloods and landslides in various parts of Region XII in 2008 and 2009. Likewise, the onslaught of other natural disasters such as, flashfloods, tornadoes, earthquakes, the El Nino and La Nina phenomenon had not spared the region.

Emergency assistance was provided by the various line agencies to the affected population. Through the joint efforts of the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC), Regional Development Council (RDC) and the Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC), the national government issued Executive Order 743-A and B and Executive Order 753, creating the

Presidential Task Force on Mindanao River Basin Rehabilitation and Development (PTF-MRBRD) to spearhead the preparation of the Mindanao River Basin Rehabilitation Plan to address the flooding issues in Mindanao.

With the assistance from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), NEDA Regional Office XII launched the DRR Advocacy and Institutionalization of DRR in development planning through a forum attended by representatives from regional line agencies, LGUs, academe and non-government organizations in the region.

Private sector representatives have been actively participating in all development efforts of the regional and local development councils and special bodies. This has likewise, enhanced the support and cooperation of other non-government organizations in the region towards promoting regional and local development. People's participation in government-initiated endeavors has also been noted during the past six years. In the government's arm in monitoring of government programs and projects, both at the regional and sub-regional levels include private sectors/NGOs as members of the committees.

Responding to the call for documentation of best practices being espoused by the regional line agencies and LGUs in the region, the Koronadal City LGU in partnership with Asia Foundation and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) implemented a program which geared towards improving transparency and accountability in governance through quality investment promotions and business license and permit processing. On the other hand, the LGU of Tacurong City has successfully implemented its waste management program for the locality.

3.7.5 Establishment of the Regional Government Center

By virtue of Executive Order No. 304, series of 2004, the administrative center of Region XII or the SOCCSKSARGEN Region has been transferred from Cotabato City to Koronadal City. The transfer was effected to make the administrative center more accessible to stakeholders and to be able to achieve a more equitable spread of economic growth in the region. Towards the end of 2007, coordination with the Office of the Presidential Assistant for New Government Centers (OPANGC) and the Offices of the Department of Secretaries of the different line agencies was undertaken by RDC XII to effect the smooth transfer of regional line agencies to Koronadal City.

Koronadal City has donated 8 hectares of land located at Barangay Carpenter Hill to serve as regional government center site for the offices of the various regional government agencies operating in the region. As of date, a total of forty (40) regional offices have already transferred their offices in Koronadal City. A total of twenty-four (24) agencies are still operating in their offices in Cotabato City.

CHAPTER 4:

SOCCSKSARGEN Vision of Development

The development vision of the people of SOCCSKSARGEN reflects their desire to become a people of integrity and faith - communing with God and living out His laws, and walking the paths of righteousness, justice, peace and respect for human rights and the environment; a people who are empowered and are able to empower others; and a people led by dynamic and dedicated leaders toward a better and productive way of life.

The socioeconomic development of the region is accelerated by the people's concerted efforts in harnessing the region's natural endowments in a manner that is sustainable. The region shall be known as provider of quality products and services, particularly, from the creative, innovative and responsible development of high value crops, fishery, mineral resource and tourism potentials.

It is likewise the vision of the people of the region to be living in an environment where all its elements (land, water, air, climate and genetic resources) are green and healthy and giving them the needed care and attention for a sustained economy. The sustainable management and utilization of the natural resources is the region's legacy to its future generation.



“By 2016, Region XII is the home of God-centered and empowered, culturally diverse people, provider of world class high value crops, fishery, mineral and tourism products and services, propelled by dynamic and dedicated leaders and, living in a green and healthy environment”

CHAPTER 5:

Development Goals and Strategic Outcomes, 2011-2016

To attain its development vision, the region shall address the challenges that are confronting it. Its desire to move forward has been hindered by its low and erratic economic growth and high poverty incidence.

These two major challenges are the combined effects of low economic productivity, low income and lack of access to productive/decent employment, inadequate access to quality basic services, inadequate

infrastructure support, and environmental degradation, as well as, the concerns on sustaining peace, inadequacy of power supply, and governance.

The region's stakeholders have therefore agreed to work together and take advantage of its strength in agriculture, eco-tourism and rich natural resources to propel its socioeconomic development. This shall be attained through higher and sustainable growth which would provide productive employment and adequate income and redound to the reduction of poverty incidence among families and individuals in the region. (Figure 5.1).

Such growth is expected to provide productive employment opportunities; better and equal access to development. This shall be attained through opportunities for all sectors; and implement effective social protection, particularly for the vulnerable groups.

Figure 5.1



5.1 Inclusive Growth and Poverty Alleviation

Consistent with the Social Contract of His Excellency President Benigno S. Aquino III and the Philippine Development Plan (PDP), 2011-2016, the overarching development goals of SOCCSKSARGEN are inclusive growth and poverty reduction.

The attainment of the following strategic outcomes is expected to contribute to the achievement of inclusive growth and poverty reduction, viz; (a) increased and sustained growth in the regional economy, particularly in agriculture, fishery and industry; (b) adequate income and access to productive employment for families; (c) equal access to quality basic social services has been covered; (d) efficient infrastructure support to socioeconomic development efforts; (e) adequate and reliable power supply for local industries and households; (f) green and healthy environment; (g) sustained peace, development and security; and, (h) good governance. (Figure 5.2)

5.1.1 Achieving 7% Economic Growth by 2016

The regional economic growth as measured by the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) is targeted to grow from 5.0% in 2011 to 7.0% in 2016.

All the industry groups are expected to post positive growths during the period (Table 5.1). Nonetheless, the agriculture, fishery and forestry (AFF) shall remain as the lead contributor to the economy of the region.

Figure 5.2
Region XII Development Framework

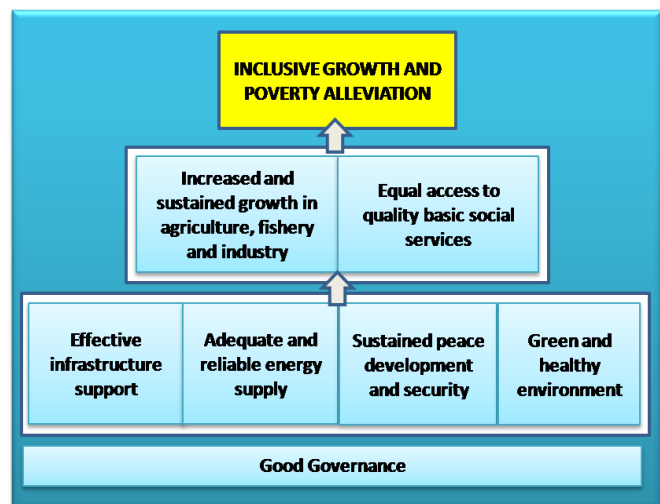


Table 5.1
GRDP Growth Targets, 2011-2016, Region XII

Indicator	2009 Actual	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP)	1.3	5.0	5.3	5.8	6.2	6.6	7.0
- Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry	(2.0)	4.6	4.9	5.3	5.7	6.1	6.5
- Industry	3.8	5.4	5.7	6.3	6.6	7.0	7.4
- Service	3.8	5.1	5.4	5.9	6.3	6.7	7.1

Source: NSCB XII

The expected growth of the regional economy shall be bolstered, among others, by the following:

a. Increasing Growth Rates in Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry, from 4.6% in 2011 to 6.5% in 2016

- i. Increase in palay production with the support of irrigation development, use of high yielding varieties, utilization of new production technologies, and proper post harvest management.
- ii. Expansion of commercial crop export base, such as corn, pineapple, banana, coffee, coconut, sugarcane, oil palm, and rubber.
- iii. Expansion of the aquaculture farming areas for pangasius, crabs, tilapia, bangus and prawn products in Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani Provinces, as well as, in Cotabato City.
- iv. Reduction of underlying risks to food security and adoption of appropriate technologies to mitigate potential negative impacts of climate change to agriculture, fishery and forestry production. Reforestation activities in different areas of the region shall likewise supplement the output of the AFF.

b. Higher Growth Rates in Industry, from 5.4% in 2011 to 7.4% in 2016

- i. Increased processing activities for the major export winners of the region:
 - fish/tuna processing and canning/packaging in General Santos City
 - Pineapple (DOLE Philippines), coconut, asparagus, coffee, banana and rubber
 - Other agri-processing activities in South Cotabato (Kablon Farm Corporation, T'boli Agro Development Corporation, Pioneer Hybrid Seeds, Bioseed) and in Sultan Kudarat.
- ii. Mining development, particularly the implementation of preparatory activities for the Tampakan Copper-Gold Project. This involves the construction of its infrastructure facilities such as: pipelines, transportation support, drainage pond, tailings/dam, housing units, power plant.

The project is expected to pour in P2 Billion of investments in the region starting 2010 and another P2 billion by 2011. Additional investments are expected to be poured in by the project from P5 Billion in 2012 to P25 Billion each year starting 2013 until 2015. The bulk of these investments shall go to constructions and partly in agriculture and forestry production, as well as, in the services. Mining activities are expected to start towards the end of the plan period, from which the project is expected to yield P10 Billion investments.

- iii. Increased construction activities in power generation, establishment of schools, commercial and housing facilities, etc:
 - Coal-fired power plant in Sarangani which is targeted to generate P1.0 Billion investment starting January 2011.
 - Public and private constructions of commercial and housing in the urban areas of the region, including the construction of SM Mall in General Santos City in 2011, entry of Gaisano Commercial Center and hotels/suites in Koronadal City.

- Establishment of new schools, such as, the University of the Philippines (UP) School of Medicine in and the Philippine Science High School in South Cotabato.
- iv. Development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). While most of the MSMEs push the growth of the industry sector, other MSMEs have activities which also contribute to AFF and Services.

c. Increasing Growth Rates in Services, from 5.1% in 2011 to 7.1% in 2016

- i. Increased activities in transportation, communication and government services.
- ii. Strengthening trading, finance, tourism, ICT activities.

Tourism services shall be improved considering the rich tourism potentials of the region, such as, Mt. Apo in Cotabato province; Lake Sebu, in South Cotabato; the presence of caves, waterfalls, rivers and the conduct of several festivals celebrated in the different areas of the region.

- iii. Operationalization of power plants and transmission lines. The ongoing P1.626 Billion worth of General Santos-Tacurong 138 KV Transmission Line Reinforcement Project by the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines shall contribute to the growth in the service sector. Moreover, the 200 megawatt coal-fired power plant in Sarangani is targeted to be operational by 2013.
- iv. Expansion and opening of new commercial and business establishments, particularly in the urban centers of the region. The SM Mall in General Santos City, for example, is expected to open by 2011 which would offer a lot of services and employment opportunities in the region. Similarly, the Gaisano Commercial Center is also expected to start operation in the same year. Additional department stores, restaurants, and sports and recreational centers are also expected to be opened in Cotabato City, Koronadal City, Kidapawan City and Tacurong City, as well as, in the secondary growth centers of the region.

5.1.2 Meeting the MDG Poverty Reduction Targets by 2015

With the expected growth in the regional economy during the plan period, greater number of jobs is expected to be created which would provide higher and more stable source of income, particularly for the vulnerable sectors. Adequate income and access to productive employment are expected to translate into the reduction of the poverty levels in the region.

a. Reducing Poverty Incidence to 23.4%

The poverty incidence of population in the region is targeted to be reduced from 46.8% in 2000 to 23.4% by 2015; and, the poverty incidence among families from 40.7% in 2000 to 20.4% in 2015 (Table 5.2). These targets are consistent with the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) target of halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty between 1990 and 2015. In the case of Region XII, latest available poverty data for the reconfigured region (SOCCSKSARGEN) is in year 2000.

Table 5.2
Poverty Targets in 2015, Region XII

Indicator	ACTUAL			TARGET
	2000	2003	2006	2015
Poverty Incidence of Population	46.8	38.4	40.8	23.4
Poverty Incidence of Families	40.7	32.1	33.8	20.4

Source: NSCB XII

To achieve the target of 23.4 % poverty incidence of population by 2015, major programs and projects shall be vigorously implemented to increase and sustain economic growth, generate more jobs and ensure equal access of the population to quality basic social services. This shall be supported by the improved infrastructure facilities, sustained peace and order condition and strengthened government-non-government partnership in development activities at all levels.

b. Providing Livelihood and Employment

Employment rate is targeted to hit 96.4% by the end of plan period (Table 5.3). On the other hand, underemployment rate is targeted to decline from the rate of 20.6% in 2009 to 17.9 % in 2016.

To support the employment and underemployment targets, increased economic activities which would contribute to job generation in the agriculture, fishery and forestry sector; as well as, in the industry and services sectors shall be pursued. Most of the underemployed are those engaged in agriculture, fishery and forestry activities. Likewise, the provision of skills training for out-of-school youth and jobless individuals by government agencies and local government units shall be expanded, as well as, the introduction of new livelihood skills to low income families for additional source of income. Educational institutions shall undertake job matching programs, considering the forecasted skill/job requirements in the region and the courses being offered by these institutions.

Table 5.3
Employment Targets, 2011-2016, Region XII

Indicator	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	65.9	66.1	66.3	66.5	66.7	66.9
Employment Rate (%)	96.0	96.2	96.4	96.6	96.8	97.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.2	3.0
Underemployment Rate (%)	18.9	18.7	18.5	18.3	18.1	17.9

Source: NSO XII

Cognizant of the importance of the workers as the country's most important economic resource, creating relevant jobs through livelihood and micro financing shall be pursued in the region. Self-employment and entrepreneurship development programs shall be established. Livelihood convergence models shall be developed. The LGUs, NGOs and cooperatives shall be oriented on accessing funds for microenterprise development.

In pursuit of empowering the labor and management sectors programs on labor and management education with focus on labor relations, human relations and productivity, shall be continually conducted. The Efficiency and Integrity Board (EIB) shall be created in the region to

curb graft and corruption in government and employers in the private sector. In monitoring harmony in the workplace, network with the private sectors shall be strengthened.

To address the problem on job mismatch, programs on Career Counseling through the Career Counselors Associations in the region shall be improved.

Targets on livelihood and micro-financing programs are reflected in Table 5.4.

Table 5.4
Livelihood and Micro-financing Programs Targets, 2011-2016

Indicator/Program	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
A. Livelihood						
1. No. of livelihood/ training projects	20	20	25	25	28	28
2. No. of beneficiaries	500	500	600	650	700	750
B. Microfinancing						
1. No. of loans/micro-enterprise financing	12	12	14	14	15	15
2. No. of beneficiaries	1,200	1,200	1,300	1,300	1,400	1,400
C. PESO						
1. No. of job applicants registered	32,000	33,000	35,000	35,000	36,000	36,000
2. No. of job applicants placed	18,000	18,500	19,000	19,500	20,000	20,000
D. Jobs Fairs						
1. No. of jobs fair conducted	18	20	23	23	25	25
2. Applicants deployed/hired on the spot	100	125 5-5	150	150	175	175
E. SPES Program						
1. No. of students registered/placed	5,699	5,750	5,750	5,800	5,800	5,850
F. Labor Relations						
1. LHP Conducted	100	105	110	110	115	115
2. No. of Participants	1,500	1,600	1,750	1,750	1,900	1,900

Source: DOLE XII

5.1.3 Management of Population Growth Rate

The rapid population growth in the Philippines has been seen as a factor that hindered economic growth and poverty reduction over past decades. In the case of Region XII, its average annual population growth rate of 2.41% from 2000 to 2007 is relatively higher than the national growth rate of 2.04%. The population is expected to double in 2036 or about 25 years after 2011.

The region shall therefore strive to manage its population growth by intensifying the implementation of programs and projects that focus on responsible parenthood, family health, and other health-related programs, including advocacy on acceptable reproductive health measures.

Utilizing medium growth population assumptions, the region is expected to achieve a lower population growth of 2.06% by 2016.

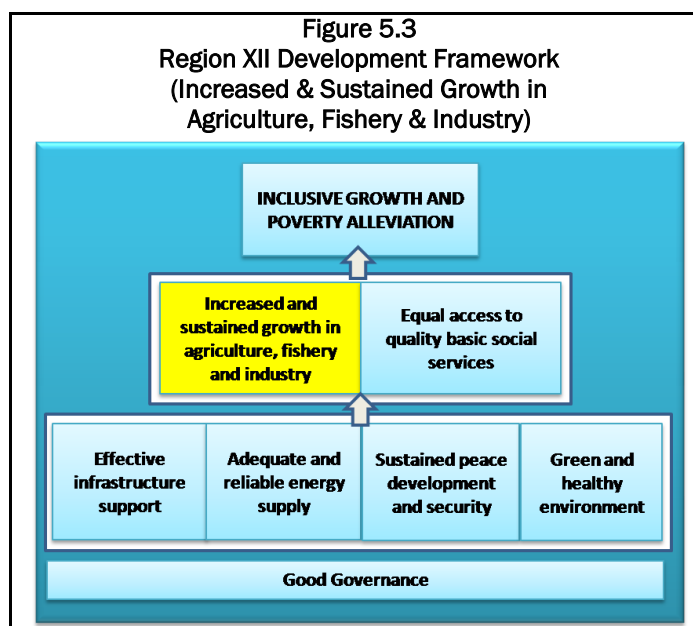
5.1.4 Stabilizing Inflation Rates

The region shall strive to maintain an inflation rate of not more than 5% within the plan period. Regular price monitoring shall be implemented to avoid higher price mark up by the business sector/traders.

5.2 Increased and Sustained Growth in Agriculture, Fishery and Industry

In order to contribute to the attainment of the vision and address the low and erratic economic growth and high poverty incidence, the region shall strive to attain inclusive growth and poverty alleviation through increased and sustained growth in agriculture, fishery and industry.

The achievement of this primary strategic outcome shall be hinged on the strategies of boosting the agriculture and fishery production and agri-industrialization; development of high-impact industries; and, propagating micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). These strategies are designed to create productive and decent employment and generate better income for workers.



5.2.1 Boosting Agriculture and Fishery Production and Agri-industrialization

a. Basic Food crops (rice and corn)

To enhance cereal production the following shall be pursued:

- i. Rehabilitation, expansion and/or development of new irrigation systems, protection dikes and other related facilities.

The MALMAR Irrigation Project (MMIP) is expected to propel production of palay in its service areas in North Cotabato. This shall be supported by all other National Irrigation Systems (NIS) and Communal Irrigation Systems (CIS) operating in the region. The full operationalization of Kabulnan-2 Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project (K2MIPP) in the next 6 years is expected to serve the potential irrigable areas of about 19,330 hectares, covering three municipalities of Sultan Kudarat and one municipality of

Maguindanao Province of the ARMM. Targets for irrigation development are shown in Table 5.5.

- ii. Provision of support to regulate the high cost of production inputs and low farm gate price of basic food crops and institutionalize support for farm inputs through cooperatives.
- iii. Intensifying LGU extension, promotion, advocacy and adoption/application of new and efficient technologies on basic food crops production.
- iv. Regulation on the land conversion of irrigated areas and other productive agricultural lands. LGUs shall be engaged in monitoring land conversion.
- v. Intensifying advocacy initiatives to increase awareness on the management and preservation of key production areas.
- vi. Intensifying of promotion and advocacy on the adoption of organic farming using organic fertilizer and providing incentives for organically grown foods. Support shall be provided for the establishment of composting facility for organic fertilizer production. Efforts towards the establishment of a Local Certification System or body for organically grown food shall also be pursued.
- vii. Establishment of infra support facilities, such as, grains terminal/trading pre- and post-harvest facilities, Cold Storage Plant and Warehouse for fruits and vegetables.
- viii. Ensuring the adherence of producers/growers to market regulations.
- ix. Establishment integrated soil laboratory at strategic locations in the region.
- x. Liberalizing the investment environment through investment policies/code, tax incentives or tax holidays in order to encourage more investors in agricultural production.
- xi. Promotion on collective farming and marketing through consolidation of single crop to develop a plantation type of agriculture.

