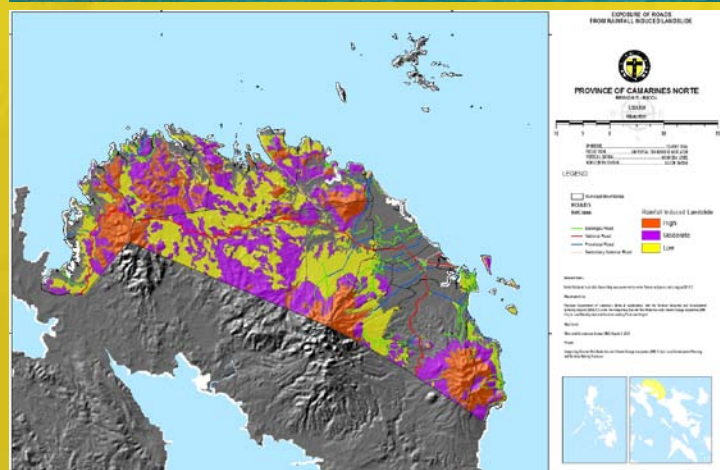




BICOL

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

CY 2011



Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
(Bicol Region) Arimbay, Legazpi City

Foreword

The CY 2011 Regional Development Report assesses the implementation of the medium term Bicol Regional Development Plan 2011-2016.

The RDR evaluates the various strategies, programs, and projects conducted by government and the private sector and how they contributed to the attainment of regional development objectives and the Millennium Development Goals.



The combined efforts of national government agencies, local government units, and the private sector produced significant results. Bicol has attained the MDGs on prevalence of underweight children below five years and access to safe water supply. Tourism and related services propped up the regional economy despite the slowdown in the agriculture and industry sectors. Major infrastructure projects were completed even though government reduced spending in the first three quarters of the year. Bicolanos proved their resilience in the face of Mt. Bulusan eruption and typhoons Bebang, Juaning, and Pedring.

Bicol faces more challenges ahead. I ask everybody to exert more effort in achieving the MDGs on poverty reduction, education, health, and sanitation. Together, let us work towards making Bicol the most livable region in the country.



JOEY SARTE SALCEDA
RDC Chairman

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Regional Office No. 5 Arimbay, Legazpi City

Message



RDC Memorandum Circular No. 1 S. 2012 prescribed the guidelines in the preparation of the CY 2011 Regional Development Report.

The NEDA Regional Office, as RDC secretariat, coordinated the preparation of the RDR with inputs from regional line agencies, local government units, state universities and colleges, and the non-government sector.

The RDR assesses the attainment of regional development objectives and the Millennium Development Goals. It identifies critical development concerns that need urgent and convergent action from agencies, local government units, and other development partners.

We appreciate the efforts of those who submitted their inputs and validated the initial reports presented in sectoral committee meetings. We look forward to the active participation of all development partners in the preparation of the next regional development report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Romeo C. Escandor', written in a cursive style.

ATTY. ROMEO C. ESCANDOR
Regional Director

Table of Contents

<i>Foreword</i>	i
<i>Message</i>	ii
<i>Table of Contents</i>	iii
<i>List of Acronyms</i>	iv
Executive Summary	1
Chapter I: Providing for Basic Needs	5
Education	5
Health	9
Housing	11
Social Welfare	12
Chapter II: Ensuring Economic Growth	15
Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry	15
Mining and Quarrying	19
Manufacturing	21
Trade	21
Tourism	23
Chapter III : Improving Infrastructure	26
Transportation	26
Communications	28
Energy	30
Water Resources	31
Chapter IV: Sustaining Development	32
Land Use Management	32
Good Governance	36
Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation	37
Science and Technology	39

List of Acronyms

ADP	area development plan
AFNR	agriculture, fisheries, and natural resources
AFP	Armed Forces of the Philippines
AHFF	Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry, and Fishing
ALECO	Albay Electric Cooperative
ALS	alternative learning schemes
ARTA	Anti-Red Tape Act
ASTI	Advanced Science and Technology Institute
BAR	Bureau of Agricultural Research
BCARRD	Bicol Consortium for Agriculture Resources Research and Development
BFAR	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
BIR	Bureau of Internal Revenue
BJMP	Bureau of Jail Management and Penology
BRBWMP	Bicol River Basin Watershed Management Project
BRICE	Bicol Regional Invention Contest and Exhibits
CAAP	Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines
CANORECO	Camarines Norte Electric Cooperative
CARE	Calamity Assistance Rehabilitation Effort
CBSUA	Central Bicol State University of Agriculture
CCA	climate change adaptation
CDA	Cooperative Development Authority
CHR	Commission on Human Rights
CIRCA	Center for Initiatives and Research on Climate Adaptation
CLUP	comprehensive land use plan
CSC	Catanduanes State College
CVO	civilian volunteers organization
CY	calendar year
DA	Department of Agriculture
DBM	Department of Budget and Management
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DepEd	Department of Education
DILG	Department of the Interior and Local Government
DMT	dry metric tons
DOE	Department of Energy
DOH	Department of Health
DOJ	Department of Justice
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
DRA	disaster risk assessment
DRR	disaster risk reduction
DRRM	disaster risk reduction and management
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
E-IMPACT	Enhanced Instructional Management for Parents, Community and Teachers

ECD	early childhood development
FARMC	Fisheries and Aquatic Management Council
FIDA	Fiber Industry Development Authority
FITS	Farmers Information and Technology Services
GIS	geographic information system
GRT	gross registered tonnage
GVA	gross value added
HEIs	higher education institutions
HEMOSEP	hemorrhagic septicemia
HDMF	Home Development Mutual Fund
HIGC	Home Insurance Guaranty Corporation
IACPSP	Integrated Area Community Public Safety Plan
ICT	Information and communications technology
ICTO	Information and Communications Technology Office
IEC	information, education and communication
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
KALAHI-CIDSS	Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive Integrated Delivery of Social Services
KASAMA	kabuhayan para sa magulang ng batang manggagawa
LCC	Liberty Commercial Center
LDRRMC	local disaster risk reduction and management council
LDRRMO	local disaster risk reduction and management office
LGU	local government unit
LOI	Letter of Instruction
LPOC	local peace and order council
MARINA	Maritime Industry Authority
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MGB	Mines and Geosciences Bureau
MWP	most wanted person
MSME	micro, small and medium enterprise
MT	metric ton
MTB-MLE	mother tongue-based multi-lingual education
NAVFORSOL	Naval Forces for Southern Luzon
NBS	newborn screening
NDRRMC	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council
NEA	National Electrification Administration
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
NFA	National Food Authority
NGO	non-government organization
NHA	National Housing Authority
NHMFC	National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation
NIA	National Irrigation Administration
NSO	National Statistics Office
OCD	Office of Civil Defense
OPAPP	Office of the Presidential Assistant on the Peace Process
OPIF	organizational performance indicator framework
PAFC	Provincial Agriculture and Fishery Council
PAGASA	Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration
Pag-IBIG	Pagtutulungan sa Kinabukasan - Ikaw, Bangko, Industriya at Gobyerno

PAMANA	Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan
PCA	Philippine Coconut Authority
PCG	Philippine Coast Guard
PDPFP	Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan
PHILRICE	Philippine Rice Research Institute
PHIVOLCS	Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology
PIA	Philippine Information Agency
PLDT	Philippine Long Distance Telephone
PMC	pre-marriage counselling
PNP	Philippine National Police
PNR	Philippine National Railways
PO	people's organization
POPCOM	Population Commission
PPA	Philippine Ports Authority
PPC	Philippine Postal Corporation
PSWDO	Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office
R&D	research and development
RA	Republic Act
RCS	report card survey
RDC	Regional Development Council
RDP	regional development plan
RDRMC	Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council
RHU	rural health unit
RORO	roll-on roll-off
RPOC	Regional Peace and Order Council
S&T	science and technology
SENA	single entry approach
SRNH	strong republic nautical highway
SRS	skills registry system
SSES	special science elementary school
SSS	Social Security System
SUCs	state universities and colleges
SY	school year
TELOF	Telecommunications Office
TGP	TechnoGabay Program
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
4Ps	Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program

Executive Summary

The Regional Development Plan 2011-2016 envisions Bicol as the most livable region in 2020. This means that the percentage of poor Bicolanos is reduced by more than half to meet the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) on poverty reduction. To achieve this, the following are the major strategic interventions: providing for basic needs, ensuring economic growth, improving infrastructure, and sustaining development.