Table 5.5
Existing Irrigated Areas and Targets, 2011-2016 (In Hectares)

Area	Irrigated Areas (As of 2009)	Irrigable Areas	Target Area to be irrigated					
			2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Cotabato Province	38,100	65,678	38,199	40,250	42,479	44,117	45,185	46,528
Sarangani	6,709	11,308	6,780	7,759	9,655	11,113	13,521	15,735
South Cotabato	22,507	34,622	22,832	23,332	24,098	24,895	25,628	26,831
Sultan Kudarat	28,381	61,802	28,436	28,966	30,145	31,322	32,615	33,756

Source: NIA XII / DA XII

As a result of the interventions to be put in place, the volume of rice and corn production is expected to reach 1,769,681 MT and 1,326,842 MT, respectively (Table 5.6). Production areas, on the other hand, shall be expanded from the existing total area of 430,182 hectares to 502,100 hectares (Table 5.7).

Table 5.6
Cereal Crops Existing Production Level and Targets (In Metric Tons)

CEREAL CROPS	Existing Production (2009)	Target Crop Production					
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
RICE							
Irrigated	996,995	1,029,396	1,187,732	1,333,693	1,427,021	1,493,220	1,494,925
Cotabato	371,340	385,702	493,349	563,395	576,131	603,575	607,920
Sarangani	34,016	36,355	46,918	56,000	62,762	65,110	64,960
SK	331,654	354,232	371,682	411,807	475,802	498,257	490,692
Rainfed	232,045	257,361	274,756	292,052	278,672	274,756	274,756
Cotabato	117,069	127,582	135,460	135,460	137,728	135,460	135,460
Sarangani	13,547	12,083	12,853	12,853	12,976	12,853	12,853
South Cot.	40,628	35,290	40,393	40,393	41,113	40,393	40,393
SK	60,801	82,406	86,050	103,346	86,855	86,050	86,050
Total	1,229,040	1,286,757	1,462,488	1,625,745	1,705,693	1,767,976	1,769,681
CORN							
White	287,903	269,980	288,471	304,881	317,133	330,757	342,529
Cotabato	96,514	90,610	96,706	102,056	106,257	108,736	112,016
Sarangani	66,164	60,375	64,389	67,601	70,722	72,570	74,497
South Cot.	65,446	57,384	61,341	65,224	66,916	72,794	75,112
SK	59,779	58,832	63,068	66,864	69,522	71,934	75,240
Yellow	858,726	835,595	892,799	941,050	952,542	967,548	984,313
Cotabato	263,517	247,028	264,544	278,077	280,651	283,774	288,000
Sarangani	69,793	73,059	78,050	81,939	84,748	86,579	92,156
South Cot.	359,103	343,648	366,370	387,641	390,287	396,633	399,621
SK	166,313	155,743	166,654	175,250	177,383	179,096	181,243
Total	1,146,629	1,105,575	1,181,270	1,245,931	1,269,675	1,298,305	1,326,842

Notes: SK – Sultan Kudarat

Source: DA XII

Table 5.7
Cereal Crops Existing Area Harvested and Targets (In Hectares)

CEREAL CROPS	Existing Areas (2009)	Target Area to be Developed					
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
RICE							
Irrigated	267,039	262,331	282,234	294,691	310,530	310,776	310,930
Cotabato	91,411	92,102	106,469	110,487	111,737	111,837	111,857
Sarangani	9,685	9,672	11,659	12,839	14,089	14,165	14,159
South Cot.	69,750	67,947	69,414	74,936	75,436	75,476	75,516
SK	96,188	92,610	94,692	96,429	109,268	109,298	109,398
Rainfed	82,634	85,788	85,788	91,360	85,788	85,788	85,788
Cotabato	41,248	41,693	41,693	41,693	41,693	41,693	41,693
Sarangani	5,272	4,388	4,388	4,388	4,388	4,388	4,388
South Cot.	13,704	11,849	11,849	11,849	11,849	11,849	11,849
SK	29,410	27,859	27,859	33,431	27,859	27,859	27,859
Total	349,673	348,119	368,022	386,051	396,318	396,564	396,718

Table 5.7 (cont'd.)

CEREAL CROPS	Existing Areas (2009)	Target Area to be Developed					
CORN							
White	153,429	155,845	164,820	173,039	176,730	180,028	184,467
Cotabato	46,542	46,414	48,954	51,460	52,553	53,489	54,501
Sarangani	47,454	47,959	50,773	53,431	54,821	55,542	56,864
South Cot.	33,427	33,018	34,984	36,624	37,175	38,260	39,215
SK	26,006	27,236	28,819	30,168	30,741	31,208	32,273
GSC		1,218	1,290	1,356	1,440	1,529	1,614
Yellow	276,753	278,648	295,477	310,428	312,662	315,335	317,633
Cotabato	84,912	79,521	84,233	88,434	89,028	89,927	90,705
Sarangani	26,809	28,558	30,346	31,922	32,275	32,751	33,056
South Cot.	107,591	109,775	116,281	122,177	122,677	123,362	123,868
SK	57,441	56,394	59,938	62,973	63,608	64,026	64,396
GSC		4,400	4,679	4,922	5,074	5,269	5,608
Total	430,182	434,493	460,297	483,467	489,392	495,363	502,100

Notes: SK – Sultan Kudarat; GSC – Gen. Santos City

Source: DA XII

b. High Value Commercial Crops (HVCC): coffee, banana, mango, rubber, oil palm, coconut, other fruits and vegetables

The region has been a consistent top producer of coffee, banana, mango, pineapple, oil palm and rubber. On the other hand, coconut-based crude oil continues to be a major export product. Various fruits and vegetables are likewise produced and sold to other regions, namely: Durian, Lanzones, Rambutan and Papaya for fruits, and the “pakbet” ingredients for vegetables. Production of these commodities shall continue with increased productivity as an overriding goal. The latter shall be achieved by value-adding through the establishment of micro, small and medium scale industries while “pakbet” vegetables shall be sold as fresh vegetables.

The following strategies shall be pursued to enhance production and productivity of *Priority Industry Clusters* (coffee, muscovado, banana, mango, rubber and oil palm) and other high value crops:

- i. Intensifying the support for the expansion of production areas for priority industry clusters for coffee, sugar (muscovado), banana, mango, rubber and oil palm (Table 5.8).

Rubber production will be increased through the expansion and rehabilitation of rubber areas. Among the targeted expansion areas include the establishment of a 30,000 hectare-rubber plantation at the Arakan Valley Complex (Arakan, Antipas, Carmen, Matalam, President Roxas) and a Manufacturing Plant under the DA-DAR-DENR Convergence Initiative.

Support shall be provided for the intensification of coffee production in the Province of Sultan Kudarat, as the top coffee growing area in the country. Coffee production will be increased through the expansion of coffee areas and rehabilitation of existing coffee plantations in the region. In support to this move, a coffee scion grove Nursery, Demonstration Farm and Training Center shall be established, through a joint project of the LGUs of Senator Ninoy Aquino, Kalamansig, Lebak, Bagumbayan and the province Sultan

Kudarat with the Department of Agriculture providing genetically superior planting materials, showcasing good agricultural practices and hands-on training. To agro-industrialize coffee, a processing plant has also been proposed as one intervention to boost production.

For both coffee and rubber, village type processing plants shall also be established.

- ii. Financial support shall be provided to HVCC growers (fruits and vegetables) with less requirements. “Plant now pay later” scheme shall be implemented for coffee, rubber, oil palm and other HVCC. Key production areas shall be designated for tradable HVCCs, e.g. rubber, oil palm, to strengthen production, processing and marketing. Post-harvest facilities for other HVCCs shall likewise be provided in key production areas.

The Province of Cotabato shall likewise continue to increase its sugarcane production. It shall also be further promoted in Sultan Kudarat areas to support its muscovado production.

Sultan Kudarat shall remain as the major source of oil palm products in the region.

Pineapple production areas in South Cotabato Province shall be expanded towards Sarangani Province. On the other hand, the banana production areas in Cotabato Province shall be expanded to South Cotabato Province.

- iii. Contract growing shall be promoted for the expansion of coconut areas, as well as, abaca.
- iv. Other strategies shall involve ensuring adherence of producers/growers to market regulations; establishment of quarantine choke points for crops; and, establishment and institutionalization of Halal Food requirements/certification.

Table 5.8
Existing Crop Production Levels and Targets

Commodity	Existing production level (2009)	Target area to be developed/for expansion (in hectares) and target production (MT)					
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Coffee							
Area	23,493	24,393	24,993	25,690	26,500	27,400	28,393
Production	27,553.93	28,783	29,492.53	30,314	31,270	32,332	33,504
Banana							
Area	28,876	29,430	29,800	30,200	30,500	31,050	31,500
Production	1,024,009	1,071,252	1,087,700	1,102,300	1,113,250	1,133,325	1,149,750
Mango							
Area	16,736	16,850	16,900	16,950	16,980	17,000	17,000
Production	53,655	57,290	57,460	57,630	57,732	57,800	57,800
Rubber							
Area	31,235	35,000	35,350	36,057	36,778	37,514	8,200
Production	169,479	182,000	183,820	187,491	191,246	195,073	198,640
Oil Palm							
Area	12,006	12,490	12,750	13,005	13,265	13,530	13,800
Production	102,237.28	106,165	108,375	110,542	112,753	115,005	117,300
Coconut							
Area	169,254	169,700	170,000	170,200	170,400	170,500	170,600
Production	894,067.31	899,410	901,000	902,060	903,120	903,650	904,180

Table 5.8 (cont'd.)

Commodity	Existing production level (2009)	Target area to be developed/for expansion (in hectares) and target production (MT)					
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Pineapple							
Area	24,218	24,758	25,358	25,858	26,000	26,500	27,000
Production	860,836	913,570	938,246	954,160	959,400	977,850	996,300
Asparagus							
Area	525	575	600	625	650	675	700
Production	8,629.37	9,775	10,200	10,625	11,050	11,475	11,900
Sugarcane							
Area	12,850.50	13,050	13,150	13,350	13,500	13,600	13,650
Production	714,397.68	730,800	736,400	747,600	756,000	761,600	764,400
Other Fruits							
Durian							
Area	1,815	1,895	1,935	1,975	2,015	2,055	2,095
Production	2984.56	3,108	3,250	3,318	3,385	3,452	3,520
Lanzones							
Area	1,312	1,392	1,430	1,470	1,512	1,550	1,590
Production	325.14	1,392	1,573	1,617	1,663	1,705	1,749
Rambutan							
Area	1,352	1,368	1,380	1,390	1,400	1,410	1,410
Production	1,975.55	2,188	2,346	2,363	2,380	2,538	2,600
Papaya							
Area	1,332	1,382	1,422	1,462	1,472	1,490	1,500
Production	59,856.83	60,800	62,568	64,328	64,768	65,560	66,000
Vegetables							
Area	15,484.68	15,550	15,600	15,630	15,700	15,750	15,800
Production	119,286.07	108,850	109,200	109,410	109,900	110,250	110,600

Source: DA XII

c. Livestock

To increase productivity in livestock, the following strategies shall be employed. Livestock production targets are shown in Table 5.9.

- i. Government representation in marketing of products not affected by national issues, e.g. Foot and Mouth Disease/Ebola, bird flu, etc. Region XII shall pursue its advocacy for the declaration of SOCCSKSARGEN as a separate bio-security region.
- ii. Upgrading of livestock through the establishment of techno-demo and breeding centers and by infusing high quality stock through natural and artificial insemination;
- iii. Establishment of marketing or bagsakan centers, as well as, quarantine choke points for livestock; and,
- iv. Establishment and institutionalization of Halal Food Requirements/Certification.

Table 5.9
Livestock Production Levels and Targets in Region XII (in MT of live weight)

Livestock/ Poultry	Existing Production level (2009)	Target Production					
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Carabao	12,116	12,853	13,239	13,636	14,045	14,466	14,900
Cattle	17,111	18,153	18,698	19,259	19,837	20,432	21,045
Hog	116,503	123,598	127,306	131,125	135,059	139,111	143,284
Goat	7,113	7,400	7,548	7,774	7,929	8,088	8,250
Chicken	32,455	34,432	35,465	36,529	37,625	38,754	39,917
Duck	3,910	4,068	4,190	4,274	4,359	4,446	4,535

Source: DA XII

d. Fishery

It is expected that the leading companies in aquaculture farming in Sarangani shall expand their operation in the province. In the same manner, municipal marine fishing in the coastal areas of Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani shall be increased, as well as, the municipal inland fishing in the region's fresh water like Lake Sebu, Ligawasan Marsh and Buluan Lake. Restocking and fingerlings dispersal program shall continue to support fish production in the municipal waters of the region.

In its efforts to provide world class fishery products, the region shall pursue the implementation of the following strategies:

- i. Promotion and enhancement of the productive capacity of the private sector through implementation of appropriate and profitable technologies supported with comprehensive capability building and technical assistance. This shall be carried out with the active collaboration among the stakeholders;
- ii. Harnessing the optimum production potentials of the region through establishment of mass production facilities and other support infrastructure with the active participation of investors, LGUs, people's organizations and other relevant government agencies;
- iii. Strengthening of the regulation functions of the office for adherence to domestic and international standards and in support to sustained productivity and trades; and,
- iv. Advocacy of policies for improved utilization of fishery resources within and outside the region.

d.1 Strategies for the Tuna Industry

Commercial fishing shall be sustained in General Santos City, specifically for tuna and the processing of its products for export. Affirmative steps shall be taken to shore up the region's tuna industry. A strong partnership between government and the industry players will be sustained in order to pursue the strategies for the sector. A Philippine Team composed of representatives from the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Mindanao Development Authority (MINDA) and representatives of the fishing industry, shall be responsible for the country's strategic positioning, bargaining and negotiations with the Western and Central Pacific

Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). Among the measures that could be pursued to assist the industry would be the following:

- d.1.1 Pursue the establishment of a Special Management Area in High Seas Pocket 1, where Filipino fresh and ice-chilled vessels may be allowed;
- d.1.2 Strengthen the National Tuna Industry Council (NTIC);
- d.1.3 Build better relations with Indonesia and other Pacific Island countries; and,
- d.1.4 Delineate Philippine territorial waters that overlap with those of Indonesia and Palau, to create a mutually beneficial arrangement on maritime boundaries among the three countries. This will strengthen security programs in Southern Philippine waters, protect Filipino fishermen and lead to the sustainable development of the country's tuna industry.

SOCCSKSARGEN contributes 60-70% of the value of commercial fishing and hosts around 80% of tuna canneries in the country.

During the plan period, the region shall endeavor to attain fishery production target of about 150,000 MT increase by 2016, from its current level (Table 5.10).

Table 5.10
Existing Fishery Production Levels and Targets in Region XII (in Metric Tons)

Fishing Type	Existing Production level (2009)	Target Production					
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Commercial	226,330	240,113	256,921	274,906	294,149	314,740	336,772
<i>Cotabato</i>							
<i>Sarangani</i>	435	461	493	528	565	605	647
<i>South Cot.</i>	220,867	234,297	250,698	268,247	287,763	307,907	329,461
<i>Sultan Kudarat</i>	5,028	5355	5730	6131	5821	6228	6664
Municipal (inland)	26,046	28,049	29,956	31,999	34,188	36,534	37,275
<i>Cotabato</i>	14,473	15,586	16,646	17,781	18,997	20,301	20,713
<i>Sarangani</i>							
<i>South Cot.</i>	259	279	298	318	340	363	373
<i>Sultan Kudarat</i>	11,314	12,184	13,012	13,900	14,851	15,870	16,189
Municipal (Marine)	22,598	24,561	24,764	24,910	24,998	25,018	26,740
<i>Cotabato</i>							
<i>Sarangani</i>	14,800	16,090	16,219	16,315	16,373	16,386	17,514
<i>South Cot.</i>	1,434	1,559	1,572	1,581	1,587	1,588	1,697
<i>Sultan Kudarat</i>	6,364	6918	6973	7014	7038	7044	7525
Aquaculture	25,461	30,808	33,889	37,277	41,005	45,106	49,616
<i>Cotabato</i>	428	518	570	627	690	759	835
<i>Sarangani</i>	9,349	11,312	12,443	13,687	15,056	16,562	18,218
<i>South Cot.</i>	2,979	3,605	3,966	4,362	4,798	5,268	5,795
<i>Sultan Kudarat</i>	12,705	15,373	16,910	18,601	20,461	22,517	24,768
Total	300,435	323,531	345,530	369,092	394,340	421,398	450,403

Source: BFAR XII

e. Agri-industrialization

The region's dominance in the production of coffee, rubber, banana, asparagus and cereals shall be translated to earn bigger income for the region. This shall be done through processing of these commodities into quality goods that can compete in the world market.

However, while it is true that the region is the dominant producer of cereals and high value crops, its total production areas is actually an aggregation of small individual landholdings. The operationalization of Sustainable Agriculture and Fishery Development Zones (SAFDZs), which is a consolidation of small landholdings and the expansion of new production areas of the priority commodities, is expected to bring about economies of scale.

The agri-industrialization of the region shall be pursued as follows:

- i. Intensifying investment promotion on the establishment of processing/manufacturing plants/facilities for priority industry crops like coffee, rubber, palm oil, coconut, bangus, and tuna;
- ii. Establishment and upgrading of processing/manufacturing plants/facilities for other commodities;
- iii. Establishment of economic zones, such as, the Maitum-Kiamba-Maasim (MAKIMA) Industrial Triangle and the Alabel-Malungon-Malapatan (ALMAMA), among others; and,
- iv. Strengthening of LGU alliances, such as, Pikit – Pigcawayan Alamada Libungan Midsayap Aleosan (P-PALMA); Arakan Valley Complex, Metro Kutawato Development Alliance (MKDA); Kidapawan Magpet Makilala (KMM); Makilala Tulunan M'lang (MATUMLA); and, Allah Valley Landscape Development Alliance (AVLDA); Maasim Kiamba Maitum (MAKIMA).

5.2.2 Development of High Impact Industries

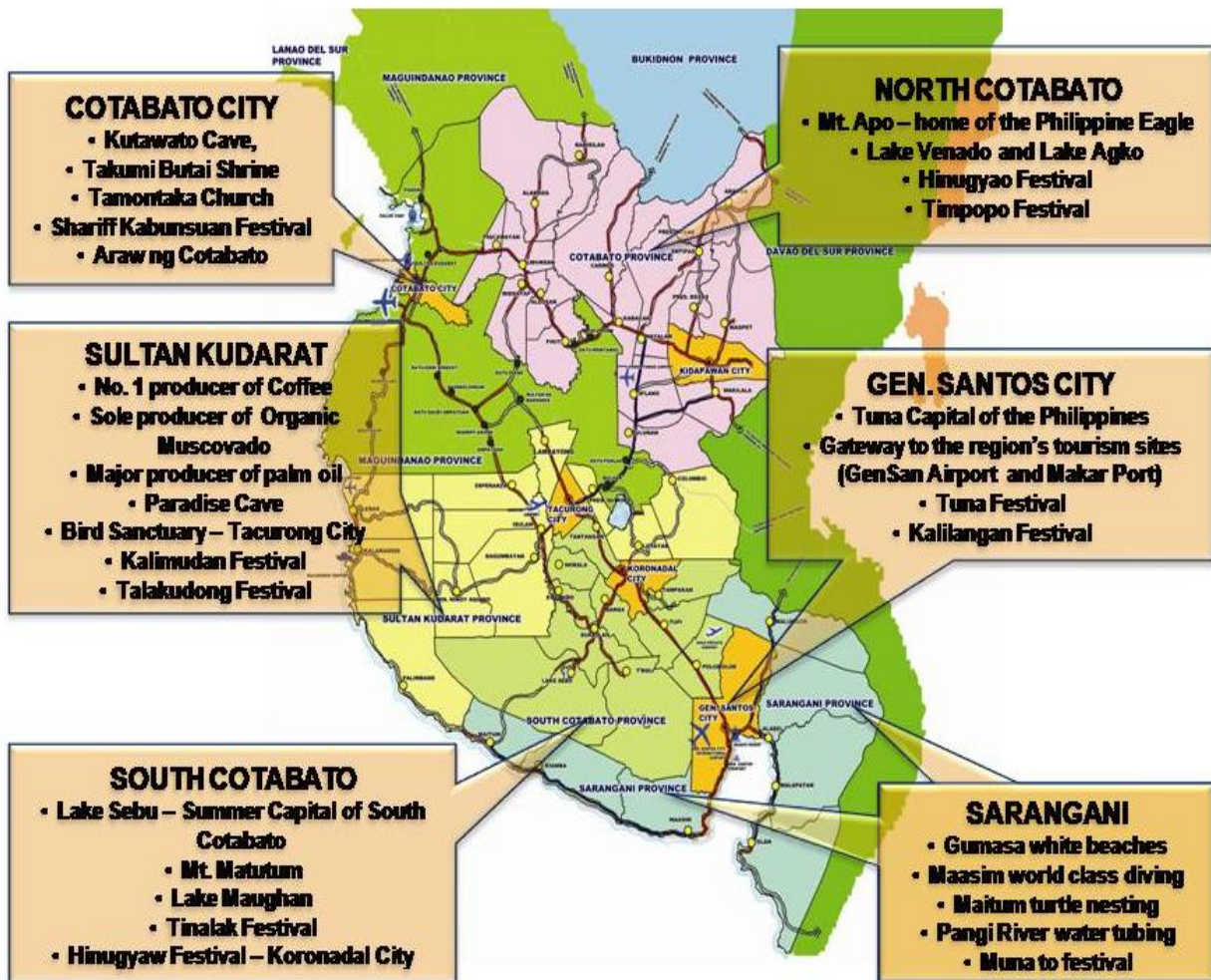
a. Tourism

Republic Act 9593 otherwise known as the Tourism Act of 2009 recognizes the potential contribution of the sector to the economy. The whole of the hospitality industry, has the potential for phenomenal growth, both in the number of people employed and in the investment which can be attracted. Tourism as an indispensable element of the regional economy shall be harnessed as an engine for socio-economic growth in the region. It is an industry that promotes infrastructure investments, catalyzes entrepreneurship, creates jobs, generates foreign exchange and enhances cultural pride.

In Region XII, tourism development seeks to contribute to the socio-economic growth by promoting tourism activities that are ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally sensitive, economically and ethically viable, and socially equitable for local communities.

To position Region XII as tourism destination by choice, the SOCCSKSARGEN Tourism Circuit shall be developed during the plan period (Figure 5.4).

Figure 5.4
SOCCSKSARGEN Tourism Circuit



To fully realize the development of tourism in the region the following strategies and activities shall be pursued in partnership with key stakeholders:

- Networking with LGUs, NGOs, private sectors, NGAs and other stakeholders in facilitating infrastructure support projects and enhancement/development of tourism offerings and in creating a favorable image for the region.
- Strengthening partnerships and coordination among LGUs and the region in the promotion of Region XII as a tourist destination and in the packaging of tourism destinations and festivals/events through the active participation of the regional and local tourism councils.
- Coordination among partner LGUs in the enforcement of tourism laws and regulations and capacitate tourism service providers through trainings.

- iv. Upgrading capacities of LGUs and other stakeholders in planning and implementing local tourism plans, including the formulation of LGU tourism master plans; integration of LGU plans to Regional Tourism Master Plan, provision of LGUs with support in planning and implementing tourism programs and projects; and, assistance to LGUs in the generation, collection and utilization of tourism statistics.
- v. Tourism Investment Promotion, specifically in the development of community-based eco-tourism, packaging and marketing; and,
- vi. Establishment and development of tourism information centers.

Tourism development shall be monitored by tracking the tourist arrivals and hotel occupancy rates in the region. During the plan period, the region targets to attain at least 65% hotel occupancy rate (Table 5.11).

Table 5.11
Total Tourist Arrivals and Hotel Occupancy Rate Targets by Province/City
2011-2016

Province/City	Tourist Arrivals	Hotel Occupancy Rate (%)
Sultan Kudarat	529,469	69.30 (70)
Cotabato	638,360	74.40 (75)
Sarangani	490,827	65.00
South Cotabato	654,737	73.00 (75)
Cotabato City	596,769	75.00
Kidapawan City	550,305	70.00
Gen. Santos City	884,740	78.00 (80)
Tacurong City	482,527	64.50 (65)
Koronadal City	648,634	75.00

Source: DOT XII

b. Mining

Minerals development in the region shall continue to be pursued based on the principles of sustainable and responsible mining. With the region's vast mineral reserves consisting of the metallic and non-metallic minerals, the mining industry has the potential of bringing about enormous economic benefits to the region and the country, as a whole.

Metallic mineral reserves, such as, gold, copper and iron are found in the Provinces of Cotabato (Pigcawayan and Magpet), Sultan Kudarat (Kalamansig, Palimbang, Bagumbayan and Columbio), South Cotabato (Tampakan, Lake Sebu and T'boli) and Sarangani (Maitum, Kiamba, Maasim and Glan) Non-metallic reserves such as limestone, sand and gravel, manganese and clay are also present in the Provinces of Sarangani, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato and General Santos City.

Potential mining areas, however, are determined based on the approved mining applications for mining explorations conducted in the area which may come in the form of Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA), Exploration Permits (EP) and, Financial Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA). Among the provinces which have mining applications under MPSA and FTAA are South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat. Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani Provinces have pending mining applications for exploration permits.

Government efforts are also geared towards forging genuine partnership with Local Government Units (LGUs) and private sectors to include business, academe and civil society. With this initiative the region is expected to emerge as economically secure in the next plan period.

The development of the mining industry as the region's economic driver shall be pursued through the following:

- i. Intensifying investment promotion in responsible mining both small and large scale operations;
- ii. Strengthening the delineation and segregation of mineralized areas except in critical protected areas;
- iii. Intensifying the enforcement of mining laws and regulations to minimize if not totally eradicate illegal mining;
- iv. Adoption of the "polluters pay principle" in the conduct of large and small scale mining and quarrying operations;
- v. Simplification of procedures in the acquisition of mining agreements or permits;
- vi. Strengthening implementation of Environmental Impact Assessment System under the EIS rules and regulations;
- vii. Streamlining/harmonizing/aligning policies on minerals development to attract and protect investments in the region; and,
- viii. Supporting the Tampakan Copper - Gold Project as the region's flagship project in minerals development and ensuring convergence of government efforts towards responsible mining.

From 2011 to 2016, total investments in the mining industry are expected to reach P189.02 Billion and create about 14,476 jobs (Table 5.12).

Table 5.12
Targets for the Selected Indicators of the Mining Industry, Region XII

Indicators	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
1. Metallic Mineral Production							
Gold Ore							
Copper							
2. Non-Metallic Mineral Production							
Coal							
Sand and gravel (cm3)	906	951	999	1,049	1,101	1,157	6,163.00
Agricultural Limestone (MT)	2,776	2,915	3,061	3,214	3,374	3,543	18,883.00
3. Revenue Collection							
Occupational Fees(M)	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	14.40
Mining-related Fees (M)	11.5	12	12.4	12.9	13.6	14.1	76.50
MGB Collection (M)	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6	14.10
4. Investments (In Billion Pesos)	2.525	10.2	50.31	50.31	50.33	25.34	189.02
5. Job Generation	706	960	2,530	4,590	2,630	3,060	14,476.00

Source: MGB XII, DOE and SMI

c. Cooperatives Development

As stipulated in the Cooperative Code of 2008, the Government and all its branches, subdivisions, instrumentalities and agencies shall ensure the provision of technical guidance, financial assistance and other services to enable cooperatives to develop into viable and responsive economic enterprises in order to bring about a strong cooperative movement that is free from any conditions that might infringe upon their autonomy or organizational integrity.

Thus, the following strategies shall be undertaken:

- i. Issuance of basic prudential rules and regulations for the safe and sound operation of cooperatives (i.e., adherence to internationally accepted sound financial practices, good governance and management principles and risk management);
- ii. Implementation of appropriate remedial measures in the operations of distressed primary cooperatives;
- iii. Intensifying advocacy on Cooperative Development through strengthening of Cooperative Development Councils; conduct of cooperative summit, congress, teamshop, fora, trade fair/exhibit, business matching, road shows and related activities; and, establishment of business centers/show room to show case the products and services of cooperatives.
- iv. Implementation of the mandatory creation of Cooperative Development Office in the Local Government Units (LGU);
- v. Provision of credit facility; and,
- vi. Massive advocacy for consolidation, merger and federation of cooperatives.

Investment targets under cooperative development shall be around P30.146 Million in 2011 and to increase to P38.445 Million in 2016 (Table 5.13).

Table 5.13
Cooperatives Development Targets, Region XII, 2011-2016

Indicators	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Registered Cooperatives for the year	102	124	147	168	189	200
Operating Cooperatives	905	927	950	971	1037	1052
Cooperative Assets (P'000)	10,000,493	10,570,951	6,259,198	11,821,051	12,505,852	13,234,267
Cooperative Investments (Pesos)	30,146,018	132,062,020	33,235,986	34,897,784	36,642,674	38,444,907
Cooperative Membership	82,624	86,755	91,092	95,649	100,430	105,452

Source: CDA XII

5.2.3 Propagating Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

To ensure the development of MSMEs and enhance their productivity, the *Industry Clustering Strategy* shall be adopted. This strategy is a goal-oriented cooperation of producers and industry players to find and respond to business opportunities not normally accessible to individual players. It is a private-sector led and government-supported initiative that promotes private and government collaboration.

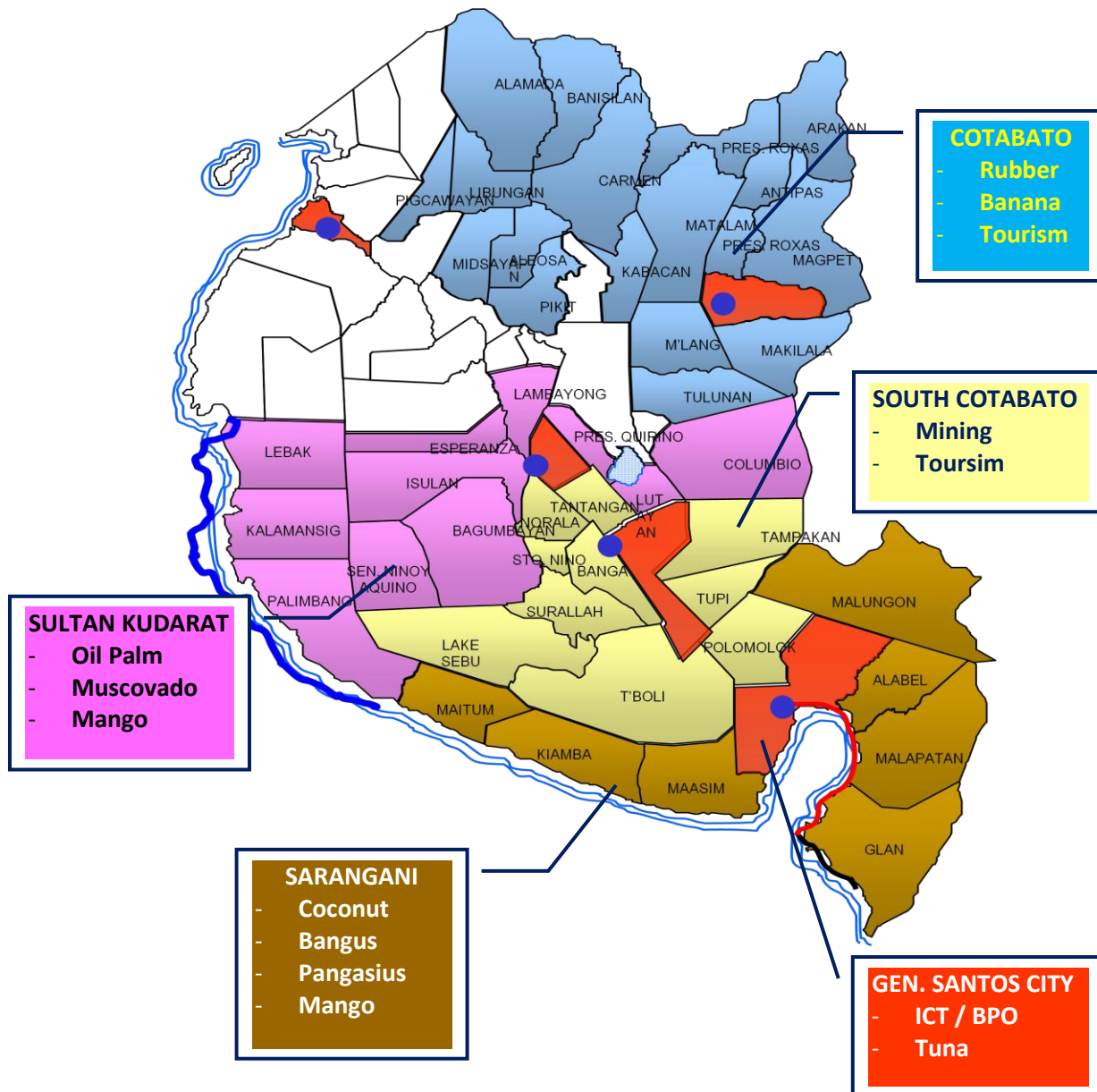
The region shall develop the following industry clusters during the plan period, namely: food, fishery, coconut, mining, ICT-BPO, tourism, industrial crops and engineered bamboo (Table 5.14). The food cluster shall focus on banana, coffee, mango and muscovado; while rubber and oil palm shall be the focus of the industrial crops cluster. Fishery cluster, on the other hand, shall focus on tuna, bangus and pangasius. Under mining, the banner products are coal and copper. Lead agencies have been identified to coordinate and facilitate development efforts of these clusters.

Table 5.14
Priority Industry Clusters, 2011-2016

Industry Cluster	Sub-Clusters/ Value Chain	Status/Level	Lead Agency
1. Food	Banana	Emerging	DA
	Coffee	Emerging	DA
	Mango	Emerging	DA
	Muscovado	Emerging	DOST
2. Fishery	Tuna	Full	DA-BFAR
	Bangus	Emerging	DA-BFAR
	Pangasius	Potential	DA-BFAR
3. Coconut		Emerging	PCA
4. Mining	Coal	Potential	DOE
	Copper	Potential	DENR-MGB
5. ICT-BPO		Emerging	DTI
6. Tourism		Emerging	DOT
7. Industrial Crops	Rubber	Emerging	DA
	Oil Pam	Emerging	DA
8. Engineered Bamboo		Potential	DENR

Source: DTI XII

Figure 5.5
Priority Industry Clusters, 2011-2016



To maximize the benefits and development of MSMEs through the Industry Clustering Strategy, the following specific strategies shall be pursued:

- i. Provision of assistance to MSMEs on accessing credit and financing (e.g. LGU financing assistance, technical assistance/capability building to MSMEs to access credit/capital from financing institutions, increase/provide additional credit windows, etc.);
- ii. Intensifying promotion and adoption of Industry Clustering;

- iii. Assistance and provision of support to MSMEs in establishing market linkages in promoting and selling their products (e.g. access/linkages to international markets, etc.), as well as, in adopting and accessing available technologies and technological services to create quality and globally competitive products;
- v. Supporting the exporting industries and SMEs through trade negotiations, promotion and development of products for global market; and,
- vi. Establishment of LGU Economic Enterprise Development Office & Investment Promotion.

Capacity building for government agency partners shall be also be pursued in order to strengthen government sector collaboration and support to the private sector-led industry clusters.

In terms of policy support, the following are recommended for review and appropriate action of concerned agencies:

- i. Review/revisit, update and strengthen the Barangay Micro Business Enterprises (BMBE) Law and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) to become responsive to the current needs and demands of MSMEs;
- ii. Liberalize/harmonize the stringent requirements on export products; and,
- iii. Regulate the proliferation of sub-standard products and importation of “*ukay-ukay*” that adversely affect the local garment industries.

During the plan period, an increase of about one billion pesos in investment is expected from the development of DTI-assisted MSMEs, that is, from P2.207 Billion in 2011 to P3.094 Billion in 2016 (Table 5.15). The value of exports, on the other hand, is targeted to grow from \$503.192 Million in 2011 to \$642.214 Million in 2016. On the average, these investments are expected to generate about 33,559 jobs per year.

Table 5.15
MSMEs Indicators and Targets

Indicators	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Value of Investments (in billion Pesos)*	2.207	2.361	2.526	2.703	2.892	3.094
Value of exports (in million US\$)*	503.192	528.352	554.769	582.507	611.632	642.214
Number of MSMEs developed/assisted	641	673	707	742	779	818
• Food (banana, mango, coffee & muscovado)	280	294	309	324	340	357
• Fishery (pangasius, tuna & bangus)	192	200	209	216	226	235
• ICT-BPO	68	71	74	77	81	85
• Tourism	8	10	11	12	13	15
• Mining (coal & copper)	50	50	50	50	50	50
• Industrial Crops (rubber & oil palm)	15	16	17	18	19	20
• Coconut	10	12	15	20	23	25
• Engineered Bamboo	18	20	22	25	27	31
No. of Jobs Generated	28,149	30,119	32,227	34,483	36,896	39,479

* Based on the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) targets only.

Source: DTI XII

5.2.4 Science and Technology (S&T)

In recognition of the crucial role of MSMEs in generating employment, foreign exchange and stimulating growth and development in the countryside, the region shall continue to support and sustain the development of a wide range of globally competitive products and services which have high technology content.

To fully realize the benefits and maximize the development impact on technological changes, priority strategies shall be geared towards the following:

- i. Prioritizing S&T interventions based on market niches and industry clusters;
- ii. Providing support to MSMEs – assuring their broadened access to available technologies and technological services through infusion of new/advanced technologies, provision of limited funds for technology acquisition, manpower training, technical assistance and consultancy services, design of functional packages and labels, establishment of product standards including testing and data base information system;
- iii. Strengthening government-industry-academe-civil society and international linkages specifically by breaking down the barriers to partnerships and networks;
- iv. Promoting and popularizing S&T – specifically in terms of promoting the culture of innovation;
- v. Strengthening support to the Halal industry by addressing the scientific and other requirements to ensure Halal integrity in food and non-food products thereby accessing the world Halal market;
- vi. Conducting research and development activities that are geared toward satisfying the requirements of the MSMEs in the region.

At the end of the plan period, a total of 27 technologies commercialized and 8,450 technology interventions are targeted to be attained generating about P165,500,000 gross sales and 57,350 employment (in man-months) and assisting 3,856 firms under the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (Table 5.16). Likewise, a total of 323 firms are expected to be assisted under the consultancy services while 270 networks are programmed to be established / maintained. In addition, the total number of firms targeted to be assisted during the 6-year plan period for technology trainings, testing and calibration, and packaging and labelling are 1,155 firms, 382 and 307, respectively. Moreover, a total of 5,755 services rendered under the testing and calibration are expected to be attained.

Table 5.16
Science and Technology Development Targets, Region XII

Strategic Intervention/ Output Indicator	TARGET						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	TOTAL
<i>Technology Transfer and Commercialization</i>							
No. of RDI Technologies Commercialized	2	3	4	5	6	7	27
No. of technology interventions	1,100	1,210	1,330	1,460	1,600	1,750	8,450

Table 5.16 (Cont'd)

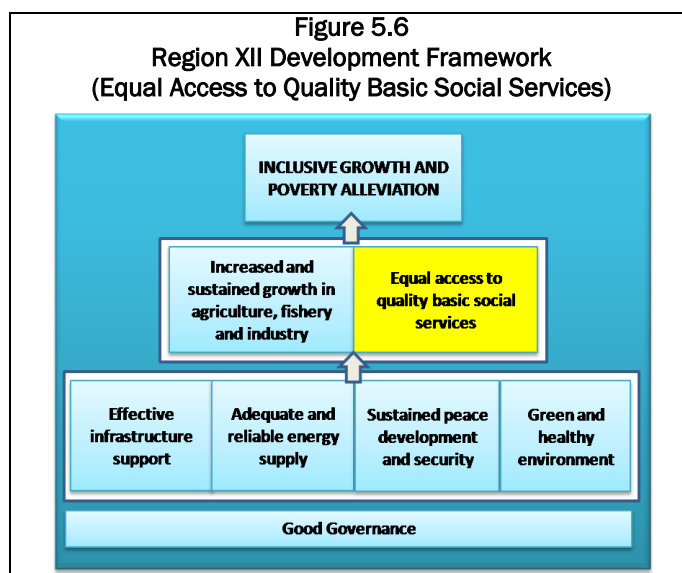
Strategic Intervention/ Output Indicator	TARGET						TOTAL
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
No. of firms assisted (existing and start up)	510	561	610	665	720	790	3,856
Gross Sales (PhP '000)	22,000	24,000	26,000	28,500	31,000	34,000	165,500
No. of employment generated/man-months	7,500	8,250	9,000	9,900	10,800	11,900	57,350
<i>Science and Technology Services</i>							
<u>Consultancy Services</u>							
No. of firms assisted (MPEX, CAPE & CPT)	44	47	51	56	60	65	323
<u>Networking & Linkaging</u>							
No. of networks established/maintained	45	45	45	45	45	45	270
<u>Technology Trainings</u>							
No. of firms assisted	150	165	180	200	220	240	1,155
<u>Testing and Calibration</u>							
No. of services rendered	750	825	900	990	1,090	1,200	5,755
No. of firms assisted	50	55	60	66	72	79	382
<u>Packaging & Labeling</u>							
No. of firms assisted	40	44	48	53	58	64	307

Source: DOST XII

5.3 Equal Access to Quality Basic Social Services

To live a life of dignity is an inherent human right. Thus, it is the obligation of the State to ensure that the well being of all Filipino Families and individuals are protected and promoted through equal access to education, health, housing, and social protection.