Basic social services on education, health, housing, and social welfare were provided. These resulted to: increased enrolment in public and private kindergarten, elementary, and secondary schools; improved cohort survival, drop-out, and completion rates in elementary and secondary levels; wider immunization and health insurance coverage; low prevalence of underweight children below five years; and expanded coverage of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

However, participation rate or net enrolment ratio in primary education was only 92.3 percent, a long way from the MDG target of 100 percent, i.e., universal access to primary education. The MDG target on the prevalence of underweight children below five years is already achieved, but the same cannot be said for infant and maternal mortality rates and death rate due to tuberculosis. Likewise, the MDG target on the proportion of households with access to safe water supply is already achieved, but the percentage of households with sanitary toilets is still below the MDG target.

The regional economy expanded by 2.6 percent, slower than the previous year's 5.2 percent and the country's 3.9 percent growth. The slowdown was due to slower growth in agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing (AHFF) and industry sectors despite a faster growth in the services sector. Of the 17 regions in the country, only five showed accelerated economic growth. Eleven regions including Bicol posted slower economic growth and one region posted a negative growth. Bicol contributed two percent to the country's gross domestic product.

The AHFF sector slowed down from 4.6 percent to 0.7 percent due to decreased production of palay, coconut, livestock, and fishery. Heavy rains in the first semester, the occurrence of typhoons Bebang and Juaning, and the eruption of Mt. Bulusan contributed to the decrease in palay and fishery production. The drought in 2010 resulted to a decrease in coconut production in 2011.

The industry sector slowed down from 10.9 percent to 1.9 percent due to a slump in the mining and quarrying and construction subsectors. The contraction in mining and quarrying was due to a decrease in gold and silver production.

The slump in construction was due to decreased government spending that hampered the implementation of infrastructure projects. On the other hand, growth in the manufacturing subsector accelerated to 38.8 percent from 14.6 percent the previous year. The surge in manufacturing output was attributed to the cement industry in Albay and the region's micro, small, and medium enterprises that manufacture gifts, toys, houseware, and processed food for export.

The electricity, gas, and water subsector grew by 2.9 percent, slower than the previous year's 7.8 percent due to the continued rehabilitation of geothermal plants in the region.

The services sector buoyed up the regional economy with a 3.9 percent growth, faster than the previous year's 3.7 percent. Among the subsectors, transportation and communication, trade, real estate, and other services including tourism posted accelerated growth.

The growth in transportation and communication services was brought about by increased air passenger traffic, additional flights and sea transport routes, and increase in subscribed communication lines.

New business establishments, such as Oriental Hotel, Puregold, LCC expressmarts, and restaurants also contributed to the growth in real estate, renting, business services, and retail trade. Tourist arrival increased by 9.3 percent and generated about P2 billion in revenues.

The regional economy created new employment opportunities for Bicolanos. Based on the quarterly labor force surveys of NSO, the region's labor force population increased by 28,000 resulting to a labor force participation rate of 64.4 percent, the same level as the previous year but lower than the country's 64.6 percent.

Employment rate was 93.9 percent, higher than the country's 93 percent, but lower than the previous year's 94.1 percent. Employment rate decreased despite the increase in the number of employed persons by 21,000. This indicates that employment generation was not able to keep up with the increasing number of persons looking for jobs. Although underemployment rate improved from 36.8 percent to 35.4 percent, it is still the highest in the country.

Prices of major commodities and services were relatively stable. Regional inflation rate averaged 4.7 percent, lower than the country's 4.8 percent but higher than the previous year's 3.9 percent. As a result, purchasing power of the peso slid to P0.78 from P0.81. Transport and education services contributed largely to the higher inflation rate.

Major transport projects were implemented towards achieving an integrated and efficient inter-modal transport system. Strategic roads leading to tourism and investment areas were rehabilitated. Train service from Manila to Polangui, Albay was restored in December.

The completion of the Pioduran port in June led to the opening of the Pioduran-Claveria and Pioduran-Masbate City roll-on roll-off (RORO) routes. The RORO service from Nato port in Sagnay to Guijalo port in Caramoan was also inaugurated in June.

Additional commercial flights in Legazpi and Naga airports contributed to the improvement of the air transport system. The construction of the Southern Luzon International Airport is ongoing and is expected to be completed in 2014.

Rehabilitation of the BacMan geothermal power plant is ongoing and will be completed in 2012. Among the 11 electric cooperatives, only CANORECO achieved a single digit systems loss. Energization of barangays reached 99 percent, with only ALECO failing to energize the remaining two barangays in its coverage area.

Water supply projects were implemented in rural areas. Irrigation projects resulted to the rehabilitation of 5,057 hectares, restoration of 473 hectares, and 369 hectares of new service areas.

Sustaining development entails good governance, rational land use management, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, productivity improvement, and increasing competitiveness. The report card survey revealed that 508 agencies out of 563 (90%) complied with the provisions of the Anti-Red Tape Act.

Out of 120 local government units (LGUs), 79 or 66 percent received the seal of good housekeeping and are qualified to avail of the performance challenge fund. A total of 113 LGUs or 94 percent complied with the full disclosure policy by posting their budget, finances, bids, and public offerings in websites, newspapers, and in conspicuous places within their localities.

On peace and order, the average crime rate decreased from 26 to 18 per 100,000 population. Overall crime solution efficiency rose from 17.3 to 21.5 percent. Police to population ratio was 1:745, better than the previous year's 1:816. The RDC passed Resolution No. 69 calling for a stop to illegal fishing activities in the region, particularly in Ragay Gulf, Burias Pass, and Asid Gulf.

Of the 114 cities and municipalities in the region, 51 or 45 percent have comprehensive land use plans (CLUPs) that are due for updating, i.e., with lapsed planning period of ten years or more. Thirteen LGUs or 11 percent have never formulated their CLUPs. The remaining 50 LGUs or 44 percent have CLUPs that are updated or have lapsed planning period of less than ten years but are still enforceable.

Among the provinces, only Albay, Camarines Norte, and Catanduanes have completed their provincial development and physical framework plans and provincial development investment programs.

In compliance with RA 10121, 48 LGUs or 40 percent have created their local disaster risk reduction and management offices. The country's first Climate Change Academy, located within the Bicol University campus, was inaugurated by President Aquino in November.

For 2012, more efforts should focus on attaining the MDG targets on poverty reduction, education, health, and sanitation. Poverty incidence among Bicolanos stood at 45.1 percent, still a long way from the MDG and plan target of 27.3 percent.

The implementation of the K+12 basic education curriculum, expansion of the conditional cash transfer program and health insurance coverage, and increased budget for the agriculture, fishery and forestry sector are expected to provide short and long term benefits to the poor Bicolano households.

The RDC identified priority sectoral concerns for CY 2012 to translate the regional development plan into more focused, integrated, and convergent programs, projects, and activities.

For the social sector, these are improving the retention rate in elementary and secondary education and improving the secondary vocational education system. For the economic sector, these are promoting rice sufficiency, promoting rural enterprises, and promoting tourism in all provinces in Bicol.

For the infrastructure sector, these are reducing power rate in the region and integration of the land transportation system in Bicol. For the development administration sector, the priority is promoting CLUP preparation among cities and municipalities in the region.