In general, the region shall endeavor to improve human security as individual entitlements are provided, protected and promoted. Further, the region shall ensure equal access to productive opportunities and basic social services, curve poverty, empower communities, and produce socially and economically healthy and productive members of the society.



Specifically, the strategic outcomes for the social development sector are categorized into three, namely, ensuring universal access to quality health care and sanitation; raising quality education and training for globally competitive human resource; and, promoting strong and effective social protection services.

5.2.5 Ensuring Universal Access to Quality Health Care and Sanitation

The region shall vigorously promote the health and well being of the population, prevent diseases, disabilities and premature deaths, and ensure provision of quality health care at its highest standard.

In support of the Aquino Health Agenda towards achieving Universal Health Care (UHC) for all Filipinos or “*Kalusugan Pangkalahatan*”(KP), and to address the inadequate access to quality outpatient and inpatient care from health care facilities, the region shall undertake rapid expansion of enrolment to the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) of the poorest families and improve the benefit delivery using the national subsidies. It shall also work towards the improvement of access to quality hospitals and health care facilities through accelerated upgrading of public health facilities. More importantly, it will strengthen efforts towards the attainment of health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) particularly on problematic areas, such as, the reduction of maternal and infant mortality. This shall be done by providing and/or mobilizing additional resources particularly in localities with high concentration of families who are unable to receive critical public health services, women with unmet need for family planning, mothers giving birth outside health facilities and children not fully immunized.

These health reforms/thrusts shall be implemented through the following health systems, namely: Health Financing, Health Service Delivery, Health Human Resources, Health Regulation, and Governance for Health, and Health Information. This shall be pursued through a collaborative partnership among concerned government agencies, LGUs and the private sector, including NGOs.

The specific strategies that shall be undertaken by the region during the plan period are as follows:

a. Strengthening and Improving Health Financing

The region shall mobilize resources for health care spending and ensure effective resource allocation and utilization, and improve financial risk protection. It shall support the achievement of universal health insurance coverage within six years. Advocacy shall be strengthened on social health insurance among LGUs to increase access of families particularly the poor to quality health care. Resources shall be mobilized for increased investment in health, both at the regional and local level. Local health database/accounts shall be established and regularly updated. Efforts shall also be undertaken to strengthen local health boards for them to be able to function efficiently as mandated by law.

b. Intensifying Effective Health Service Delivery

The health service delivery structure shall be transformed to address variations in health service utilization and health outcomes across socio-economic variables in the region. Activities shall therefore be undertaken to achieve the following: (a) elimination of public health threats and diseases like malaria, filariasis, schistosomiasis, rabies and leprosy; (b) prevention and control of infectious diseases such as Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, Dengue & other emerging & re-emerging diseases; (c) increase in coverage of households with access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities; (d) achievement of Zero-open defecation in all barangays as provided for in DOH Administrative Order 2010-0021; and, (e) increased access of families to health facilities providing basic & specialized health care services. LGUs shall undertake the formulation of their

respective Sustainable Sanitation Plan and allocate corresponding budget for its implementation through their respective Province-wide Investment Plan for Health (PIPH) / Municipal-wide Investment Plan for Health (MIPH) / City-wide Investment Plan for Health (CIPH). The implementation of the Maternal, Neonatal & Child Health & Nutrition Strategy (MNCHN), Safe Motherhood Plus Family Planning shall likewise be intensified during the plan period.

c. Implementing and Enforcing Health Regulations and Standards

The region shall ensure equitable access to essential medicines, services and technologies of assured quality, availability and safety. Licensing shall be enforced on all health facilities, food & drug establishments, laboratories, clinics, drug testing centers and other health related facilities. Technical assistance to LGUs shall be provided on compliance of health facilities to PHIC accreditation & licensing requirements. The localization and implementation of national health laws shall be strengthened, such as, the Breastfeeding Act, Anti-Tobacco Act, Sanitation Code of the Philippines and Anti-Rabies Act. Moves shall likewise be made for the strengthening of the functions of the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) to cover food monitoring and regulation and enforcement of food laws. The region shall ensure that families would have improved access to low cost quality drugs and medicines.

d. Building Competency of Workforce and Health Human Resource

The region shall likewise ensure that its constituents have access to professional health care provider capable of meeting their health needs. Health human resource management & development system shall be established and local health professionals shall undergo retooling and retraining programs. Service providers shall be deployed to the underserved areas. Human resource systems at the regional and sub-regional levels shall likewise be installed.

e. Implement Modern Health Information System

A modern information system shall be established in the region for immediate and efficient health care. Field health services information system shall be automated to respond to the demand for accurate and timely health information/data. ICT shall be utilized to deliver universal health care, particularly the geographically isolated and depressed areas. Reliable and timely data with demographic disaggregation shall be generated and they shall be utilized for policy and program development process. The region shall also provide an enabling environment for the generation and utilization of the health information system.

f. Strengthen Good Governance of the Health Sector

To establish mechanisms for efficiency, economy and transparency and prevent opportunities for graft and corruption, the region shall strengthen the utilization of appropriate tools (scorecards) for the assessment of health sector performance, feedbacking and linkage for resource allocation. It shall likewise institutionalize the systems needed for Sector-wide Development Approach for Health (SDAH). Inter-LGU cooperation shall be strengthened through the establishment and operationalization of the Inter-Local Health Zones (ILHZ). It shall also strengthen accountability and internal management systems within the sector.

With the implementation of the Universal Health Care for All Filipinos or the “*Kalusugan Pangkalahatan (KP)*” and priority health reforms and activities, targets concerning health and well being of the population are expected to be attained by 2016 (Table 5.17) with deliberate consideration on the attainment of the MDG targets by 2015. Th-e concerted efforts of all

stakeholders and the provision of critical support and assistance in the delivery of priority public health services in the region, particularly among the poor families are expected to reduce the infant mortality rate (IMR) to 17 per 1,000 live births and the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) to 52 per 100,000 live births by 2016.

Table 5.17
Targets for Selected Health Indicators, 2016

Health Indicators	Targets (2016)
a. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)	17.0 per 1,000 live births
b. Under-five Mortality Rate (U5MR)	26.67 per 1,000 live births
c. Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)	52 per 100,000 live births
d. Facility-based deliveries and attended by a health professional	70 %
e. Prevalence of malnutrition among pre-school children	10.5 %
f. Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) among married couples of reproductive age	80 %
g. Fully-Immunized Children (FIC)	95 %
h. Fully-Immunized Mothers	80 %
i. TB Cure Rate	85 %
j. TB Case Detection Rate	70 %
k. Dengue and malaria mortality	0 %
l. Households with access to safe drinking water	94 %
m. Households with access to sanitary toilets	90 %
n. Percent coverage for the enrolment of poor and informal sector to PHIC	100 % (Universal)
o. Establishment of Botika ng Barangay (BnB)	1 BnB for every two adjacent brgys.
p. (Ideal) Ratios to population of health personnel	
Doctors	1 : 20,000 population
Sanitary engineers/inspectors	1 : 20,000 population
Dentists	1 : 50,000 population
Medical Technologists	1 : 50,000 population

Source: DOH XII

5.2.6 Raising the Quality of Education and Training for Globally Competitive Human Resource

Region XII shall continue to strive toward raising the quality of learning to the highest standard of education. The passing rates for the National Achievement Tests (NAT) have remarkably improved during the past years, making Region XII as the most improved region as far as improving the standard of learning is concerned.

The region shall therefore sustain the gains achieved in this area. In addition, greater efforts shall be undertaken to implement programs and projects aimed at attaining universal quality basic education embodied in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It shall endeavor to bridge the gap between performance and MDG and Education For All (EFA) targets.

a. Equal Access to Quality Basic Education

The region shall ensure to provide equal access to quality basic education and keep up with the highest standard of teaching and learning processes through synergy, equity and strategies. It shall continue to pursue the strategies and targets in providing equal access to quality early and basic education. The active participation and full support of all stakeholders and the community shall be enjoined in this endeavor. Local policy institutional support, such as the local school boards, shall be strengthened. The needed interventions shall be prioritized to include the following:

- i. Mainstreaming the requirements of attaining the MDGs through the construction/rehabilitation/improvement of school facilities. such as, basic science laboratory rooms, computer rooms, clinics, libraries and sanitary toilets with water supply; provision of well-edited books, furniture and other school equipment; provision of teachers; improvement of leadership/management and instructional supervision; adoption of National Competency-Based Teacher Standards (NCBTS); and, intensifying curriculum materials development;
- ii. Implementation of the priority strategies of the Basic Education Sector Reform Agenda;
- iii. Construction of 500 high schools;
- iv. Establishment of one technical-vocational high school in every division;
- v. Rationalizing/synchronizing curricular and co-curricular activities;
- vi. Strengthening/Rationalizing/Synchronizing human resource development and in-service training cum capability building;
- vii. Strengthening research and testing program; and
- viii. Prioritizing teacher welfare programs.

With the implementation of the above strategies, the region expects to achieve 98% net enrolment, completion and cohort survival rates, for both elementary and secondary levels by 2016. The targets for the other basic education core indicators are shown in Table 5.18.

Table 5.18
Basic Education Targets, 2011-2016

Indicators	Measurable Outputs/Targets, 2011-2016					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Net Enrolment Rate						
Elementary	82.77	85.22	87.67	90.12	92.57	98.00
Secondary	59.38	66.50	73.62	80.74	87.86	98.00
Completion Rate						
Elementary	67.74	73.19	78.64	84.09	89.54	98.00
Secondary	76.92	80.54	84.16	87.78	91.40	98.00
Cohort Survival Rate						
Elementary	69.73	74.79	79.85	84.91	89.97	98.00
Secondary	81.23	83.99	86.75	89.51	92.27	98.00

Table 5.18 (cont'd.)

Indicators	Measurable Outputs/Targets, 2011-2016					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
School Leaver Rate						
Elementary	5.52	4.14	2.76	2.76	1.38	1.00
Secondary	6.07	5.55	3.03	3.06	1.52	1.00
National Achievement Test (Passing Rate)						
Elementary	75.61	79.49	83.37	87.25	91.13	90.00
Secondary	53.58	60.88	68.18	75.48	82.78	80.00
Classroom-Pupil Ratio						
Elementary	1:40.13	1:39.1	1:38.07	1:37.04	1:36.01	1:35
Secondary	1:50.2	1:48.16	1:46.12	1:44.08	1:42.04	1:40
Teacher-Pupil/Student Ratio						
Elementary	1:36.16	1:34.93	1:33.70	1:32.47	1:31.24	1:30
High School	1:36.80	1:35.44	1:34.08	1:32.72	1:31.36	1:30
Furniture-Pupil/Student Ratio						
Elementary	1:1:13	1:1.10	1:1.07	1:1.04	1:1.02	1:1
High School	1:1.21	1:1.17	1:1.13	1:1.09	1:1.05	1:1

Source: DepED XII

b. Equal Access to Technical -Vocational Education and Training

During the plan period, the technical-vocational education and training aims to produce quality middle-level skilled graduates who shall be competitive both in the domestic and international labor market. The sector is committed to provide quality technical education and skills training to develop a Filipino workforce with world-class competence, as well as, positive work values. Efforts shall also be undertaken to match labor market supply (available skills) and demand (requirements of industries).

To address the pressing challenges in technical vocational education and training, the region shall pursue the following strategies:

i. Full scale implementation of Technical-Vocational Education and Training

The need for radical improvement in Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) shall be addressed, both in the secondary and tertiary levels. The TVET shall focus on areas related to manipulative skills, arts and applied sciences, which are also the major domain of the polytechnic area and may be offered in universities. National competency standards shall be effectively used as defined by industry to address employment mismatch and critical skills aligned to 2010-2020 Jobs Fit of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). Perception on technical vocational education and training shall be raised by designing a qualitative leap to change negative perception and its association with less able students. The region shall likewise endeavor to achieve a holistic perspective/approach in steering education towards the envisioned role it has to play in society. Career guidance and counseling shall be strengthened to assist both parents and students in choosing careers.

ii. Further Development of Centers of Excellence

The development of Centers of Excellence (COE) shall serve as the apex and source technology and act as demonstration centers for TVET institutions on new and advanced technological

developments shall be pursued. In Region XII, the General Santos City School of Arts and Trade has been serving as SOCCSKSARGEN's Center of Excellence for TVET.

iii. Strengthen Assessment and Certification Program

The Registry of Certified Workers shall be improved to provide updated information on the qualifications, work experiences and other relevant information, and link with the National Registry of Skills as database and source of information on available skills in the country. The region shall ensure that competency/skills certificates are considered prerequisites for hiring both local and overseas employment. Competency assessment shall be mandatory for all graduating students in TVIs. TESDA, on the other hand, shall expand its free assessment services. Mutually beneficial arrangements shall be worked out with labor receiving countries where bilateral arrangements on technical cooperation are available to allow assessment of workers based on the host country's qualification standards.

iv. Strengthen Academe-Industry Linkages

Efforts shall be undertaken to strengthen linkage between education and training and the labor market in the region. Enterprise-based training shall be strengthened by consolidating the apprentice/learnership, dual training, on-the-job training and all other industry-based training arrangements into one rationalized system. The Industry Board shall be revived to provide direct participation of employers and workers in the design and implementation of skills development schemes, trade skills standardization and certification and such other functions in the achievement of the Authority's objectives.

The targets for massive training, assessment certification, scholarships and capability programs are shown in Table 5.19.

Table 5.19
Targets on Selected TVET Indicators, 20011-2016

INDICATORS	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
A. Massive Training (All Delivery Modes)	41,629	43,710	45,895	48,189	50,598	53,127
1. Institution-Based/School-Based						
2. Community-Based						
3. Enterprise-Based						
B. Assessment and Certification						
1. No. of Persons Assessed	28,567	28,730	29,304	29,890	30,487	31,000
2. No. of Persons Certified	21,425	22,067	22,729	23,410	24,112	24,835
C. Scholarships (No. of Slots)						
1. Private Education Student Financial Assistance (PESFA)*	718	790	868	954	1,049	1,153
2. Training for Work Scholarship Program (TWSP)*	1,300	1,430	1,573	1,730	1,903	1,922
E. Capability-Building Program (No. of TVET Trainers Trained)	105	110	115	120	125	130

Notes: * Centrally-managed

Source: TESDA XII

c. Equal Access to Higher Education

It is recognized that increased investments for human capital, such as education for the population, is one way of reducing poverty and building national and global competitiveness. In this regard, the region shall continue its efforts to broaden the access of students to quality higher education. It shall likewise take necessary steps towards realizing the matching of education outputs with labor market demand/requirements.

It is the aim of the region to attain the national passing rate for every professional licensure/board examination taken by its students. To attain this and to pursue equal access to higher education, the region shall undertake the following strategies:

- i. Sustaining, expanding and ensuring equal access to student educational assistance and incentive support services in partnership with the private sector;
- ii. Matching education sector outputs with the manpower requirements of Region XII's agri-industrial economy. Studies on manpower and supply requirements shall be conducted;
- iii. Strengthening mechanisms and instruments for coordination, monitoring and evaluation of higher education institutional resources, quality requirements, and ensuring compliance to standards of quality and excellence;
- iv. Resource generation through entrepreneurial programs/projects;
- v. Increasing budgetary allocation for research, development and extension programs of State Universities and Colleges (SUCs);
- vi. Reviewing of school curriculum to be more relevant and responsive to the needs of the industries in Region XII and be comparable with international standard;
- vii. Improving and sustaining the performance in professional licensure examinations;
- viii. Improving and strengthening network and linkages between and among various stakeholders towards collaborative endeavors in higher education, such as the conduct of Graduate Tracer Studies;
- ix. Strengthening of accreditation programs;
- x. Intensifying community involvement and collaboration/involvement of private/public universities and colleges in education development planning;
- xi. Strategic linkages between private-public academe/institutions for the improvement of educational standard;
- xii. Intensifying information, education and communication of in-demand courses in the local and global market through tri-media;
- xiii. Strengthening implementation of the National Service Training Program (RA 9163) to improve values formation/discipline of students;
- xiv. Strengthening of the ladderized education program;

- xv. Increasing scholarship slots for indigenous people (IP);
- xvi. Review the policy on budgetary allocation for the SUCs.

5.2.7 Promoting Strong and Effective Social Protection Services

The region shall pursue the Social Protection Operational Framework and Strategy to ensure broader access of the very poor and vulnerable to social protection services. This entails the implementation of policies and programs that seek to reduce poverty and vulnerability to risks and enhance the social status and rights of the marginalized. Social protection embodies labor market programs, social insurance, social welfare, and social safety nets. The convergence strategy shall be utilized in the implementation of these programs with service providers and NGOs as partners.

In line with the formulation and promotion of social protection programs and services, the National Household Targeting System (NHTS) shall be utilized. Rights based and climate proofed sectoral plans shall likewise be formulated, particularly for children, youth women, older person, persons with disability and family sectors. Social protection handbooks shall be prepared for the LGUs.

Advocacy activities shall be conducted on RA 7610 and other protection laws for children, women, older persons, Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) and other vulnerable groups, as well as, on the mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction in local planning.

There shall be convergence of projects to focus expenditures toward areas with greatest impact to the poor and vulnerable sectors in terms of increased income and sustained livelihood. In addition, regulatory function on registration/licensing of social welfare development agencies shall be strengthened.

Strategies for specific groups shall be pursued as follows:

For Children in Need of Special Protection

- i. Strengthening of regional and local bodies/institutions, particularly the local councils for the protection of children on the implementation of laws for children in need of special protection;
- ii. Intensifying monitoring of cases of abused and exploited vulnerable groups;
- iii. Strengthening and improving the care help/rehabilitation centers that address the survival, protection and rehabilitation needs of children including those community-based structures;
- iv. Improving existing frontline services to prevent children from being victimized, abandoned and neglected;
- v. Fast tracking the development of an updated database for children to have a strong basis for exposing the true nature, magnitude of children in need of special protection;

- vi. Conducting massive advocacy on RA 7610 and other protection laws for children, women, older persons, PWDs, and other vulnerable groups;
- vii. Strengthening enforcement of laws protecting children;
- viii. Sustaining the Child Friendly-Movement in Region XII; and,
- ix. Advocating the putting up of at least one “*Bahay Pag-Asa*” in every province to cater to the increasing children in conflict with law cases;

For Women in Especially Difficult Circumstances

- i. intensifying the conduct of training and capability programs to increase women’s opportunity for self-employment;
- ii. Improving centers and institutions to protect and rehabilitate women in especially difficult circumstances (women’s help desks, community-based residential care and substitute homes);
- iii. Intensifying enforcement and monitoring of women-related laws such as Anti-Rape Law, Anti-Sexual Harassment Law, Anti-Trafficking Law, Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children; and,
- iv. Strengthening partnership with LGUs and NGOs in pursuit of intensifying the delivery of basic social services to the vulnerable groups.

For Empowering Poor Communities

- i. Replicating KALAHI-CIDSS Program to other areas not yet covered; and,
- ii. Institutionalization of the KALAHI-CIDSS process in the region.