Technical committees for each sectoral concern will coordinate, facilitate, and monitor the implementation of sector action plans and CY 2012 work programs.

Chapter I

Providing for Basic Needs

Education

The Bicol Regional Development Plan 2011-2016 aims to provide access to quality education for all Bicolanos and improve education outcomes at all levels.

Efforts to improve the access and quality of basic education were undertaken. These include making kindergarten compulsory to all school children and initiating the transition towards a 12-year basic education. Programs, projects, activities, and policies that were implemented include the no collection policy upon enrolment, adopt-a-pupil program, feeding program, brigada eskwela, conditional cash transfer program, education voucher system, financial assistance, free school supplies, hiring of teachers, and establishment of new schools.

These efforts resulted to increased enrolment in public and private kindergarten, elementary, and secondary schools and improved cohort survival, drop-out, and completion rates in elementary and secondary levels.

Enrolment in public kindergarten schools increased by 27.6 percent or from 102,712 pupils in SY 2010-2011 to 131,113 in SY 2011-2012. Enrolment in private kindergarten schools also improved by 7.8 percent or from 15,708 to 16,936 pupils. The percentage of Grade 1 pupils with early childhood development (ECD) experience in Bicol was 83.2 percent, higher than the previous year's 76.4 percent and higher than the country's 76.9 percent. However, it is still a long way from the plan target of 100 percent by 2016. There were more female Grade 1 pupils with ECD experience (84.6%) than males (81.9%).

Enrolment increased in public elementary schools by 2.4 percent and in private elementary schools by 3.5 percent. Enrolment in public secondary schools also increased by 2.2 percent and in private secondary schools by 1.5 percent. However, the net enrolment ratio in primary education was 92.3 percent, which means that not all children ages 6-11 are in school. Although the region's net enrolment ratio in primary education was higher than the country's 83 percent, it is still below the MDG target of 100 percent, i.e., universal access to primary education. Net enrolment ratio in primary education was higher for females (92.6%) than males (91.1%).

The increase in enrolment is also attributed to the increase in the number of schools at all levels. There were 908 additional public pre-schools, ten public elementary schools and three private elementary schools during the year. For the secondary level, there were nine additional public and two additional private schools.

Cohort survival rate or the proportion of children enrolled in grade 1 who reached grade 6 increased from 66.9 percent to 76.8 percent, higher than the country's 71.4 percent but lower than the target of 85.9 percent. The rate is higher among females (81.7%) than males (72.4%). In the secondary level, cohort survival rate also increased from 64.7 percent to 73.1 percent, lower than the country's 74.6 percent and the plan target of 86.8 percent. Again, females have a higher survival rate of 80.1 percent compared to 66.3 percent among males.

Elementary drop-out rate improved from 0.82 percent to 0.74 percent, better than the country's 0.92 percent but still far from the plan target of 0.5 percent. There were more drop-outs among male elementary pupils (0.95%) than among females (0.51%). In the secondary level, drop-out rate improved from 6.1 percent to 5.3 percent, a little higher than the country's 5.1 percent and still a long way from the zero plan target.

Elementary completion rate increased from 65.7 percent to 67.4 percent, the same as the national level but still lower than the plan target of 85.4 percent. Completion rate was higher among females (73.6%) than among males (62.1%). Secondary completion rate also increased from 60.7 percent to 67.9 percent, lower than the country's 68.2 percent and the plan target of 79.7 percent. Again, completion rate was higher among females (76.1%) than among males (60.1%).

Elementary teacher-pupil ratio was 1:36, the same as the national ratio and better than the standard 1:45. Secondary teacher-student ratio was 1:36, a manageable ratio but with teacher shortage. The plan target of 1:35 for teacher-pupil ratio in the elementary and secondary levels was not achieved.

Elementary classroom-pupil ratio was 1:38, which is in accordance with classroom requirements as provided in RA 7880 or the Fair and Equitable Access to Education Act. However, secondary classroom-student ratio was 1:49, which indicates classroom shortage.

From the CY 2011 basic education facilities fund, the region was allocated P450.7 million for the construction of 643 new classrooms for both elementary and secondary levels in areas experiencing acute classroom shortage. However, this is only 5.8 percent of the combined 11,081 target new classrooms for the elementary and secondary levels.

For LGU-implemented schoolbuilding projects, 316 elementary and secondary classrooms valued at P255.6 million were targeted to be constructed. A total of 930 elementary and secondary schools were also targeted to be repaired amounting to P49.2 million. Except for those in Ligao City, these school repair projects have yet to be completed by the concerned LGUs.

The K+12 program was launched, particularly the K-6-4-2 model which involves kindergarten, six years of elementary education, four years of junior high school (Grades 7-10) and two years of senior high school (Grades 11-12).

Also launched was the mother tongue-based multi-lingual education (MTB-MLE) using the mother tongue or the language used at home as a medium of instruction in kindergarten up to grade 3 except in Filipino and English subjects. The MTB-MLE resulted to easier understanding of the lessons and more participation in class discussion as pupils are able to express themselves more easily.

Special education classes were conducted for children with special needs. Classes teaching Arabic language and Islamic values for Muslim children were organized in Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur and Masbate and the city divisions of Iriga, Legazpi and Sorsogon. For incomplete schools, 1,067 multi-grade classes were sustained in seven schools divisions.

The enhanced instructional management for parents, community and teachers (E-IMPACT) addressed the issue of little or no access to education. E-IMPACT is a technology-enhanced alternative delivery mode of learning using a peer-led approach that allows pupils to learn, interact with each other and develop their potentials.

To contribute to the attainment of the MDG target on universal primary education, 100 para-teachers were hired in Masbate and deployed in remote barangays. Under the special science elementary school (SSES) project, five additional schools offered a specialized curriculum focused on the sciences for SY 2011-2012. There are now 13 schools implementing the SSES in the region.

The DepEd continued to implement the reading recovery program in two schools divisions with 12 classes. The reading recovery is an early literacy intervention to reduce the number of children with reading and writing difficulties after one year of formal instruction.

Alternative learning schemes (ALS) were provided to out-of-school youth, differently-abled, and indigenous peoples. A total of 37,020 marginalized Bicolanos were enrolled under the ALS program, broken down as follows: 28,928 under the accreditation and equivalency program; 7,341 enrolees under the basic literacy program; 721 under the ALS Gabay sa Pamayanan; and 30 enrolees under the informal education program.

The overall passing percentage in the regional achievement test improved by 14.7 percentage points from 49 percent in SY 2008-2009 to 63.7 percent in SY 2010-2011. However, the passing percentage in the national achievement test hardly improved from 66.2 percent.

Enrolment in tertiary education increased to 137,090 in SY 2011-2012 from 128,645 the previous year. Of this number, 47 percent were enrolled in private higher education institutions (HEIs), 45 percent were enrolled in state universities and colleges (SUCs), and the rest were enrolled in local community colleges managed by LGUs. There were 153 HEIs in SY 2011-2012, three more compared to the previous year. Of this number, 46 are public and 107 are private HEIs. The additional three are private HEIs: one in Albay and two in Camarines Sur.

A total of 161 programs of 107 private HEIs were accredited, with the college of arts and sciences having the highest number of accredited programs. Among the eight SUCs, 132 programs were accredited with graduate programs having the highest number of accredited courses. Within the HEIs, 37 research and development centers were operationalized and 56 research agenda were formulated based on the national and regional higher education research agenda.

Scholarships and financial assistance were provided to 1,411 students, higher than the previous year's 862 students. More than half (59%) of the 20,506 students who completed their undergraduate courses in SY 2010-2011 were females. Likewise, majority came from HEIs in the cities of Legazpi and Naga, the regional centers for higher education in the region.

More than half (54%) of the faculty members in higher education are holders of baccalaureate degrees; 36 percent are graduates of masteral degrees; and only 10 percent are doctoral degree holders. This contributes to the deteriorating quality in higher education in addition to the increasing number of SUC satellite campuses and increasing number of programs that are not within the SUC mandate.

The critical areas of concern for higher education are: (1) skills and job mismatch; (2) deteriorating quality of higher education; and (3) limited access to quality higher education. The skills and job mismatch results to high unemployment and underemployment. Although there are jobs available in mining, aeronautics, geology and software engineering, there are not enough graduates to fill such jobs. Courses that are oversubscribed or over-enrolled are business administration, nursing, teacher education, information technology, hotel and restaurant management, and maritime. Undersubscribed courses are those on science and technology and on agriculture and fisheries.

For CY 2012, efforts will focus on sustaining the increase in elementary net enrolment ratio in order to meet the MDG target of universal access to primary education. Cohort survival, completion rates, and achievement scores will be improved and the transition towards the K+12 program will be completed. The region needs to hire 591 new elementary teachers and 2,195 new secondary teachers.

The RDC identified the following priority concerns under the social sector: improving the retention rate in elementary and secondary education and improving the secondary vocational education system. A technical committee for each concern will coordinate and monitor the implementation of the sector action plans and CY 2012 work programs.

The rationalization of higher education will be pursued to improve access, quality and standards. This involves aligning with national development goals, developing a typology of HEIs, mapping of HEIs and programs, amalgamation of HEIs, moratorium on new HEIs and programs, and harmonizing public and private HEIs. Improving quality and standards involves expansion of faculty development, phase-out/closure of substandard programs and institutions, and aligning HEI curricula and standards with international benchmarks. Increasing access to quality education entails expanding scholarships and financial assistance to students and teachers.

Health

The regional development plan aims to provide access to health, nutrition, and family planning services for all Bicolanos and improve health, nutrition, and family planning outcomes.

The “Kalusugan Pangkalahatan” or universal health care program improved the access to quality health care and provided financial risk protection to help attain the MDG targets on maternal, newborn, and child health and nutrition, and disease prevention and control. Under the health facility enhancement program, public health facilities were upgraded and provided with the necessary medical equipment.

Regional estimates of health indicators for 2011 were not yet available. But for 2010, crude death rate was 4.3 deaths per 1,000 population and crude birth rate was 20.05 births per 1,000 population. Infant mortality rate was 10.2 deaths per 1,000 live births compared to the MDG target of 8.4 by 2015. Under-five mortality rate was 16.7 compared to the MDG target of 15.9 by 2015. Maternal mortality rate was 96.49 deaths per 1,000 live births, still far from the MDG target of 31.6 by 2015. Death rate due to tuberculosis was 27, also a long way from the MDG target of zero by 2015.

The provinces of Masbate and Albay were recognized for their commitment in providing health services to their constituents. Masbate placed second in the region in the attainment of health-related MDGs with 95 percent immunization coverage and 97 percent Vitamin A supplementation coverage. PhilHealth recognized Albay as the only province in the region that has achieved universal health coverage. To sustain its health insurance coverage for indigents, the province validated and recommended 157,955 families for renewal of coverage under the PhilHealth sa Masa program.

Bicol ranked third among regions with the highest percentage (89%) of children immunized against measles and rubella. This is in line with the country's commitment to the World Health Organization's goal of reducing if not eliminating the incidence of measles by 2012.

To inspire LGUs and health institutions to support the Newborn Screening (NBS) program, the first NBS regional awarding was conducted. The awardees include: Ligao City Health Office, Vicente Peralta Memorial District Hospital (Sorsogon), Bicol Sanitarium (Camarines Sur), Children of Abraham Puericulture Center (Legazpi City), Aquinas University Hospital (Legazpi City), Tabaco College Hospital (Tabaco City), and St. John Hospital (Naga City). The House Maternity Lying-In Clinic of the Legazpi city health office and the rural health unit (RHU) of Gubat, Sorsogon were recognized for having the highest number of newborn babies screened.

A mental health clinic in Catanduanes was established and 126 mentally-ill patients were given free check-up and medicines. In Masbate, the upgrading of its provincial hospital to a 200 bed capacity was started, six RHUs were upgraded as basic emergency maternal obstetric and newborn care facilities, and 31 barangay health stations were upgraded as birthing facilities. Buntis-baby banks were also established in six municipalities of the province.

As part of the accelerated hunger mitigation interventions of the government, the Supplementary Feeding Program served 116,631 children in all public day care centers. Likewise, the Healthy Start Feeding Program served 42,918 day care children. These resulted to a low prevalence (16%) of underweight children below five years of age in 2010, already meeting the MDG target of 34.2 by 2015.

In Legazpi City, nutrition programs were implemented, such as supplemental feeding, distribution of medicines and vaccines, and conduct of diet counselling classes. The provincial nutrition office of Catanduanes distributed nutrition information and education materials on infant and young child feeding, Pabasa sa Nutrisyon strategy, and use of the egg and vegetables syllabi.

Responsible parenting and family planning barangay classes were conducted in partnership with LGUs, highlighting responsible parenthood, fertility awareness, and family planning. These were integrated into the family development sessions of the 4Ps. A total of 1,930 classes attended by 19,069 couples were conducted in 788 barangays. POPCOM intensified information and education campaign (IEC) on responsible parenting, family planning, and reproductive health by mobilizing broadcast media and conduct of public fora and symposia among schools. IEC activities were also conducted on the salient features of the consolidated bill on responsible parenthood, reproductive health, and population and development.

The implementation of the Pre-Marriage Counselling (PMC) Program at the LGU level was continued using the new PMC manual. The provinces of Albay, Catanduanes and Masbate provided funds for the conduct of PMC training. Parent education classes on adolescent reproductive health were conducted in Tabaco City and Del Gallego, Camarines Sur. POPCOM also conducted orientations, fora, and symposia on adolescent health and youth development in secondary schools in the six provinces.

For 2012, the provision of basic services on health, nutrition, family planning, disease control and prevention will be directed towards achieving the MDG targets on maternal and infant mortality, tuberculosis death rate, immunization coverage, and contraceptive prevalence rate. Concerned agencies will harmonize target groups, sustain programs and projects on health, nutrition, and family planning, and actively involve the local health boards and nutrition councils.

Housing

The regional development plan aims to provide decent, affordable, and safe houses to homeless Bicolano families and provide potable water and sanitation facilities to households.

A total of 2,328 units of housing assistance¹ were provided to housing beneficiaries, mainly from housing loans, Resettlement-CARE program, core shelter program, and local housing programs. This is lower than the previous year's output of 2,424 units of housing assistance and represents seven percent of the plan target by 2016.

The housing loan program of Pag-IBIG delivered 1,156 housing units worth P650.382 million, representing 14 percent of the plan target by 2016, but is lower by 32 percent compared to the units completed last year. Under the Resettlement-CARE program of NHA, a total of 1,037 units were completed which exceeded last year's output by 43.6 percent. Likewise, 41 units were completed under the local housing program. The core shelter program of the DSWD assisted victims of calamities and disasters by providing 294 core shelter units.

The province of Masbate, in partnership with the Gawad Kalinga Foundation, sponsored the construction of housing units for the poor. The provincial government of Sorsogon awarded 100 units of core houses to its beneficiary households and purchased four hectares of lot for the housing project.

¹ A "unit of housing assistance" is a contact-based measure. For example, if one household receives production assistance from NHA, financing from NHMFC, and credit guarantee from HIGC (indirectly), then three units of housing assistance will be recorded, rather than assistance to one household.

Ten municipalities signed a memorandum of agreement with the DOH under the Water for Waterless Municipalities project: Basud and Capalonga in Camarines Norte; Garchitorena and Siruma in Camarines Sur; and Cataingan, Cawayan, Mandaon, Placer, Uson, and Milagros in Masbate. These municipalities will each receive a water system project worth P10 million. As of 2010, the proportion of households with access to safe water supply was 87.5 percent, already meeting the MDG target of 67.5 percent in 2015. The percentage of households with sanitary toilets was 65.4 percent in 2010, still far from the MDG target of 79.2 percent in 2015.