For Internally Displaced Persons

Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) shall be sustained as needed. In collaboration with LGUs, United Nations - World Food Programme (UN-WFP), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DepED), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) through the “*Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan*” (PAMANA) Program, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and other government agencies and non-government organizations, interventions to address the needs of IDPs shall be implemented and these include, among others:

- i. Emergency relief and food assistance;
- ii. Supplemental feeding for children and pregnant and lactating mothers;
- ii. Provision of temporary shelter;
- iii. Stress debriefing and assessment toward rehabilitation and recovery phase; and,
- iv. Skills training and livelihood programs.

Table 5.20 shows the target number of beneficiaries by 2016, for specific interventions on social protection.

Table 5.20
Target Number of Beneficiaries for Various Social Protection Programs, 2016

Programs	Target by 2016
KALAHI-CIDSS	150 barangays
Institutionalization of Community Driven Development Process	252 barangays
4 Ps	147,556 households
SEA-K Program	5,225 economically active poor families
Day Care Program	74,203 children
Children in Need of Special Protection	4,970 CNSP
Youth with Special Needs	2,390 youths
Women in Especially Difficult Circumstances	1,670 women
Assistance to Persons with Disability	1,790 PWDs
Assistance to Older persons	4,244 older persons
Rice Subsidy to small-scale farmers and fisher folks	135,862 farmers/fisher folks
Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons	31,956 IDPs

Source: DSWD XII

5.2.8 Equal Access to Land and Land Rights

During the plan period, the region shall pursue the following strategies toward the completion of the asset reform program; recognition, protection, and promotion of rights and well-being of Indigenous Peoples (IPs); and, social justice for the indigenous peoples:

- i. Strengthening of multi-stakeholder partnership and collaboration in IP development;
- ii. Interfacing socio-economic programs, projects, and services with the adopted/approved Ancestral Domains Sustainable Development and Protection Plans (ADSDPP);
- iii. Enjoining government and private sector investment in agro-forestry, eco-tourism, renewable energy, and sustainable mineral resources;
- iv. Facilitating implementation of programs and enhancing participation of the Indigenous Cultural Communities / Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) on environmental protection, conservation, and rehabilitation of rainforest, reforestation, biodiversity, watershed areas / other bodies of water;
- v. Strengthening the development of IPs on its Self-Determination;
- vi. Massive education on Indigenous People's Rights Act (IPRA); and,
- vii. Enforcement of compliance with Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC).

It is targeted that by 2016 greater strides have been achieved relative to the following:

- i. Ancestral Domains and lands recognized, titled and utilized as productive asset of the IPs;
- ii. Self determination and governance of IP acknowledged and strengthened;
- iii. Social justice and human rights of IPs recognized, protected and strengthened; and,
- iv. Culture, tradition and institutions promoted, preserved and protected.

Table 5.21 shows the target for the completion of land distribution under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) by 2014.

Table 5.21
Target for the Completion of Land Distribution under CARP, 2014

Area / Province	Target by 2014 (hectares)
Cotabato Province	58,503
Sarangani	24,500
South Cotabato	24,813
Sultan Kudarat	24,726
TOTAL:	132,542

Source: DAR XII

5.2.9 Equal Access to Adequate and Safe Housing

The implementation of housing, land and shelter development programs and strategies as provided in the Urban Development and Housing Act (UDHA) shall be strengthened. Specifically, the region shall pursue the following:

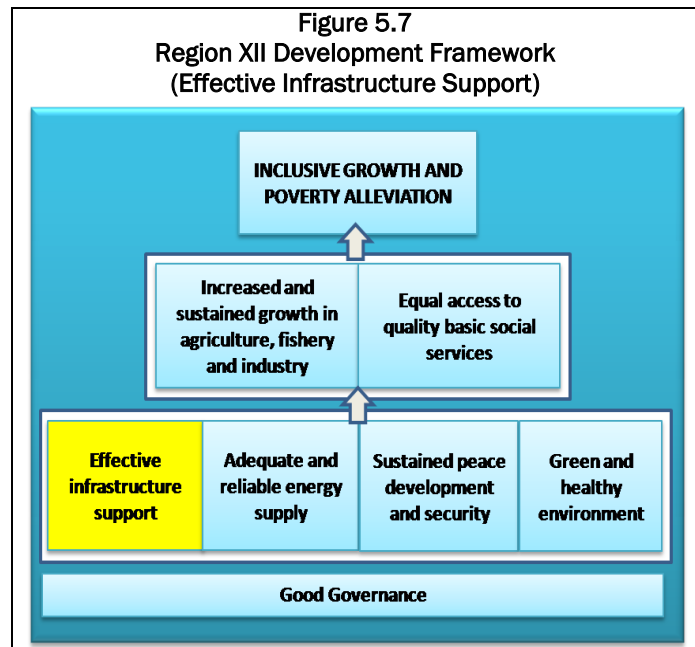
- i. Production of socialized and low cost housing for the poor;
- ii. Expansion/establishment of resettlement areas for socially disadvantaged families;
- iii. Formulation/Updating of Local Shelter Development Plan for Cities and Provinces;
- iv. Strengthening/Institutionalization of Local Housing Boards for Cities and Provinces;
- v. Intensifying awareness on Newly Rationalized and Instituted Housing Finance Policies; and,
- vi. Improvement on networking with private sector and private developers.

5.3 Effective Infrastructure Support

The region shall continue to pursue the attainment of an effective infrastructure support system that would make possible the achievement of the twin goals of inclusive growth and poverty alleviation.

Such system is expected to facilitate the production and processing of goods and services and their distribution to local and international markets. It is likewise expected to contribute to improvements in the delivery of basic social services to the region's stakeholders, particularly the vulnerable groups.

An effective infrastructure system would enable the integration of local and economic units not only with the major trading and service centers within the region, but also with the other regions in Mindanao and rest of the regions in the country and the world.



5.3.1 Integrated and Effective Transport System

The transportation system in the region shall be further improved during the plan period. Focus shall be given to areas of strategic importance which are still not linked by road network and not yet served by transportation facilities.

An integrated and effective transportation system shall be provided that connects to other facilities and provides linkage with production areas, tourism sites, and services centers.

The region shall therefore construct and improve roads along potential economic corridors, roads that connect growth centers, and access roads to tourism sites. The local government units shall be engaged in identifying these areas.

The region shall likewise rehabilitate deteriorated pavement along arterial and secondary national roads. Arterial national roads and bridges shall be widened. Dilapidated road signages shall be restored and road signage and safety structures shall be put up in required sections of the roads, particularly along-accident prone areas. Loads of vehicles shall be monitored by installing weighbridges.

For bicycle riders, bicycle lanes shall be constructed / provided along thoroughfares.

The seaport facilities and the airports of the region shall likewise be improved and upgraded to meet international standards.

a. Roads and Bridges

As of December 2010, the region had a total length of 1,511.94 kilometers (km.) of roads, of which, 257.84 km. are asphalt (17.02%); 679.79 km. are concrete (44.96%); and, 574.81 km are gravel (38.02%). There are also a total of 297 bridges of which, 242 are concrete (9,532.03 lineal meter – lm.); 34 steel bridges (1,244.71 lm.); and, 21 bailey bridges.

To improve the current state of the region's road network, plans for roads and bridges for 2011-2016 would involve the construction and improvement of inter and intra national roads and bridges.

This will cover construction, rehabilitation, improvement, concreting, widening and completion; bridge construction; replacement of damaged Portland Cement Concrete Pavement (PCCP); implementation of foreign-assisted projects and various infrastructures including local projects; and, establishment of loading and unloading bays along national roads. Targets, in terms of road lengths, are shown in Table 5.22.

Table 5.22
Roads and Bridges

Programs/Projects	No. of Projects	Annual Target (in km or lm)						Total Target
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
National Roads and Bridges								
A. Locally Funded								
1. Rehabilitation/ Improvement (km)	8	22.84	11	10	10	11	11	75.84
2. Concrete/ Widening (km)	8	19.81	12.5	12.5	12.5	13	13	83.31
3. Bridge Construction/ Widening/ Completion (lm)	18	150.64	375	348	310	270	210	1,663.64
4. Construction/ Improvement (km)	8	15.93	21	17	16	16	16	101.93
5. Concreting (km)	14	28.465	35	31	31	29	29	183.465
6. Replacement of Damaged PCCP (km)	1	-	4	4	4	2	2	20.00
B. Foreign-Assisted Project (km)	6	8.426	-	-	-	-	-	8.426

Source: DPWH XII

b. Port Development

Several activities shall be undertaken for the improvement of facilities in various ports in the region, particularly at the ports of General Santos City, Kalamansig, Cotabato City, Glan, and Timako (new port in Cotabato City).

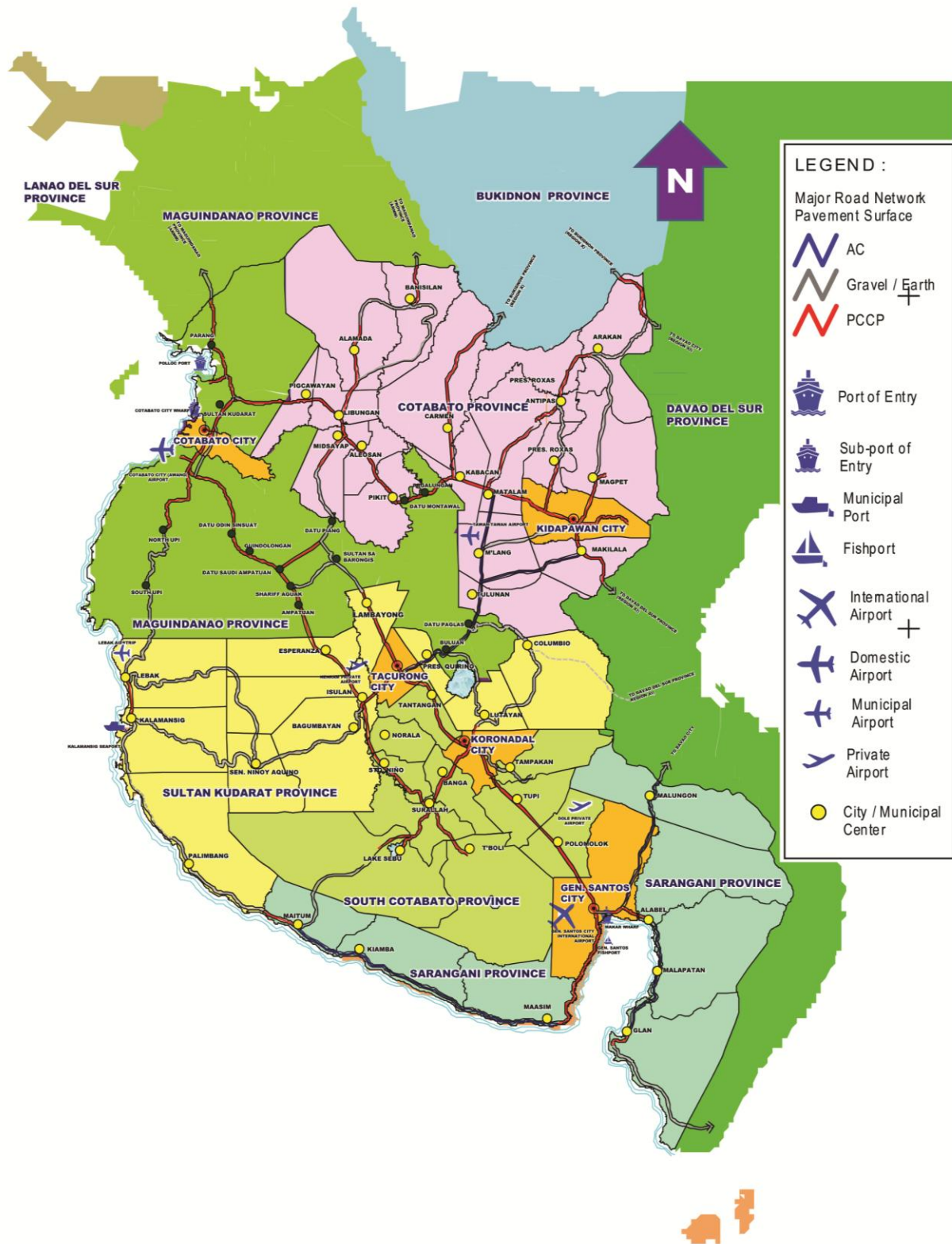
c. Airport Development

The proposed rehabilitation and improvement activities for major airports in the region during the plan period include the Cotabato/Awang Airport and General Santos Airport.

d. Railway Development

The region shall push for the inclusion of General Santos City among the stations of the proposed Mindanao Railway System.

Figure 5.8
Transportation Map of the SOCCSKSARGEN Region



e. Legislative / Policy Agenda

- i. Legislation of measures to address road safety considering the high incidence of road accidents, e.g. Motorcycle Modification Law.
- ii. Conduct Route Measured Capacity Survey on major routes to address oversupply of public transportation.
- iii. Formulation of Transport and Traffic Management Plan by LGUs and improvement of Traffic System of urbanized cities in the region.
- iv. Review of policies / regulations in the utilization of Motor Vehicle Users' Charge (MVUC) towards a more transparent, accessible and equitable share of Special Local Road Fund.
- v. Improvement of law enforcement to address proliferation of illegal mode of transportation and cutthroat competition.
- vi. Study the possibility of placing the municipal seaports under the supervision and maintenance of local government units, instead of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) providing for the maintenance of municipal seaports.

5.3.2 Efficient Water Resource Management

The region shall address the various challenges confronting the development of water resources in the region, such as, the low rate of irrigation development and poor maintenance of irrigation facilities, inadequate access to safe water supply; occurrence of flood due to river siltation caused by denuded forest; and, flooding in settlement areas due to poor drainage and improper garbage disposal.

The priority strategies and targets that the region shall pursue during the plan period shall be as follows:

a. Irrigation

The region shall fast track the construction and rehabilitation of irrigation facilities in the region. Higher priority shall be accorded to the implementation of:

- i. Malitubog-Maridagao (MALMAR) Irrigation Project Stage 2; Malitubog Libungan Transbasin; and, Kabulnan 2 Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project;
- ii. Construction of new dam and irrigation facilities for the Buayan-Tinagakan River Irrigation System (RIS);
- iii. Restoration and survey/detailed engineering of isolated area (2,700 hectares) of the Lambayong RIS;
- iv. Rehabilitation of existing National Irrigation Systems (NIS); and,
- v. Construction of communal irrigation projects (CIPs) and rehabilitation of existing communal irrigation systems (CIS).

The implementation of the Irrigation Management Transfer of NIS to qualified and capable irrigator's association (IAs) shall be continued. A scheme shall be developed wherein the

management, operations and maintenance of NIS shall be transferred to the direct beneficiaries of the facilities.

The region shall likewise pursue Small River Impounding Projects (SRIPs) and Small Water Impounding Project/Rainwater Collection System to ensure availability of irrigation water during dry season; and, adopt the use of hydraulic ram pump technology in drawing water for irrigation and domestic use particularly in elevated areas.

The six-year Physical Target for the region is the rehabilitation of 61,833 hectares and generation of 5,738 hectares new areas for NIS; rehabilitation of 15,044 hectares and generation of 2,562 hectares new areas for CIS; construction of communal irrigation projects to generate 12,817 hectares new areas; and, installation of 64 pump irrigation projects. Figure 5.9 presents the proposed irrigation areas for Region XII.

b. Water Supply

The local government units (provincial, municipal, barangay) shall be the primary entities responsible in the implementation of water supply projects in the region using their respective water supply master plans as bases and guide in the prioritization and programming of such projects. Advocacy activities shall be intensified among LGUs on the formulation of policy/guidelines on the conservation of water sources (e.g. flowing/springs, etc.) in their respective areas.

The implementation of water resource management measures/strategies shall be towards conservation of water by major manufacturers/industries. Waste water and sanitation infrastructure facilities (e.g. water treatment facilities, septage treatment plant, etc.) shall likewise be implemented.

The water districts serving five cities and 24 municipalities in the region shall continue to improve their operation, particularly in expanding their service areas even beyond the poblacions. Nonetheless, special programs of the national government which have water supply components such as KALAHI-CIDSS, Mindanao Rural Development Program (MRDP), etc. being implemented in the region shall continue to be tapped as other fund source for water supply projects.

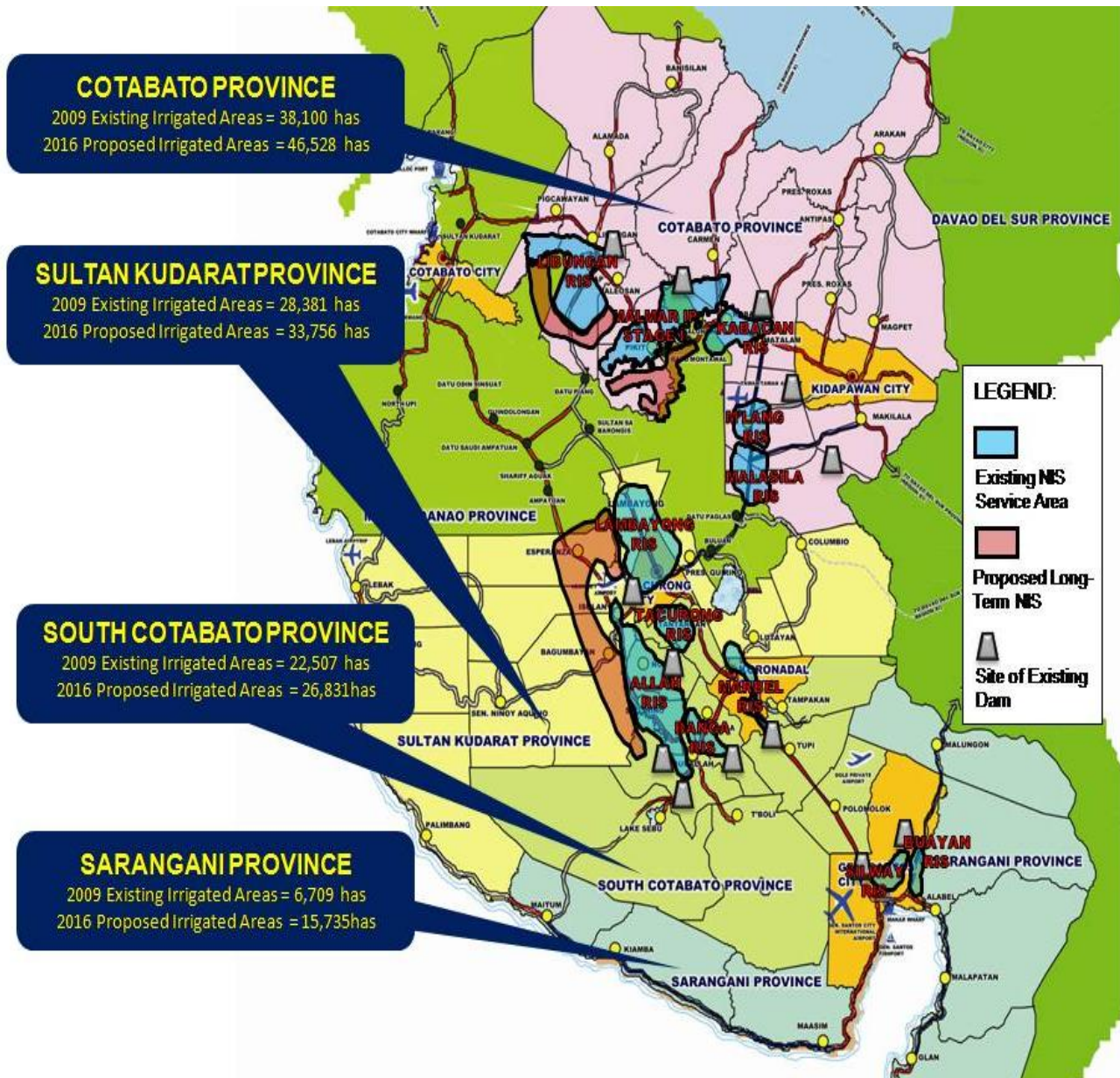
c. Flood Control

The region shall continue dredging/desilting and construction of flood control structures along major rivers in the region (Rio Grande de Mindanao, Tamontaka, Ala, Banga, Buayan and etc). The region shall also pursue the completion and implementation of the Mindanao River Basin Integrated Management and Development Master Plan. The six-year target is to undertake 158 flood control projects along major rivers in the region. Figure 5.11 identifies the flood prone areas of the region.