For 2012, efforts will focus on enabling LGUs to provide socialized housing services to homeless constituents and relocate families in disaster risk areas to safe communities. The provision of sanitary toilets will be prioritized to meet the MDG target on sanitation.

Social Welfare

The regional development plan aims to provide social welfare services to the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

The 4Ps expanded its coverage area to all seven cities and 107 municipalities in the region. This brings to 305,988 the total number of household beneficiaries, which is more than the 268,204 target households. The DSWD monitors compliance of beneficiaries to the conditions set by the program. Compliance to health conditions averaged 93 percent. Compliance to two education conditions averaged 93 and 95 percent. Compliance to family development sessions averaged 94 percent.

The KALAHI-CIDSS program implemented 120 community development projects with 661,220 household beneficiaries. These projects include school buildings, health stations, water systems, farm-to-market roads, day care centers, drainage, flood control, irrigation, and post-harvest facilities.

The Poder Y Prosperidad de la Comunidad program completed 107 community projects with 17,497 household beneficiaries. The program complemented the supply side requirement of the conditional cash transfer program or 4Ps through the construction of school buildings, health stations and day care centers.

A total of 94 Level I associations and three Level II groups were organized under the self-employment assistance kaunlaran program which gave seed capital for livelihood activities. The number of organized groups is more than the target of 72 for the entire planning period. Total amount of assistance was P18.999 million, which is more than the target of P18 million.

About 273,796 families who were victims of disasters received relief goods, food for work, and emergency shelter assistance. Fifty-five persons with disabilities were provided with crutches, wheel chair or quad cane. A total of 13,348 indigent senior citizens were provided social pension under Republic Act No. 9994. Eighteen children who were abandoned, 12 who were neglected, and 26 who were voluntarily committed or surrendered were placed under protective custody. Sixteen children were also placed for domestic and inter-country adoption, re-integrated to family or transferred to other institutions where their needs can be more attended. Forty-three children in conflict with the law were placed under protective custody and provided rehabilitation interventions.

The city government of Legazpi implemented the Child and Youth Welfare Program, which includes the construction of day care centers and the 24/7 operation of the social development center. The provincial social welfare and development office (PSWDO) of Masbate assisted 110 persons in crisis situations and provided technical support to the implementation of 4Ps, women and children protection unit, and the KALAHI-CIDSS program. An information communication technology program for out-of-school youth was also implemented. PSWDO-Sorsogon served 500 clients in crisis situations, accredited 14 day care centers/workers under the supplemental feeding program, provided emergency shelter assistance to 13 families who were left homeless due to fire, and provided rice subsidy for small farmers and fisherfolks under the cash for work/training program.

Labor welfare programs were implemented to ensure a gainfully employed, safe and healthy workforce. To enhance the access of workers to employment opportunities, job search assistance for wage employment and capacity building services for livelihood and self-employment were undertaken. Forty-three establishments were registered for accreditation under the Phil-JobNet, an automated job and applicant matching system which aims to fast-track jobseekers' search for jobs and employers' search for manpower. A total of 5,868 job applicants were registered in the national skills registry system (SRS), a labor market information tool for LGUs. Pilot areas for the first wave of SRS implementation were the cities of Naga and Tabaco. The second wave included Daraga in Albay, Daet, Talisay and Labo in Camarines Norte, and Sorsogon City and Pilar in Sorsogon.

The public employment service office registered 33,418 job applicants, out of which 22,246 applicants were placed for employment in both private and government sectors. Forty-two job fairs were conducted, representing a 114 percent increase from the previous year. A total of 16,635 job applicants were registered, higher by 111 percent than the previous year's 15,000 applicants. The special program for employment of students provided bridging employment assistance to 3,517 students and would-be entrants to the labor force, which is 103 percent higher than the 3,428 youth beneficiaries the previous year.

Under the DOLE integrated livelihood program, 53 projects created 2,232 jobs for 2,612 beneficiaries. The program provides productive, gainful and secure employment to marginalized and unprotected workers with the following package of integrated livelihood interventions: livelihood enhancement, livelihood formation, and income augmentation. Capacity building programs for livelihood enhancement, livelihood formation, and income augmentation for wage workers were also conducted. Under the emergency wage employment assistance program, 11 projects helped 1,708 workers augment their meager income and sustain everyday needs.

To enhance speedy labor justice and promote industrial peace, the single entry approach or SENA resulted to the settlement of 339 labor cases that benefited 347 workers. A tripartite industrial peace council for the construction sector and seven industry tripartite councils for different sectors were established. On labor standard enforcement, 805 establishments were inspected and 73 establishments were found to have violated the minimum wage standard. Of the violators, 73 establishments were corrected at plant level, resulting to an 80 percent correction rate.

Sixty union officers representing 20 labor unions benefited from the labor union capability enhancement training. Six new and renewed collective bargaining agreements were registered covering 1,004 workers, while 199 workers' organizations with total membership of 8,245 workers were also registered. On continuing labor and employment education, 18 seminars were conducted on labor relations, human relations and productivity involving 254 companies with 537 participants. In addition, 12 seminars on labor education were conducted with participants from 334 companies. Fifty-three seminars were also conducted on labor education for 8,838 graduating students.

On child labor prevention and elimination, 64 parents of former child workers were recipients of the *kabuhayan para sa magulang ng batang manggagawa (KASAMA)* in the form of nego karts, *kabuhayan* starter kits, and hog contract growing projects. A total of 180 children were prevented from child labor through educational assistance and 298 children were beneficiaries of the project angel tree. The DOLE entered into a memorandum of agreement between the provinces of Albay and Sorsogon for the creation of a provincial anti-child labor committee towards the prevention and elimination of child labor.

Priorities for 2012 include: (1) complementation of the 4Ps with other social protection programs to ensure linkage with job generation, livelihood/microfinance, community-driven development programs and asset reform; (2) expansion of the convergence of social protection programs; and (3) improved targeting of social protection programs.

Chapter II

Ensuring Economic Growth

Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry

The regional development plan aims to: (1) increase gross value added (GVA) in agriculture, fishery and forestry; (2) increase the income of farmers and fishers; (3) attain self-sufficiency in basic food commodities; and (4) produce raw materials needed for agribusiness and exports.

GVA in the agriculture, hunting, forestry, and fishing (AHFF) sector increased by only 0.7 percent compared to the previous year's 4.6 percent. This is because of a slower growth in agriculture from 4.8 percent to 1.2 percent due to decreased palay and coconut production. The fishery subsector contracted by 0.8 percent due to a decreased production from municipal marine fishery and aquaculture.

Production of palay, the major grain crop in Bicol, decreased by 0.94 percent from the previous year. The decrease in production was attributed to heavy rains in the first semester of the year, infestation of "kohol", and occurrence of natural calamities. Heavy rains during the first semester affected low lying rice paddies. Newly planted as well as ready to harvest crops were submerged in flood waters resulting to heavy losses. The continuous downpour and cold weather condition delayed planting and application of fertilizer. However, heavy rains benefited rainfed palay production, which increased by 16 percent.

Other natural calamities affected the production of crops. The eruption of Mt. Bulusan caused the deficit in the supply of seeds. Planting of palay in Sorsogon was disrupted due to ashfall. Damages amounted to P2.56 million. The DA and NFA distributed 2,005 bags of palay seeds to farmers for replanting.

Typhoon Bebang affected 9,387 hectares of palay in Camarines Sur. Typhoon Juaning damaged 218 hectares of palay, 38 hectares of corn, and 10 hectares of vegetables in Albay. The typhoon also affected 25,061 hectares of palay and 5,325 hectares of corn in Camarines Sur. About 115 hectares of vegetable and fruit farms were damaged. In Sorsogon, damage to palay farms reached an estimated cost of P9.4 million. Damage to vegetables covered 2.62 hectares valued at P286,870.

Quality planting materials through breeder seeds that were multiplied into registered, certified and good seeds were distributed to farmers. Fertilizer and other soil ameliorants were also distributed. Extension support, training and education services were provided to extension agents and farmers.

One of the strategies in the Bicol RDP is the development of rice production systems that will counter the effect of rising temperature and changing weather conditions. The DA gave farmers submergence tolerant, drought tolerant, early maturing, and saline tolerant rice varieties. Upland rice varieties were also introduced.

The DA and BAR conducted Phase II of the Re-Planning for Provincial Rice Self-Sufficiency for Bicol. It is part of the nationwide “Collaborative Research Development and Extension Services for Food Security” project of BAR. Planning for rice self sufficiency considered factors affecting demand and supply including climate change.

PHILRICE established its seventh station in the country located on a 25-hectare site in Batang, Ligao City that will be expanded to 50 hectares. The state of the art facility include an administration building, research and training buildings, seed processing plant, warehouse, training dormitory, staff apartments, two guesthouse buildings, and a pipe irrigation system.

Corn production increased by 23.3 percent or from 174,478 metric tons in 2010 to 215,025 metric tons in 2011. More than 50 percent of the corn produced came from Camarines Sur. A strategy for increasing corn production is the clustering of adjacent areas to facilitate the delivery of extension and other support services. This was done in 25,305 hectares of corn areas. Support services were provided through the distribution of open pollinated varieties, soil fertility mapping, balanced fertilization, soil amelioration through lime application, biological control and market matching. In Masbate, entrepreneurial training programs for the production of chichacorn were conducted.

Coconut production fell by 33 percent from 1,269,538 metric tons in 2010 to 850,896 metric tons in 2011. Coconut output was affected by the dry spell in the first half of 2010. Likewise, heavy production for the last three years caused stress to the coconut palms. Catanduanes had the highest decline of 56 percent followed by Masbate with a decline of 40 percent. Factors that affected production were: a long dry spell in Masbate, typhoons, erratic weather, and senility of coconut trees.

Abaca production was registered at 22,206 metric tons, an increase of 21 percent over the previous year. All the abaca producing provinces except Albay posted an increase in output. Catanduanes maintained its spot as the top producer of abaca with an average share of 80 percent to the region's total production. Purchase prices gradually inched up from P31.98/kg in 2010 to P39.90/kg in 2011, thus boosting the abaca industry's strong performance. Local fiber consumption for pulp and paper, cordage and fibercraft was eight percent higher than the previous year. However, Bicol's raw fiber shipments to China, United Kingdom and Japan dropped by 17 percent.

The production of abaca planting materials in tissue culture laboratories, fiber seedbanks and nurseries yielded 882,825 planting materials. The distribution of various types of abaca planting materials benefited 117 farmers. Technical assistance was provided to 873 abaca farmers within 771 hectares of new abaca areas. Abaca disease treatment covered about 483 hectares and rehabilitation of abaca farms covered 1,208 hectares. In collaboration with LGUs and NGOs, three new abaca nurseries were established in San Vicente, Gigmoto in Catanduanes (1.0 ha), San Ramon, Balatan (1.0 ha) and Bagong Silang, Del Gallego (2.0 has) in Camarines Sur. Existing nurseries comprising 51.25 hectares were maintained.

Other projects include disease mapping and pest disease eradication activities. The abaca farming mechanization program was initiated as a major component of the Catanduanes Unlad Abakamasa Development. Spindle stripping machines were distributed, stripping centers were constructed, and tramline projects were started.

Activities for the development of the pili industry were carried out. Sorsogon PAFC spearheaded the organization of Angels' Sunshine Pili Association which pioneered the making of trinkets and fashion accessories out of pili shells. The DA and the province of Sorsogon collaborated in securing the equipment for making pili shells into decorative items, necklaces and fashion accessories. In Catanduanes, ten techno-demonstration sites for pili were established in partnership with DA and in coordination with LGUs. A total of 8,000 pili seedlings were distributed to farmers.

For the period July 2010 to July 2011, carabao and hog populations decreased by 0.33 percent and 5.63 percent. The decrease was due to cold weather and continuous rains. Hypothermal reactions caused the animals to become weak that led to respiratory problems. As a result, animal raisers were urged to sell their animal stocks to avoid loss in capital. Goat population posted positive growth.

Masbate was the top producer of cattle and goat. Masbate contributed 50 percent of the regional cattle population and 40 percent of the goat population. During the second quarter of the year, DA operated two livestock laboratory facilities. Breeders were maintained and these include 36 cattle for dairy, 60 carabaos, 24 goats, 21 sheep, and 11 swine. The province of Catanduanes conducted the Unified Artificial Insemination Program for the livestock sector. Other activities include heat synchronization, pregnancy diagnosis, artificial insemination, deworming, and HEMOSEP vaccination.

The DA maintained five production centers for semen. Semen straws were distributed for the artificial insemination of cattle and carabao. Some 2,206 animals were inseminated. Other services include the distribution of drugs and biologics, vaccination and deworming.

The volume of fishery production totalled 289,006 metric tons, a 0.47 percent decrease compared to the previous year and lower than the target by seven percent. Municipal fisheries remained as the biggest contributor to the regional catch with 49.7 percent, followed by commercial fisheries with 24 percent, and the rest contributed by aquaculture fisheries. Municipal fishery production was 143,711 metric tons, lower than the previous year by 2.56 percent. Of this, 96 percent came from marine municipal fishing and four percent from inland municipal fishing.

Marine municipal fishery production went down by 2.87 percent, while inland municipal fishery production gained five percent. The region's annual commercial fishery production at 68,972 metric tons was 0.22 percent higher than the previous year. Camarines Sur unloaded the bulk of commercial fish with 34,916 metric tons. Aquaculture production at 76,322 metric tons posted a negative growth of three percent compared to the previous year.

The Bicol bishops raised the issue of illegal commercial fishing in Ragay Gulf and Burias Pass. Through a letter sent to President Aquino, the bishops requested marine and coastal authorities to prosecute illegal fishers. The RDC passed Resolution No. 69 (S. 2011) requesting the RPOC, DILG, DENR, BFAR, and LGUs to stop illegal fishing in region. A task force on illegal fishing was created by the RPOC-Regional Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee. The intervention hastened the completion of the demarcation of municipal waters. However, the LGUs have to pay prior to awarding of the certification, which is needed to pass their respective municipal ordinances.

Total log ban is implemented in the region. The DENR produced and procured 2,890,299 indigenous forest and fruit tree species in support to the national greening program. These were delivered on-site by accredited seedling suppliers. Under the national greening program, a total of 6,304 hectares of new plantations were developed and 1,653 hectares of established plantations were maintained. Under the upland development program, a total of 2,578 hectares of established plantations were maintained and 44 upland reforestation projects were protected. The CDA participated in the national greening program through the planting of 8,848 hardwood seedlings.

For CY 2012, increase in agriculture, fishery, and forestry production is expected due to the increase in the budget for the sector. New irrigation systems will be constructed and damaged systems will be rehabilitated. Support for major agricultural commodities in terms of extension, provision of quality planting materials, and research and development will contribute to the increase in output. One of the priority concerns identified by the RDC under the economic sector is promoting rice sufficiency in the region. A technical committee will coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the sector action plan and CY 2012 work program.

Mining and Quarrying

The regional development plan aims to increase GVA in mining and quarrying and minimize risks to life, health, and the environment.

GVA in mining and quarrying contracted by 12.2 percent, a reversal from the previous year's 37.3 percent growth. This is because of decreased gold and silver production from Filminera Resources Corporation's gold mining project in Aroroy, Masbate.

Gold production decreased by 24 percent from 5,561 kgs to 4,219 kgs. Silver production also decreased by 26 percent from 4,649 kgs to 3,415 kgs. Lower production in the second semester was due to low grade ore and a burned mill motor that resulted to low milling capacity. The value of gold production decreased from P9.8 billion to P8.9 billion. But the value of silver production increased from P139 million to P165 million despite a lower quantity produced.