All local government units of the region are expected to formulate their respective Drainage Master Plan. During the plan period, the target is to implement 47 drainage projects in the region. Drainage facilities shall be constructed and maintained along main thoroughfares and settlement areas.

To prevent soil erosion and siltation of rivers, aggressive implementation of the National Greening Program involving tree planting along river banks shall be undertaken. Strong advocacy shall be undertaken to regulate the use of charcoal as fuel for cooking.

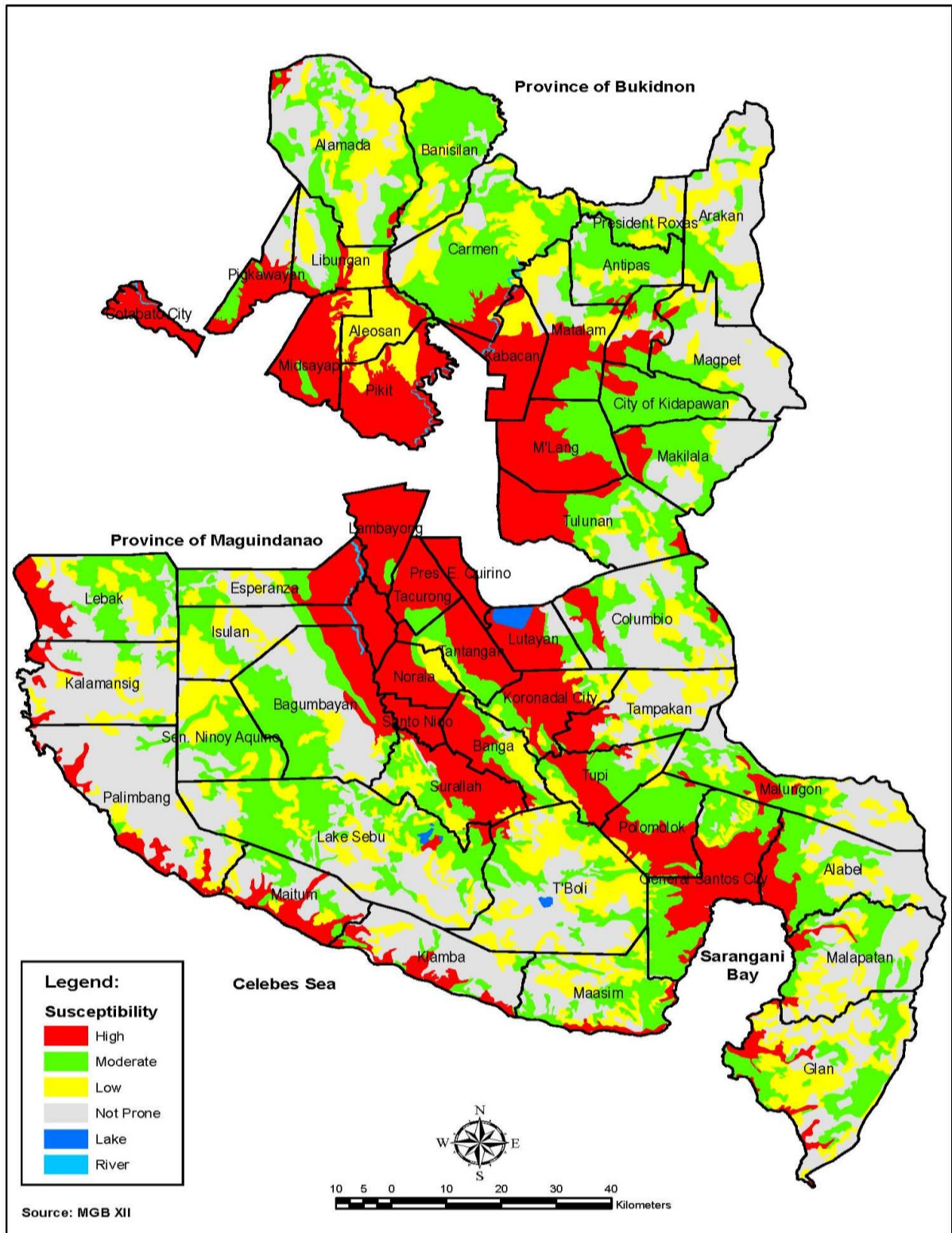
Figure 5.10
Irrigation Development Map, Region XII



**TOTAL AREAS TARGETED FOR IRRIGATION BY 2016 = 122,850 has.
from EXISTING IRRIGATED AREAS of 95,697 has. in 2009**

Source: NIA XII

Figure 5.11
Map of Flood-prone Areas of Region XII



d. Legislative Agenda

LGUs shall be enjoined to look into the extent of denudation resulting from the cutting of trees that are used for making charcoal. An ordinance may be passed to ban charcoal making from trees cut and for the LGU to provide alternative livelihood for charcoal making.

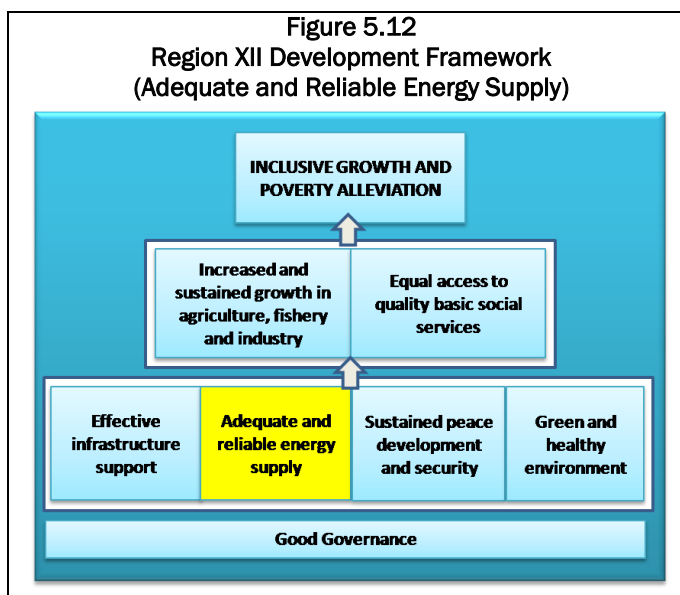
5.3.3 Communication

To facilitate integration of the region through digital infrastructure, the region shall pursue the provision of cell sites in areas with poor or no signal. More mobile phone companies shall be invited to provide services to the region. An inter-face forum shall be conducted with private telecommunication companies to encourage improvement of landline long distance communications and local inter-connection calls. Local e-Centers shall also be established at the municipal centers for internet connectivity.

5.4 Adequate and Reliable Energy Supply

Region XII is a fast growing region in terms of agri-industry, processing and services activities. Refineries, canneries and processing centers also sprouted in the provinces Sarangani, Cotabato and South Cotabato and the cities of General Santos, Cotabato and Kidapawan region during the last six years. The services sector likewise grew with the establishment of malls, hotels, recreation and other social service institutions. The number of medium and large industries has tremendously increased, triggering a rise in the demand for constant supply of energy. The average annual increase in demand for electricity in region is about 2%.

The region shall continue to pursue energy independence, energy savings, and barangay electrification as its priority strategies to attain adequate and reliable power supply during the plan period.



5.4.1 Energy Independence

The region shall develop new power generation plants to meet the ever increasing demand for energy in Mindanao. Development of geothermal power projects shall be stepped up and the Pulangi V 348 Hydroelectric Power Plant along Cotabato and Bukidnon shall be implemented.

The region shall push for the early completion of Leyte-Mindanao power interconnection. The interconnection of Leyte and Mindanao Grids will allow Mindanao to use the excess power from Leyte.

Through the PNOG Exploration Corporation, the region shall pursue further the gas exploration it has started in the region. Areas initially identified which may have the potential for gas deposits include the municipalities along Liguasan Marsh. However, any exploration activities shall be properly coordinated with the stakeholders, particularly the native inhabitants. By 2012, it is expected that a 200 megawatt Conal Coal Power Plant located in the Municipality of Maasim, Sarangani shall be constructed.

The region shall likewise pursue commissioning and energization of transmission line by the end of 2011. The Sagittarius Mines, Incorporated (SMI) has proposed a coal-fired power plant in Malalag, Davao del Sur which is expected to generate about 500 megawatts of energy and provide a minimum additional excess power of about 50 megawatts for the Mindanao Grid. Once made operational in 2016, Region XII is expected to benefit from the said power plant through the power transmission line from the power station to the SMI Tampakan Copper Gold Project in Tampakan, South Cotabato.

5.4.2 Energy Savings

The local government units are expected to implement fuel-consumption savings program and adopt schemes, such as, car pooling, carless days, number/color coding, to save energy.

The use of bicycles shall be promoted as substitute for motorized vehicles in going to school and work. Private associations shall be enjoined to assist in the campaign for the use of bicycles. The private sectors are encouraged to engage in coco-bio-diesel production as fuel blend. This substance from coconut when mixed with diesel will improve engine efficiency with less fuel consumption. The technology in the manufacture of the coco-bio-diesel blend is already available. It only needs promotion by appropriate agencies of the government. The use of biogas shall be promoted for households cooking. Animal wastes from hogs, chicken can be used as biogas fuel for household cooking. It is the most practical and cheap alternative for liquefied petroleum gas and kerosene.

Energy efficiency and conservation shall also be promoted. Energy providers do not only address the power crisis by looking for alternative sources to increase their power generating capacities, but they also employ a demand side management (DSM) strategy. Strong advocacy on DSM shall be pursued as these programs are designed to influence customer users of energy to produce the desired changes in demand. These programs consist of the planning, implementing, and monitoring activities of electric utilities that are designed to encourage consumers to modify their level and pattern of electricity usage. This includes load management, efficiency resource programs and conservation.

5.4.3 Barangay Electrification

The region shall push every Rural Electric Cooperative to energize all barangays, including individual households within their franchise areas. It shall encourage LGUs to share resources with electric cooperatives that could hardly afford to extend their distribution lines to reach remote barangays.

Solar, micro hydro, and wind power shall be utilized where applicable as alternative sources of electricity in off-grid communities and areas not accessible through distribution lines.

5.4.4 Legislative Agenda

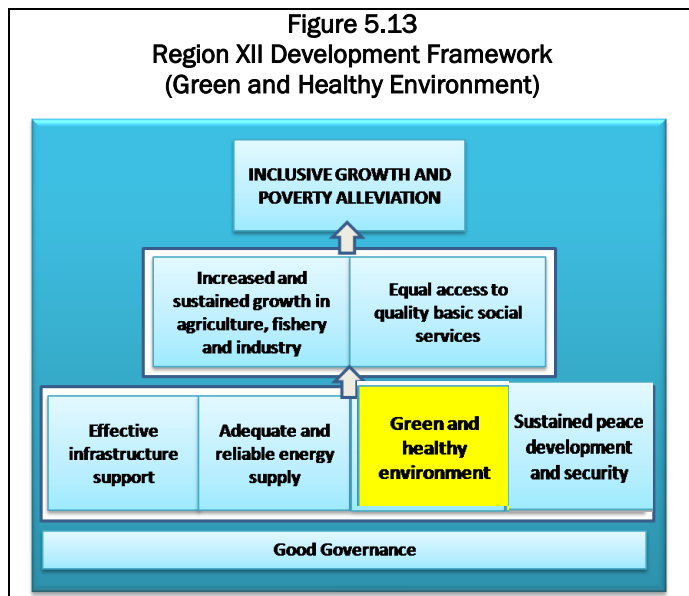
- i. Local governments units (LGUs) to enact laws banning the use of woods (and the pulling out of roots since this prevents further regeneration of trees) in making charcoal for use as fuel. Charcoals made of coconut shells; briquetted rice hulls and rice stalks; corn husks; saw dusts; and, other bio fuels may be used as substitute.
- ii. LGUs to strictly enforce law requiring the replacement of all traditional bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) in their lighting fixtures. Incentives may be provided to encourage consumers to give up use of traditional bulbs.
- iii. LGUs, particularly the municipal government to enact policies enjoining barangays to prepare their respective 3-year Barangay Development Plan, with priorities in energizing their respective barangay down to the last households who have no access to electricity, by way of technologies using renewable sources, i.e, solar, wind and micro/mini hydropower, prior to the release of their Internal Revenue Allotments.
- iv. LGUs to enforce laws on the strict observance of the appropriate building designs prior to the issuance of building permits, e.g. Use of septic tanks as a possible source of biofuel for household cooking, use of solar power.
- v. Push for the assessment of the implementation of R.A. 9136 or the EPIRA Law of 2001 to determine the extent it has improved power generation, transmission, distribution, and supply.

5.6 Improved Ecological Integrity: Green and Healthy Environment

To contribute to the vision of attaining green and healthy environment, the region shall improve its ecological integrity by rehabilitating, conserving and protecting its ecosystems and enforcing compliance to environmental laws.

5.4.5 Rehabilitation, Conservation and Protection of Ecosystems

The environment sector shall take a proactive stance to provide a stable and predictable environment that would enable communities and enterprises to carry out their production and consumption with minimum risk and uncertainty. Protection land use shall be of high priority not only to National Integrated Protected Areas (NIPAS) but also to



Non-NIPAS areas such as coastal and freshwater wetlands, second growth forest reserves, easements along waterways and shorelines, bird sanctuaries and ecotourism sites.

Intensive implementation of a Greening Program for Region XII shall be pursued by the sector, in close coordination with LGUs and concerned regional line agencies, for a more efficient and effective convergence of efforts and resources. To effect inclusive growth and address the challenges that confront the sector, the following strategies shall be pursued during the plan period:

1. Accelerate efforts on reforestation of denuded upland and wetland areas and sustain ecological management;

Total estimated areas of 783,725 hectares of forestlands are either grasslands or open and cultivated lands. Within these areas are the denuded forestlands, actual area of which could not be determined at this time.

2. Strengthen existing structures such as the Multi-Sectoral Committees on Forest Protection and Committees on Forest Products Monitoring;
3. Strengthen agro-forestry activities in agriculture-producing areas;
4. Strengthen advocacy on forest protection laws and management geared towards increased protection downstream and clean water, clean air and sufficient water supply;
5. Undertake rehabilitation/establishment of marine sanctuaries and mangrove nurseries in every coastal LGU;
6. Institutionalize the environment impact statement, environmental accounting and tree planting activities along riparian zones;
7. Sustain the management and protection of National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), environmentally critical areas and strengthen the operation of Protected Area Management Boards (PAMBs);
8. Intensify advocacy at all levels on disaster risk management and encourage public participation in the rehabilitation, conservation/protection and disaster mitigation measures especially in environmentally challenging areas/ecosystems;
9. Strengthen existing alliances and formation of the new ones for the improvement of ecological integrity;
10. Issuance of guidelines in the avilment of Carbon Sink Trading at the regional/local levels;
11. Require industry polluters to plant trees in designated areas;
12. Encourage public-private sector collaboration in the development and management of forestlands and potential eco-tourism sites; and,
13. Intensify the existing initiatives particularly the dredging of rivers, riverbank stabilization and reforestation of mangrove and watershed areas.

Programs and projects that would promote the judicious utilization and conservation of the region's natural resources and in support to the above strategies shall be the priority of the region.

At the end of the plan period, the following targets should have been achieved:

- 3,455 has. of agroforestry farms developed;
- 9,014 has. of upland reforestation established;
- 8,910 has. of watershed areas maintained;
- 7 eco-tourism plans prepared;
- 4 eco-tourism sites developed;
- 30,547 has. of untenured forest land patrolled/protected;
- 27 Multi-Sectoral Forest Protection Committees (MFPCs) organized/strengthened; and,
- 2,441 has. of mangrove stands/plantations protected/maintained.

5.4.6 Enforcement and Compliance to Environmental Laws

To address the problems confronting the environment, it is not only important that environmental laws are passed. Equally important would be the enforcement of such laws. Structural mechanisms to this effect will be put in place. Laws and policies that should be enforced include the following:

1. Total log ban on remaining old growth forest and compliance with all other environmental laws and policies; and,
2. Regulation of established settlements by providing buffer and protection zones to environmentally critical areas.

At the end of the plan period the following targets should have been achieved:

- 4 Municipal coastal law enforcement teams organized;
- 3 Ambient Air Sampling Stations established;
- 9 water bodies monitored yearly with quality water content;
- 6 Sanitary landfills established;
- 840 Environmental Compliance Certificates (ECCs) issued; and,
- Php18M revenues generated from fees related to ECC application, Wastewater Discharge Permit (WDP) and POA issuances.

Table 5.23
Targets for Selected Indicators of the Environment Sector in Region XII

Strategic Interventions/ Indicators	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1. Agro-Forestry Development							
• No. of Agro-forestry farms developed (ha.)	155	500	800	500	500	500	500
2. Upland Development Program							
• Area reforested (ha.)	2,443	1,071	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
3. Watershed Management							
• Watershed areas planted (ha.)	2,258	1,614	638	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100

Table 5.23 (cont'd.)

Strategic Interventions/ Indicators	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
4. Eco-tourism Development							
• Ecotourism plan prepared	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
• Ecotourism Site developed				1	1	1	1
5. Forest Protection							
• Untenured forestland patrolled/protected (ha.)	30,547	30,547	30,547	30,547	30,547	30,547	30,547
• Multi-sectoral Forest Protection Committees (MFPCs) organized/strengthened	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
6. Management of PA							
• PAMB Strengthened (no.)	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
• PA managed (has.)	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7. Coastal Management							
• Mangrove stands/plantations established/maintained	2,441	2,441	2,441	2,441	2,441	2,441	2,441
• Municipal Coastal Law Enforcement Teams organized (MCLET)	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
8. Air Quality Management							
• Ambient Air Sampling Stations maintained	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
9. Water Quality Management							
• No. of water bodies classified/re-classified and monitored with good water quality	9	10	10	9	9	9	9
10. Solid Waste Management							
• Sanitary Landfills established	-	1	1	1	1	1	1

Table 5.23 (cont'd.)

Strategic Interventions/ Indicators	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
11. Environment Management							
• No. of ECCs issued	120	100	100	100	100	100	100
• Revenue generated related to ECC permit application, WDP and POA Issuances (in Million)	2	2	2	3	3	3	3
12. WQMA Governing Board Maintained and Operationalized	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

Source: DENR XII & EMB XII

5.5 Sustained Peace, Development and Security

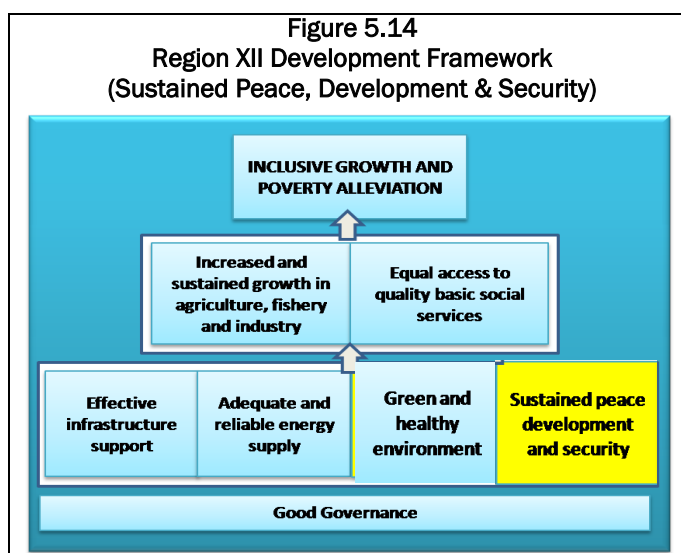
Region XII shall continue to support peacebuilding and conflict prevention strategies of the National Government. It shall contribute to President Aquino's goal that there will be no more armed conflict when he turns over the government to the next administration, at the end of his term.

Specifically, the region shall strengthen its justice system, improve peace and order and public safety and develop resilient and progressive communities in conflict affected and vulnerable areas.

Strengthening the Justice System

a. Social Justice System

Maintaining a just and orderly society is one of the concerns that shall be given priority through effective, efficient delivery of justice. Efforts to act on complaints, requests for assistance and legal queries for the indigent members of our community shall be continually pursued. This includes continuing provision of assistance to victims of unjust imprisonment or detention and victims of violent crimes.



To prevent the commission of abuses and exploitation, human rights violations, particularly to the vulnerable sectors, calls for uniting and mobilizing all stakeholders in the community shall be made regularly. Database on the number of victims of abuses, the number provided with

legal and all other forms of assistance shall be institutionalized. This shall serve as basis for properly identifying programs and projects to address the needs of the victims.

Addressing the decongestion of jails and inadequate manpower and logistics support to properly respond to the needs of the population and the community with regard to the protection of life and property shall also be considered during the plan period.

To make the system more accessible to those in need of justice, LGUs shall be encouraged to implement measures towards this end, such as the “Justice on Wheels” of the Province of Sarangani.

b. Juvenile Justice and Welfare

Efforts shall be made to fully implement RA 9344 or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006. All concerned entities/agencies shall be enjoined to follow what is prescribed in Chapter 2, Sections 23-31 of RA 9344, which is the implementation of Diversion Programs, particularly at the barangay level.

c. Criminal Justice System

It is expected that the various institutional reforms that shall be implemented by national government agencies comprising the pillars of the Philippine Criminal Justice System (PCJS) shall lead in the strengthening of the PCJS not only at the national level but also at the regional level. The 5 pillars of the PCJS, namely: law enforcement, prosecution, courts, correction, and the community, are expected to work with dispatch and in full coordination with each other.

The various programs/projects/activities for the period 2011-2016 of each government agency in the PCJS (e.g. Philippine National Police – PNP; National Bureau of Investigation – NBI; Department of Justice – Public Attorney’s Office - DOJ-PAO; Judiciary, thru the Supreme Court; Bureau of Jail Management and Penology -BJMP; Department of Justice - Parole and Probation Administration – DOJ-PPA) shall be supportive and contributory to attaining social justice in Region XII.

5.5.1 Improved Peace and Order

All program interventions initiated by government law enforcement agencies, as well as, the communities for crime prevention during the plan period shall be geared towards creating a peaceful Region XII to make it more conducive to investments and other economic development opportunities.

a. Crime Prevention

The region shall endeavor to attain marked improvements in its crime situation. One way of making this possible is by increasing the number of police in the region. Particularly, the region shall reduce the gap of current police-to-population ratio of 1:852 to at least 1:550 inhabitants by 2016. The ideal ratio is 1 policeman for every 500 inhabitants as prescribed in Section 27 of Republic Act (RA) 6975 or the Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990.

Table 5.24
Police to Population Ratio Targets, Region XII, 2011-2016

Indicator	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Police to Population Ratio	1:780	1:721	1:668	1:624	1:584	1:550

Source: PRO XII

In connection with the above, the region shall establish and maintain highly professional, competent, disciplined, credible and trustworthy government uniformed men and women charged of keeping peace in the region and providing internal security to the general population.

The thrust of promoting responsive and effective community-based crime prevention programs shall be further improved. Mechanisms or organizations to promote community involvement and participation in crime prevention shall be created. Monitoring of the various activities of fraternities and other “gangs” in schools and universities shall be intensified.

The logistical requirements of the police force shall be substantially addressed in order for its units to effectively carry-out its mission which is “To Serve and Protect.” Modern equipment shall be provided to support its operations, which include, mobility; communication; search and rescue; SWAT; and, disaster response and crowd control operations. Standard Police Station Buildings shall be constructed especially in areas/municipalities, where these are not present.

Table 5.25
Critical Infrastructure Target of the PNP, Region XII, 2011-2016

Target	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Construction of South Cotabato Provincial Police Office		1				
Construction or Completion of City / Municipal Police Stations	2	5	4	1		

Source: PRO XII

The region shall relentlessly implement check points, choke points and security inspections, particularly in places frequented by people (malls, markets, places of worship, airports, seaports, overland terminals, etc.)

In exercising their critical role in crime prevention and maintaining peace and order in the region, the LGUs are expected to undertake the following:

- i. Utilize LGU Peace and Order Funds efficiently and effectively;
- ii. Adopt a Reward System to capture persons and groups who are engaged in the sale of illegal drugs and to expedite the capture of criminal suspects particularly for high profile cases (e.g. bombings);
- iii. Adopt and institutionalize of modern technology in crime prevention specifically the installation of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) in strategic locations;
- iv. Implement of community policing and the activate of Barangay Police for community-level crime prevention equipped with logistical requirements for mobility and communications
- v. Strengthen the Barangay Peace and Order Committees which are effective apparatus in establishing stable peace and order condition at the community level;

- vi. Exercise strong political will against the enemies of the State or forces opposing the government;
- vii. Regularly display posters of Most Wanted Persons in conspicuous and strategic places so that the public may be always alerted on the identities of these criminals;
- viii. Encourage the operationalization of Force Multiplier System in order to aid the regular law enforcement units in crime prevention; and,
- ix. Intensify the implementation of the Police Integrated Patrol System (PIPS) in the region.

Table 5.26
Crime Prevention and Control Program Targets, Region XII, 2011-2016

Activity	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	Number of Activities					
Development and Management of Crime Prevention and Deterrence Program	410	427	444	462	480	500

Source: NAPOLCOM XII

b. Internal Security

To ensure internal security, both the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) shall maintain strong lateral coordination and partnership. Until respective peace accords have been forged with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GPH), the AFP and PNP, as determined by higher headquarters or as need arises, shall implement internal security operations against the elements of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CNN).

In similar manner, the government forces are expected to pursue various groups which are labeled as: Terrorist Group (Local Terror Groups), Armed Lawless Groups; and, Organized Crime Groups (OCGs) - Criminal Groups (CGs), Kidnap For Ransom Groups (KFRGs), and Private Armed Groups (PAGs).

Intensified operations shall be carried out relentlessly by the soldiers and policemen in order to eliminate and/or neutralize these local terror groups, the OCGs and CGs who are involved in the criminal activities like kidnapping, carnapping, bombing, extortion, robbery/hold-up, "akyat-bahay", banditry and other crimes against person and property. The activities of the PNP and AFP shall continually be improved and intensified to protect the vulnerable population against crimes. Vital public and private infrastructure facilities shall constantly be secured.

Furthermore, the stakeholders of the region shall support the different AFP units deployed in the SOCCSKSARGEN in the implementation of the Internal Peace and Security Plan (IPSP), 2011-2016. The AFP IPSP, which is also known as "*Bayanihan*" gives equal emphasis on the combat and non-combat dimensions of military operations, and at the same time, focuses on winning the peace instead of defeating the enemies of the state.

For its part, the Police Regional Office (PRO) XII, in carrying out its mandate of Serving and Protecting the People, shall pursue the objectives of the PNP Integrated Transformation Program (ITP) aimed at transforming the organization into a highly capable, effective and credible police force.

The region's crime environment shall be further improved towards attaining an acceptable peace and order situation in the region. This shall be done with the cooperation of all agencies comprising the security sector, the LGUs and community.

As may be necessary, Social Integration Programs shall be implemented by concerned agencies so that members of the threat groups shall be mainstreamed into the society.

Efforts shall also be undertaken by the region to implement Republic Act (RA) 9165 or the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002. Greater awareness on the evil effects of illegal drug uses shall be promoted. Public cooperation shall be engaged in the government's anti-drug campaign. By 2016, it is envisioned that a Drug Rehabilitation Center, as well as, a Social Drug Education Center (SDEC) under Article 4, Section 46 of RA 9165, shall be established in Region XII.

5.5.2 Improved Public Safety

Fire prevention is one form of promoting public safety. In this regard, the region shall undertake necessary measures to suppress and prevent all forms of destructive fires.

During the plan period, efforts shall be undertaken to pursue the target of having at least one fire station per municipality in the region. New fire stations shall be constructed where necessary and dilapidated stations rehabilitated. Fire fighters shall be provided with necessary plantilla positions. The facilities of fire stations shall be upgraded. New trucks and modern firefighting gears shall be secured.

More Volunteer Fire Brigades and Emergency Medical Services and Special Rescue Units shall be organized, trained and mobilized to assist the firefighters during emergency. Fire Safety Campaign, Trainings and Seminar for various stakeholder groups shall be intensified.

In the exercise of its mandate, the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) XII shall aggressively pursue the collection of fire code fees in accordance with RA 9514.

Table 5.27
Fire Prevention and Suppression Targets, Region XII, 2011-2016

Target	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Establishment of Fire Stations	2	1	2	2	3	2
Repair / Rehabilitation of Fire Stations	2	3	2	3	3	8
Repair / Rehabilitation of Fire Trucks	3	3	3	3	3	3

Source: BFP XII

5.6.4 Resilient and Progressive Communities in Conflict-affected and Vulnerable Areas

The region's peace strategy shall be anchored on the PAMANA Program (Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan) which is spearheaded by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP). The Program shall promote peaceful and prosperous communities as a complementary track to the primary task of ending armed conflict and achieving peace through a negotiated political settlement. It is aimed at empowering communities to pursue peace through

economic integration and development. One aspect of this is to improve the delivery of basic services and institute a more transparent and responsive governance to strengthen community resilience amidst armed conflict.

Through the implementation of the PAMANA, thrusts and priorities shall focus on:

1. Support for the resumption of the GPH-MILF Peace Process and other rebel groups in the region;
2. Support of the National Government for the determination of an appropriate body to handle Peace and Development Initiatives in Region XII;
3. Mainstreaming of Peace and Development Initiatives, with the culmination of Act for Peace Programme, to support the gains of the 1996 Government of the Republic of the Philippines-Moro National Liberation Front Final Peace Agreement (GRP-MNLF FPA).

Priority strategies shall include:

- i. *Transforming Conflict-affected Areas into Progressive Communities.* Support shall be directed at initiatives that would facilitate the transformation of conflict affected areas into resilient and progressive communities. The efforts that shall be implemented in the region shall be with due recognition of the root causes of conflict in Mindanao, particularly in Region XII; the primacy of the peace process and the various initiatives by government to settle all armed conflicts; and the assistance provided by local government units, communities, nongovernmental organizations and foreign funding institutions to rehabilitate and develop the affected areas.
- ii. *Institutionalizing a Culture of Peace.* The region shall continue to advocate and promote the institutionalization of a Culture of Peace (CoP) based on nonviolence, respect for fundamental rights and freedoms, tolerance, understanding and solidarity principles. This shall be done through various seminars, trainings and workshops for different stakeholders.

The region shall also pursue the full implementation of Executive Order 570 – Integrating Peace Education in the Curriculum. The region shall continue with its peacebuilding, conflict prevention and conflict transformation activities, such as, the conduct of Inter-Faith and Intra-Faith Dialogues, non-violent peace-building activities, and Cultural Sensitivity Training, and Orientation/Briefing on Human Rights.

- iii. *Sustaining and Strengthening Mechanisms for Conflict Resolution.* The effective and time-tested mechanisms in conflict resolution shall be continued, such as the Traditional System headed by the tribal leaders and elders. The region also supports the strategy of maintaining existing ceasefire mechanisms to uphold and maintain peace in conflict-affected areas. These mechanisms among others are: Joint Ceasefire Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH), as well as, Civil Society Organization / Non-Government Organization (CSO/NGO)-initiated grassroots ceasefire mechanism like Bantay Ceasefire.
- iv. *Setting the Foundations for Good Governance in Conflict-Affected Areas.* Support shall be provided to peace and development initiatives toward setting the foundation for good governance in conflict-affected areas in the region; in the implementation of Reform Agenda for the Indigenous Peoples in Region XII; ending impunity on human rights violations and extra-judicial executions; and, resolution of the situation of internal

displacement due to armed conflict. Support shall also be provided on the review towards the reform and enhancement of existing re-integration programs for former rebels.

In addressing the plight of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Region XII, transitional activities shall be conducted, from rehabilitation assistance towards implementation of sustainable projects.

- v. *Peace Advocacy and Promotion through Best Practices and Success Stories.* Success stories and best practices in promoting peace, conflict resolution and conflict transformation shall be replicated in different conflict-affected areas of Region XII. One such best practice is the KALINAW SARANGANI spearheaded by the Provincial Government of Sarangani. The Program aims to promote and preserve a peaceful and livable Sarangani where people enjoy basic services and are actively involved in planning development and exercising governance.

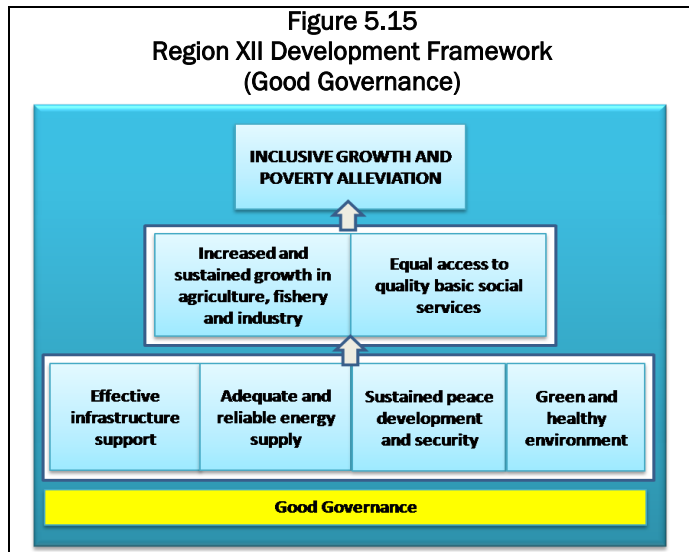
Another peacebuilding showcase is the establishment of a Peace Camp located in the headquarters of the 73rd Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army. The establishment of Fort Sarangani was conceptualized and developed by this army unit under the leadership of its Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Adolfo Espuelas. Among the goals that shall be pursued by this army battalion is to formulate the Fort Sarangani Development Plan. The Peace Camp is strategically located in the Municipality of Maasim, Sarangani and overlooking Sarangani Bay.

5.6 Good Governance

Governance provides the necessary political and social environment toward the realization of the vision of development of the region. To be able to be responsive to the needs of the society, all the actors of development shall therefore continue to exercise good governance where the principles of participation, accountability, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency, equity and inclusivity, and rule of law are widely practiced.

During the plan period, the region shall therefore pursue reforms in institutions, strengthening of private/civil society participation in the development processes, and enhancing local governance. On top of these strategies, would be the establishment and operationalization of the SOCCSKSARGEN Regional Government Center, to serve as the administrative center for regional development.

Figure 5.15
Region XII Development Framework
(Good Governance)



5.6.1 Establishment of the Regional Government Center (RGC)

One of the key strategies in truly uniting and harmonizing the efforts for the social, political and economic growth of the SOCCSKSARGEN, is the establishment of the Regional Government Center in Koronadal City. Apart from the aims of making the center more accessible to the

region's stakeholders and spreading development more equitably, the regional center shall also cluster the regional line agencies in one area which would facilitate more efficient government transactions. A lot of eight (8) hectares has been donated by the City Government of Koronadal for the said purpose.

To pursue the establishment of the RGC, the following shall be undertaken:

i. On-site Development of the Regional Government Center of Region XII

On-site development of the government center needs to be in place, i.e. requirements for utilities, roads, drainage, to facilitate the construction of office buildings of the regional offices that are ready for the construction of their respective buildings in the center. In coordination with the local government of Koronadal City, the region shall strive to tap possible funding agencies for the desired development of the government center.

ii. Construction of Office Buildings

Within the planning period, the region shall continue its effort in coordinating with all line agencies on their compliance to EO 304. The proposed budgets for the construction of office buildings of the regional line agencies of Region XII shall continually be included in the annual Investment programs of the region. Parallel to this action, the region shall exert efforts on tapping possible funding institutions that may be willing to provide long term loan for office buildings construction.

By 2016, it is expected that all line agencies operating outside of the government center shall have transferred in Koronadal City.

5.6.2 Reforms in Institution

Taking off from the administration's thrusts of institutionalizing reforms in the bureaucracy, the region shall pursue the following development strategies geared towards addressing institutional reforms and streamlining of government bureaucracy:

a. Professionalization of the Civil Service

Professionalizing the civil service entails strict adherence to the guidelines in the hiring of government workers, as well as, the election of public officials. The conduct of civil service and other competency examinations to thoroughly screen the qualifications of prospective government personnel shall be continually undertaken. In addition, the emotional quotient of these prospective government workers and elective officials shall form part of the recruitment processes. These would ensure a pool of qualified and competent workforce who are expected to deliver government services with integrity, professionalism, commitment and dedication to public service; and, at the same time, discourage the exercise of hiring and appointing personnel without going through the standard civil service rules in the hiring of government employees.

All government entities at the regional and sub regional levels shall be encouraged to continually prepare or update their respective Human Resource Development Management Plans which shall be their bases for recruitment and promotion of qualified personnel.

To foster dedication and commitment to public service, the region shall support the review of the compensation package of the government workforce. In particular, the review shall consider the risks that are associated with the services delivered by the workers.

Moreover, there may be a need to assess the retirement age of government workforce to give way to new entrants to government service at the same time for the retirees to enjoy longer retirement phase of their lives. The region shall support the lowering of age requirements for optional retirement to 55 and the compulsory retirement to 60.

With the emerging technology modernization, all government instrumentalities at all levels of governance need to adopt information and communication technology not only to be competitive and at par with the global community but more importantly to attain well-coordinated and well-planned development efforts and further enhance productivity, efficiency and effectiveness of government operations.

b. Rationalizing Government Expenditures

In consonance with the pronouncement of President Aquino on zero-based budgeting, the region shall support a move for a synchronized conduct of national and local/barangay elections.

The region shall likewise support the strict implementation of audit processes and evaluation, as well as, the conduct of surprise review and evaluation of projects vis-a-vis fund utilization of projects implemented by the government offices.

The Annual Investment Plans (AIP) of all government instrumentalities shall be religiously prepared every year to consider the activities that are doable and can be funded during the year in consultation with other service providers. The concept of convergence of services shall continually be popularized and applied to realize the impacts of services delivered and avoid duplication of services and beneficiaries.

The Rationalization Plan (EO 366) which provides for rationalizing the bureaucracy with regard to agency functionality and the appropriate number of manpower with appropriate qualifications with the approved plantilla/positions is expected to be fully implemented during the plan period. This would address the concerns on the cost cutting of government expenditures at the same time, retaining competent and qualified government workforce.

Flagship anti-corruption programs shall be implemented such as moral and integrity development activities aimed at promoting integrity development, good governance, ethical leadership and spiritual deepening, viz: Moral Renewal Program, Integrity Development Reform, Integrity Development Action Plan and other related programs and activities.

c. Capacity Building

To continually enhance and upgrade the skills of government workforce both at the regional and sub-regional levels, capacity building will be sustained. These programs shall be in the areas of governance, administration and finance, planning and investment programming, skills development, productivity and quality enhancement, ICT and other relevant training programs that would address improvement in the delivery of government services and governance. Similarly, executive level capacity building activities shall be pursued in the said priority areas.

To further strengthen the competence of civil service, merit and fitness in the government service shall be pursued through the conduct of and/or provision of skills re-tooling and other related activities to government workers every five years.

To cope with rapid changes in technology, all government instrumentalities at all levels of governance need to be continually trained on updated information and communication technology to improve government systems in the delivery of service.

d. Advocacy

A Comprehensive Communication and advocacy program for the implementation of the plan shall be formulated to be able to harness resources for convergent, synchronized and purposive actions towards the attainment of the regional development vision.

Advocacy on government activities and services which are geared towards improving the image of the region shall be intensified, with the end of attracting more investors and tourists to locate and visit the region, respectively. Close coordination between the peacekeeping forces and the media shall be regularly undertaken to ensure that only reliable information as to peace, development and security of the area are disseminated to the public.

Coordination in the conduct of advocacy activities by government agencies shall be tightened in order to create more impact. The use of multi-media shall be encouraged for wider reach among the region's stakeholders. The private sector shall likewise be encouraged to participate in providing right and relevant information to the general public.

Local festivals shall be promoted to showcase tourist destination areas. The region's best practices shall also be documented and highlighted. Technical assistance for appropriate documentation shall be provided, particularly for the local government units.

For the barangay population to be aware of government efforts and at the same time provide venue for addressing local issues, Barangay assemblies shall continue to be implemented by the local government units, at least once every quarter.