The volume of copper and zinc concentrate produced by the Rapu-Rapu polymetallic project in Albay increased by 34 percent from 46,281 DMT to 62,207 DMT. Production value of copper concentrate increased from P1.5 billion to P2.1 billion and the value of zinc concentrate production increased from P502 million to P806 million. Production of iron ore from small scale mining projects in Camarines Norte and Sorsogon decreased by 3.5 percent from 78,880 MT to 76,200 MT. Major non-metallic minerals produced in the region include perlite, shale and white clay, sand and gravel, limestone, and pumice. Perlite production decreased by 13 percent from 26,368 MT to 22,785 MT. Its value of production likewise decreased from P18 million to P11.8 million. Production of shale and white clay increased from 15,330 MT to 23,040 MT and their combined value also increased from P2.9 million to P2.96 million. Commercial sand and gravel production also increased from 264,048 cu.m. to 313,106 cu.m. and its value also increased from P13 million to P17 million.

The three large scale mining projects, i.e., Rapu-rapu polymetallic project, Camalig quarry and cement plant project, and the Masbate gold project paid a total of P1.04 billion in taxes from January to December. The total amount spent for social obligations of these projects amounted to P44.64 million. These were allotted for community development, information, education and communication, mining technology and geosciences development.

Concerns regarding the dangers to the environment and the safety and health of the people were addressed. Compliance to mine safety, health, environmental commitments, and social programs of Rapu-Rapu Minerals, Inc., Filminera Resources Corporation, Ibalong Resources and Development Corporation, and Orophil Stonecraft, Inc. were inspected. Corrective measures were recommended to mitigate

possible oil spills and siltation. The mining companies were required to install oil and water separators and temporary silt traps, implement solid waste management programs, conduct water quality monitoring, and plant trees. Abandoned and mined out areas were assessed to determine possible risks within these areas. The defunct Philippine Iron Mines in Larap, Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte was re-assessed. A total of 21 complaints were investigated, three of which were issued cease and desist orders. Issuance of exploration permits and existing mining lease contracts was regulated in order to ensure efficiency and economic viability of mining operations.

As a proactive approach to minimize risks to life, health and environment, the MGB disseminated information on various issues, namely: alleged illegal mining activities, fatal accidents, reported death of marine organisms in Rapu-Rapu, new mining policies, commitment to the national greening program, permittees and lessees, fast-tracking tenement cleansing process, mining moratorium, and advisories on landslide and flood prone areas. With donations coming from mining companies, MGB assisted four typhoon-stricken barangays in Albay.

The MGB embarked on the second phase of the National Geohazard Mapping and Assessment Program, which is the 1:10,000 Scale Geohazard Survey and Assessment. The second phase is aimed at mapping landslide and flood hazards in more detail so that maps would be more useful for disaster risk reduction at the local level. While the 1:50,000 scale geohazard maps are sufficient for CLUP preparation, provincial physical framework planning and disaster risk reduction at the provincial level, these are not sufficient for barangay contingency planning. Five municipalities of Albay (Daraga, Camalig, Guinobatan, Polangui, and Libon) and three municipalities of Catanduanes (Gigmoto, San Miguel, and Virac) were covered by the detailed geohazard assessment using regular funds. Five LGUs in Albay were also surveyed under the Albay GIS-based Landslide and Flood Vulnerability Assessment per Memorandum of Agreement between the DENR and the provincial government of Albay.

The MGB also conducted information, education and communication on geohazards particularly floods and landslides. Geohazard awareness seminars were organized in the municipalities of San Jose, Lagonoy, Caramoan, Goa, Canaman, and Camaligan in the province of Camarines Sur. Also conducted were 12 geologic investigation of landslide and other geohazard sites.

For 2012, promotion of responsible mining will be improved. Mining contracts and exploration permits will be regulated. Compliance to terms and conditions stipulated in the contracts and permits will be closely monitored. Monitoring of safety, health, environment and social programs will be conducted. The implementation of MGB's "Use It or Lose It Policy" will also be continued. Geohazard surveys and assessment will be conducted in other areas of the region.

Manufacturing

The regional development plan aims to increase investments in manufacturing industries and strengthen existing small scale manufacturing industries.

GVA in manufacturing expanded by 38.8 percent, indicating increased investments in manufacturing industries. Major products manufactured in the region are agriculture based. These include: copra milling resulting to crude and edible cooking oil and copra cake; milling of cane to produce sugar and molasses; and manufacturing of abaca fibers into handicrafts and cordage. Cement making in Albay is the only large scale manufacturing venture in Bicol using local non-metallic mineral. A total of 7,757,836 bags of cement were produced with an estimated value of P1.306 billion.

A total of 5,035 MSMEs were assisted by DOST and other concerned agencies through technology transfer, commercialization, packaging and labelling, and productivity improvement. Coconut fiber is being developed to produce coir and peat in order to benefit rural folks who depend on the coconut industry as a major source of livelihood. A Special Inter-Agency Coconut Coir and Peat Development Task Force was created, composed of representatives from the DA, PCA, FIDA, DTI, DOST, and DPWH. Likewise, the Philippine Coco Coir Exporters Association (PhilCoir) was organized to act as the government's arm in the development of the industry.

For 2012, one of the priority concerns identified by the RDC under the economic sector is promoting rural enterprises in the region. A technical committee will coordinate and monitor the implementation of the sector action plan and work program. The San Miguel Brewery disclosed the opening of a new brewery worth \$25 million to be set up in Bicol thereby expanding its bottling capacity by 30 percent.

Trade

The regional development plan aims to: (1) increase investments in wholesale and retail trade services; (2) make goods available at lower prices throughout the year; and (3) increase the share of Bicol to the country's total exports.

Total investments generated in the region reached P6.919 billion, a 44 percent increase compared to the previous year. New retail businesses opened, like the Puregold branches in Naga and Legazpi and LCC expressmarts in several municipalities. The additional investments were brought about by investment facilitation, investment matching, and financing facilitation. The National Economic Research and Business Action Center and local investment promotion units also contributed to the increase in investments.

Domestic sales generated from DTI-initiated events amounted to P820.506 million, posting a 71 percent increase compared to the previous year. Forty-four percent of the total domestic sales came from local trade fairs, market matching, selling missions, and SME display centers or trade houses. Fifty-six percent came from the monitored sales of exhibitors with DTI interventions. A total of 715 exhibitors participated in 45 domestic fairs. An international trade fair was conducted during the first quarter of the year to promote and strengthen Bicolano products through new markets and compliance with international standards.

The total business names registered for the period was 11,764 representing an increase of 13 percent compared to 2010. The city of Naga operated the Business One Stop Shop to accelerate issuance of business licenses and certificates.

Investment and tourism promotion activities contributed to the increase in domestic sales. The Pili Kulinarya was launched as part of the BizDev Program of DTI to endorse pili as a regional brand in the medium to high end market in the Philippines. Bicol festival celebrations were harmonized with trade-related activities. In Sorsogon, the Kasanggayahan business forum was conducted to appraise the participants on various agri-tourism investment opportunities. Activities in Camarines Sur which contributed to increase domestic sales were the celebration of Peñafrancia Festival, Bicol Business Week, South Luzon Area Business Conference, Bishop Francisco Gainza Trade Fair, and Negosyo Patrol. The 15th OK Bicol regional trade fair in October generated total sales of P17.014 million. Ninety seven Bicol manufacturers, producers, exporters and institutional participants from the six provinces joined the activity.

The region marked another step towards increasing its share to the country's total exports. In 2011, the DTI recorded a 38 percent increase in the value of export products. These include metallic and non-metallic minerals from the provinces of Albay and Masbate, gifts, toys, housewares, and processed food from Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes and Sorsogon.