5.6.3 Enhancing Local Governance

In line with improving local governance, the region shall focus on empowering the LGUs to be self-reliant by putting premium on accountability in the delivery of public good and services. This shall involve policy development and reforms, capacity development for program delivery, strengthening of local special bodies, and public accountability through the use of Local Government Performance Measurement System (LGPMS). The LGPMS shall be highlighted as overall local governance performance. Compliance with Republic Act 9485 or the Anti-Red Tape Act (ARTA) of 2007 and enforcement of the Citizen's Charter shall likewise be pursued vigorously.

c. Plan and Policy Formulation

The Executive-Legislative Agenda (ELA) shall continue to be utilized as a benchmark on how much the LGU has attained at the end of the officials term of office, 2010-2013 and 2013-2016.

In the area of local development planning and Investment programming, the formulation and implementation of the Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs)/ Zoning Ordinances (ZOs)/Comprehensive Development Plans (CDP)/Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plans (PDPFPs) shall be monitored by the appropriate agency. For plan period 2011-2016, all 54 LGUs shall have formulated their respective CLUPs/ZOs/CDPs/PDPFPs.

d. Local Special Bodies

To further measure improvement of local governance, organization and monitoring of the functionality of local special bodies shall be undertaken. The concerns of vulnerable groups (elderly, women, children, basic sectors) shall be addressed by these special bodies.

For the local government units to attain their fullest development as self-reliant communities and make them more effective partners in the attainment of national goals, the region shall support the implementation of genuine and meaningful local autonomy as articulated in RA 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991.

This also points to the need to collaborate with non-government organizations (NGOs) particularly in the implementation and monitoring of programs and projects at all levels of governance.

In addition, the spirit of volunteerism shall be promoted through LGU-Civil Society partnership program.

Table 5.28
Yearly Targets for Selected Indicators, 2011-2016

Indicators	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1. No. of LGUs compliant with ARTA	All cities and capital towns of the region					
2. No. of LGUs enforcing the Citizens Charter	54	54	54	54	54	54
3. No. of cities/capital towns adopting the BLPS reforms	4	4	4	4	4	4
4. LGPMS	All Provinces/Cities/Municipalities of the region					
• No. of LGUs prepared State of Local Governance						
5. ELA formulation No. of LGUs with ELA	54	54	54	54	54	54
6. No. of LGUs that adopted and implemented CBMS for planning, budgeting and program targeting	5	10	12	15	18	20
7. No. of LGUs with CBMS data and poverty maps uploaded in the national repository and DILG Website	5	10	12	15	18	20
8. No. of LGUs with:						
• CDP	54	54	54	54	54	54
• PDPFPs	4	4	4	4	4	4
9. No. of LGU-CSO partnership undertakings	2	2	2	2	2	2
10. No. of Functional Special Local Bodies:						
• Local Peace and order Councils	597	597	597	597	597	597
• Local Development Councils	597	597	597	597	597	597
• Local Council for the Protection of Children	597	597	597	597	597	597

Source: DILG XII

e. Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

The Philippines, due to its location and geographic landscape, is considered as one of the most disaster prone countries in the world. Development efforts are disrupted by natural hazards since budgets intended for pursuing planned development are diverted to finance disaster response, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities. During the plan period, it is expected that the integration of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaption (CCA) in local planning and decision-making processes shall be fully realized and institutionalized. Mainstreaming the DRR/CCA concerns in all development plans, particularly in the respective CDPs/PDPFPs of the areas in the region shall be pursued. It is also expected that the DRR/CCA-enhanced local plans shall have a component of Forest Land Use Plans. These steps are intended to adequately address the problems and threats brought about by hazards to people and property due to the occurrence of natural calamities in Region XII.

Table 5.29
Targets for the Formulation of DRR/CCA-enhanced PDPFP /CLUP, 2011-2016

Province / City / Municipality	Year Completed					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Province	2	2				
City (Highly Urbanized and Independent Chartered)			1	1		
City (Component)				1	1	1
Municipality			7	10	11	17
TOTAL	2	2	8	12	12	18

Sources: LGUs, NEDA XII, DILG XII, HLRB

Likewise, advocacy efforts on understanding the importance of and application of the DRR/CCA concepts in everyday living shall be intensified in collaboration with the academe, media outlets and other NGO groups.

All the LGUs in the region are expected to establish their respective Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (DRRMO), create their DRRM Committees and have implemented DRRM/CCA related projects during the plan period.

In Region XII, the Private Sector has begun to forge a partnership with the academe to support capacity building activities in DRR/CCA. It is expected that for the period 2011-2016, many more trainings initiated by the private sector and academe shall be realized.

f. Local Income

Fiscal imbalance characterized by high government spending with low revenue collection is a major concern of the government. To address this, fiscal reforms need to be in place. Revenue generation efforts shall be strengthened following the pronouncement of the President on no imposition of higher taxes or introduction of new taxes. Reforms shall be geared towards addressing the issues on smuggling and tax evasion of high profile taxpayers, thereby increasing revenue collection. In addition policy reforms on maximizing, and judicious utilization of resources to generate savings and income, and the review of government expenditures vis-à-vis revenue collection with an end view of lowering yearly budget deficit shall be pursued.

i. Real Property Tax

The region shall continue to strengthen its efforts towards increasing revenue collection by implementing the provisions in the Local Revenue Code in allowable percent increase to real

property taxes every three years. This calls for the periodic updating of the local revenue code by all LGUs to incorporate the allowable increase in the general revision. Tax mapping shall be continually carried out and monitored by the concerned agencies. Tax maps database shall be periodically updated.

The continued implementation of the Local Government Finance Support Project (LGFSP) proposed under the World Bank with Three (3) Packages shall be supported by the region. This proposal is for LGUs which have not yet availed the LGFSP.

ii. Local Revenue Tax

On the other hand, for Local Revenue Tax, the Tax Enhancement Program and Tax Collection Enforcement and Data Computerization shall be sustained and further strengthened to meet the targets set for collection. The LGUs shall also be encouraged to formulate their own revenue codes (economic enterprise code, cemetery code, and slaughterhouse code, market code) to generate local revenues.

Table 5.30
Tax and Internal Revenue Collection Targets 2011-2016, Region XII

Indicator	TARGETS (In Million Pesos)					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Real Property Tax Collection	689	758	796	836	920	966
Local Revenue Tax Collection (Business Taxes, Fees and Charges, and Economic Enterprise	789	856	929	1,008	1,094	1,187
Internal Revenue Collection	3,801	4,371	5,027	5,781	6,649	7,646

Source: DOF-BLGF XII

iii. Internal Revenue Tax

Information drive, business education infomercials, official receipts issuance campaign through tax mapping, close monitoring on tax compliance, “*Oplan Kandado*”, support to Project RIP, intensify campaign against tax evaders through “Run After Tax Evader (RATE)” and other activities aimed at increasing internal tax collection shall be continuously intensified during the plan period.

Strict monitoring of taxes due from professional services shall likewise be sustained.

The review of yearly goals to deduct transfer-out accounts and those with centralized remittances including those of the multinational corporations which directly remit to Large Taxpayer Division in Manila, shall be adopted in the region.

The following are other strategies to be pursued during the next six (6) years to address the challenge of low revenue collection:

- Promotion of delivery of fast, efficient and courteous service to taxpayers as well as institute a system for measuring the level of taxpayer satisfaction with BIR services thru the “*Handang Maglingkod Project*”.
- Provision of income tax holidays during special occasions.

- Supporting the rationalization of tax performance based incentive and sustaining the same to invite more investors to conduct business in the country. This includes conduct of information campaign on the tax incentives implemented applicable to business enterprises and other type of taxpayers.
- Intensification and strengthening of the implementation of the Joint Memorandum Circular # 1, series of 2007, particularly the sound, efficient and effective management and utilization of government resources; and the mobilization of LGU resources through different strategies in revenue generation.
- Simplification of taxation system by coming up with a simplified taxation system in accounting the tax due for business sector. This will facilitate and encourage easy filing of taxes due. On gross sales tax receipt, computation of taxes shall be based on gross profit margin rather than on gross sales. The increase of prices of goods due to the level of inflation rate will also increase the total gross sales but not the gross profit margin.

Internal Revenue Allotment

The high dependency on Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) share of most local government units in the region shall be addressed during the plan period. There may be a need to conduct a policy review or revisit the formula use in the allocation of IRA share by lowering the percent share allocation on population. In effect, this will encourage LGUs to manage the population growth in their area.

The current formula adopted is based on the following factors: population (50%), land area (25%) and equal sharing (25%). The higher the population means bigger IRA share. As of 2008, the level of IRA dependency of Region XII LGUs was placed at about 82 percent.

Following the MDG goal, the region shall strive to lower the IRA dependency of the LGUs from its current level of 81.7 percent starting 2010 to 2016.

5.6.4 Strengthened Private/Civil Society Participation in the Development Process

GO-NGO partnership in all development endeavors shall be strengthened through continuing involvement and participation of NGO/Private sectors in government efforts at all levels of governance. Linkage shall start with the private sectors' membership in any special bodies of development councils at the regional and sub-regional levels, as voting members.

Development planning and investment programming are significant areas where the private sector and NGOs could meaningfully participate. The practice of allowing the Private Sector Representatives (PSRs) in the Regional Development Council (RDC), to sit as Chairpersons of the major Sectoral Committees shall be sustained. These Committees are the working arms of the Council in formulating and coordinating the implementation of the Regional Development Plan (RDP) and its Investment Program (IP). Their participation in the budget prioritization, as well as, in the monitoring of development projects shall continue to be encouraged.

The private sector / NGO members of the development councils shall also be considered in Government's capacity building programs or advocacy related activities geared towards skills upgrading or providing new information on government efforts.

CHAPTER 6:

Roles of Provinces and Cities in Regional Development

The LGUs, particularly the Provinces, Independent Chartered Cities, as well as, Component Cities, have very crucial roles in attaining the inclusive growth and poverty alleviation goals of the region. Their respective potential contributions to regional development shall therefore be enjoined and supported. Their roles complement each other. Propelled by strong and dynamic leaders, the economic growth of the provinces and cities shall bring to fruition the vision of SOCCSKSARGEN as one integral and progressive economic unit which is at par with the other developed regions in Mindanao.



- Cotabato Province is the agro-industrial center in the northern part of the region, specializing in the production of organic rice; fruit and vegetable farming, and processing of industrial plantation crops like rubber and sugar.
- Sarangani is the fishery, aquaculture and integrated upland development center of the region. It is being positioned as tourism labyrinth with the proposed development of the Sarangani Tourism Estate.
- South Cotabato is the agro-industrial center in the southern part of Region XII, processing high value export crops like banana, pineapple, asparagus and other fruits; and the prime agricultural producer of rice, corn and other food crops. It is also enhancing its role as the emerging eco-tourism capital of the region.
- Sultan Kudarat Province is the palm oil and coffee production and processing center of Region XII; and producer of organic muscovado sugar and aquamarine / seaweeds.



- Cotabato City is the cultural and historical center of Region XII, being known as the cradle of the Cotabato Empire Province; and producer of exotic mud crabs and prawns.
- General Santos City is the metropolitan center of Region XII and continues to be the Tuna Capital of the Philippines. With the presence of the international standard port and airport, it is the transshipment hub of the region to other parts of the country and the rest of the world. It shall also become the prime business, banking, financial and services center of the region.
- The City of Koronadal is the Administrative Center of SOCCSKSARGEN Region.
- Kidapawan City is the agro-industrial processing center for crops such as rubber, sugar and tropical fruits and provincial market and distribution center of Cotabato Province.
- Tacurong City is the processing center for African palm oil, cereals and grains, meat and poultry and provincial market and distribution center of Sultan Kudarat Province.

CHAPTER 7:

Kilos Abante Priority Programs/Projects

Among the numerous interventions that need to be pursued in the Region, Regional Development Council XII has identified 17 priority projects which shall be pursued in the next 6 years. These projects are considered crucial in the attainment of the region's strategic outcomes and for which firm fund commitments have to be pursued. These interventions are also called the "Kilos Abante Projects." In the next 6 years, RDC XII shall push for the realization of these projects:



7.1 Social Development

- Establishment/Upgrading of South Cotabato Provincial Hospital into a Regional Hospital
- Establishment of Drug Rehabilitation Center in Region XII
- Establishment of Regional Training Center

7.2 Economic Development

- Tampakan-Copper Gold Project
- Environment Conservation and Protection Package (Allah Valley, Kabulnan Biodiversity, Mindanao River Basin)

7.3 Infrastructure Development

- Kalamansig-Palimbang-Maitum Road
- Lake Sebu-Maitum Ecology Road Development Project
- Banisilan-Guiling-Alamada-Libungan Road
- Sarangani-Davao del Sur Coastal Road (includes the Jose Abad Santos-Glan-Sarangani Cooperation Triangle (JAGSCT))
- Road Widening of Marbel-Makar Road
- General Santos City International Airport Development Project
- Construction of Integrated Public Transport Terminals (Koronadal City, Tacurong City, Cotabato City and General Santos City)
- Flood Control Project for Lower Cotabato River Basin (Ala, Koronadal City, Simuay, Lambayong, Cotabato City)
- Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project Phase II
- Kabulnan Multi-Purpose Irrigation and Power Project II

7.4 Governance and Institutions Development (GID)

- Full Operationalization of the Regional Government Center in Koronadal City
- Establishment of Local Disaster Risk Reduction Management Offices

CHAPTER 8:

Plan Implementation and Monitoring

8.1 Review, Approval and Adoption Process

The formulation of the Regional Development Plan of Region XII, 2011-2016 has undergone a series of planning workshops and consultations with the various stakeholders, e.g. LGUs, private sector groups/NGOs, regional line agencies and others, for its enhancement. The final draft plan was subjected to further review and workshop by the RDC XII before it was finally approved and endorsed by the Council.

8.2 Phasing of the Plan

The RDP, 2011-2016 which covers a six-year planning period contains strategic programs and projects which will address the attainment of the region's vision for 2016. The identified programs/projects/activities shall be targeted to be implemented within the planning period.

8.3 Integration of Plan and Planning Processes

a. Horizontal Integration

The implementation of the plan shall be built in the entire development planning and implementation machinery and process, with the Regional Development Council (RDC) as the central organizational structure that spearhead the regional development process. This shall be pursued through the key programs and projects, identified by the different regional line agencies and LGUs and approved and endorsed by the RDC as priority programs and projects of the region.

The development strategies contained in the RDP shall be translated into specific programs and projects which shall be then be consolidated into Regional Development and Investment Program (RDIP). The RDIP shall likewise be the basis for the formulation of the Annual Investment Program (AIP) which serves as reference in the annual review of budget proposals of line agencies, state universities and colleges and the government owned and controlled corporations.

b. Vertical Integration

Policy issues/concerns with national and/or interregional implications contained in RDPs of all regions, shall be integrated in the MTPDP. At the sub-regional level, the RDP shall serve as the framework for the formulation or updating of the Local Development Plans.

8.4 Financing of the Plan

The programs and projects identified in the RDIP are consistent with the mandates of the concerned agencies. These identified programs and projects would find their way in the agency regular budgets and shall be included in the yearly budget proposals of the agencies. Funds from ODA and other possible sources shall also be tapped, specifically for projects needing huge budgetary requirements and have potential of generating revenues which could significantly address the region's development vision or possibly finance other high impact government projects with considerable development benefits to the populace.

8.5 Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring of plan implementation shall be done regularly. The Results Evaluation and Monitoring Matrix (REMM), a companion document of the RDP, shall be used as reference in tracking the attainment of strategies and targets contained in the RDP. The Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System (RPMES), on the other hand, shall be used in monitoring programs and projects that shall be implemented within the plan period. At the regional level, the Regional Project Monitoring Committee spearheads the monitoring of ODA and other development programs and projects. Each regional line agency shall monitor and evaluate the implementation of their individual mandated programs and projects, particularly agencies with environmental and ecology concerns from which issues may need immediate actions.

Under the system, the Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC) is chaired by NEDA with DBM, DILG, OP-PMS and private sector representatives as members. At the local level, coordination will be undertaken by the Provincial/City Monitoring Committee.

With the different PMCs already organized at the regional, as well as, at the sub-regional levels, what calls to be attended to is the strengthening of the said PMCs to enable them to perform as expected

8.6 Plan Advocacy

To generate support for the implementation of the RDP, 2011-2016, RDC XII shall spearhead the conduct of advocacy activities during the plan period based on a Comprehensive Communication and Advocacy Program for the plan. An RDC XII Advocacy and Information Group shall be organized for this purpose. Activities that may be conducted to advocate the plan may include conduct of forum, preparation of flyers that contain major information of the plan for distribution, include plan information in agencies having regular radio/television programs, etc.

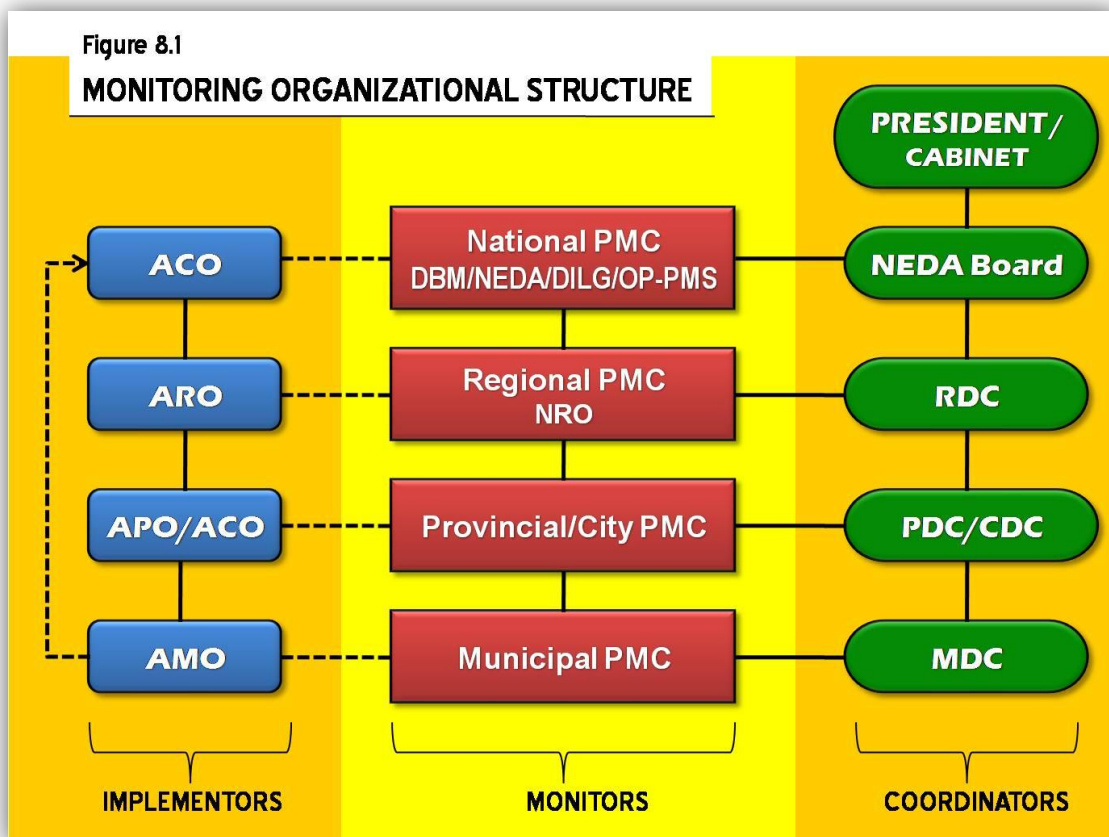
8.7 Capacity-building Programs

Capacity building programs on development planning, investment programming and project monitoring and evaluation shall be pursued to equip with and/or enhance and strengthen the knowledge, skills and capabilities of the agency/LGU planners in the preparation of plans and other development reports.

In addition, institution building activities shall likewise, be strengthened to address networking and development of strong functional linkages among partner agencies and LGUs. This includes sharing of information technology, operationalization of GIS to particularly address the region's concerns on disaster risk reduction.

8.8 Resource Mobilization and Other Related Activities

RDC XII shall initiate actions leading to identification of potential fund sources that are willing to fund development projects for the region. The conduct of resource mobilization forum or any related activities to invite foreign/local donors to provide assistance for the development programs and projects identified in the RDP, 2011-2016 shall be pursued within the planning period.



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