Export products were valued at \$21.679 million. Eighty eight percent of the export sales came from DTI-assisted activities, such as international trade fairs and business matching. The remaining 12 percent came from 84 exporters being assisted and monitored by DTI.

Foreign statistics from NSO showed that the value of Bicol's total exports reached \$302 million, an increase of 59 percent from the previous year. Total imports reached \$79 million, down by 37 percent from 2010.

A total of 5,035 micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) were assisted through counselling, consultancy, product development, and other support activities. Product development clinics and product packaging and labelling seminars were conducted. These activities gave rise to new products and prototypes. DTI programs and projects in support of MSMEs include the *BAYONG* project, the Subcontracting Partners in Innovation project, the Work on Wheels, and the Diskwento Caravan. These projects were geared towards the enhancement of managerial and entrepreneurial skills of Bicol's MSMEs, as well as the promotion of Bicol products and destinations.

The contribution of cooperatives to the domestic market in terms of volume of business totaled P2.75 billion for the year, an increase of 10 percent over the previous year. This volume was generated through the total assets deployed by 225,420 cooperative members worth P3.5 billion and total savings of P573 million. Around P116 million representing 70 percent of the net surplus was returned to the members in the form of interest on share capital and patronage refund. The 3,500 employees of cooperatives contributed to employment generation in the region.

For 2012, support to MSMEs and consumers' welfare and protection will be strengthened. Special projects like the Rural Micro Enterprise Promotion Program and Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program will continue to support existing entrepreneurs and encourage others to start their own business. The level of competitiveness of Bicolano entrepreneurs will also be improved. The Intellectual Property Geographic Indication for Bicol Pili and Collective Mark will be pursued.

The improvement of the transport modes and opening of new routes will increase trade in the region. The rehabilitation of the PNR mainline up to Legazpi City will contribute to the flow of goods in and out of the region. The opening of the Pioduran RORO port will benefit trading in Masbate.

Tourism

The regional development plan aims to increase investments in tourist destinations and increase tourist arrival in all provinces.

The tourism sector generated about two billion pesos in revenues and 291,454 jobs. Tourist arrival reached 3,413,610 posting an increase of 9.3 percent over the previous year. About 22 percent were foreigners and 78 percent were local tourists. Among the six provinces, Camarines Sur registered 72.5 percent of the total tourist arrival in the region. Far second was Albay with 10.3 percent, followed by Masbate (5.1%), Camarines Norte (4.5%), Sorsogon (3.9%), and Catanduanes (3.7%). The top five tourist markets were United States of America, United Kingdom, South Korea, Australia, and Germany.

The increase in visitors was attributed to marketing and promotion activities, which include participation in international and domestic travel fairs, hosting of national conventions, sports and adventure events, holding of cultural events and festivals, and production of tourism collaterals and promotional materials. International and domestic travel fairs include the Travel Tour Expo, 1st International Agri-Tourism Expo, 10th Bicol Tourism, Trade & Investment to the USA, 2nd Philippine Culinary Tourism Expo, 7th Bicol Business Week, Gainza Trade Fair, 22nd Philippine Travel Mart, and the OK Bicol sa Gayon Bicol.

Involvement in these events boosted the region's market exposure and contributed to the revenues of the region. The DOT showcased Bicol's iconic destinations and new tourism products. The events resulted to an increased knowledge on the existing, emerging and potential attractions in the region, as well as the quality and unique products, appetizing cuisines, and rich cultural heritage of Bicol.

Camarines Sur was the most visited province in Bicol with the Camarines Sur Watersports Complex and Caramoan islands as major destinations. The province hosted the Ultimate Wake Championship, Wind or No Wind, International Dragon Boat Competition, 6th National Kampo Kalikasan, Cobra Ironman 70.3 Triathlon, Camsur Water Summit Marathon, and the famous Survivors Challenge. Albay hosted the Mayon 360 Ultra Marathon, the 1st Run Green – Run Clean, and the Extreme Mayon Trail Run. Other events were the Bagasbas Summer Surf in Camarines Norte, Bulusan Eco-trail Running Cup in Sorsogon, and the Majestic Surfing Cup in Catanduanes.

The region also hosted the Annual National Convention and Exhibition Management Class 2011 of the International School of Asia and the Pacific, National Civil Engineers Convention, Regional Consultation Workshop on the National Tourism Development Plan, 20th South Luzon Area Business Conference, and the 22nd Philippine Advertising Congress.

Festival celebrations portray the rich cultural heritage of Bicol and provide local entrepreneurs the opportunity to market their products and services. The DOT supported the celebration of festivals through media coverage, publications and advertisements, preparation of streamers, banners and promotional materials, funding and other logistical support. The region celebrated 38 festivals in 2011, the most famous of them were Magayon festival in Albay, Kaogma festival in Camarines Sur, Rodeo Masbateño in Masbate, Pineapple festival in Camarines Norte, Kasanggayahan festival in Sorsogon, Ibalong festival in Legazpi City, Peñafrancia festival in Naga City, Tinagba festival in Iriga City, Tabak festival in Tabaco City, Lapay Bantigue festival in Masbate City and Butanding festival in Sorsogon City.

The private sector supported the tourism sector through the establishment of hotels, inns and restaurants. In Legazpi City, the Oriental Hotel opened, equipped with rooms, function and ball rooms, and other amenities that will provide the needs of the growing number of tourists and visitors in the region. Restaurants and other eating places opened in strategic locations frequented by tourists.

The DOT conducted training programs and seminars to enhance the capability of LGUs on investment and tourism promotion and facilitation. These were: training programs on basic statistics and tourism product development; seminar for taxi drivers, tourist transport operators and frontliners; workshop on sustainable tourism; strategic planning seminar; tourism awareness and strategic planning workshop; and tourist handling seminar.

Tourist Oriented Police-Community Oriented Police seminars were conducted to ensure the safety and convenience of tourists. To guarantee the quality of tourism services, training programs on effective customer services, tourism awareness, and basic tour guiding were also conducted.

Pursuant to Republic Act 9593 or the Tourism Act, the accreditation of tourism enterprises is mandatory. In 2011, a total of 57 tourism-oriented establishments and tour operators were accredited to ensure that they operate in accordance with the DOT's standards.

For 2012, development and promotion of tourist destinations will be continued in collaboration with various agencies. The DPWH, CAAP, DOTC, PNR and PPA will work on the improvement of access and connectivity through infrastructure development.

One of the priority sectoral concerns identified by the RDC for CY 2012 is promoting tourism in all provinces in Bicol. A technical committee will coordinate, facilitate and monitor the implementation of a sector action plan on tourism, which includes the following priority activities: finalization of the Caramoan Catanduanes Tourism Link area development plan (ADP), preparation of ADPs for the Albay Masbate Sorsogon tourism area and the Camarines tourism circuit.

Chapter III

Improving Infrastructure

Transportation

The regional development aims to establish an integrated and efficient inter-modal transport system that will support the region's domestic and industrial transportation requirements.

Diversion roads and strategic roads leading to tourist destinations, investment areas, and RORO ports were opened, improved, and rehabilitated. These include the Andaya and GMA highways, Camarines Sur-Albay diversion road, Catanduanes circumferential road, Bagong Silang-Capalonga road, Nabua-Balatan road, Junction Milagros-Aroroy-Baleno-Lagta road, and San Pascual-Claveria road. In the province of Masbate, at least 27.4 kilometers of provincial and barangay roads were rehabilitated. Bridges along the Lagundi-Batuan national road were constructed. Concreting of 14.351 kilometers along the Balud-Tawad-Milagros-Aroroy road (Bangad, San Juan and San Pablo sections) was implemented, thus contributing to the improvement of the road transport system in the province. Legazpi City completed a total of 20 city roads. About P30 million was allotted to the opening of the Malinao-Buhi Road (Malinao side).

The Philippine National Railways (PNR) experienced setbacks during the year. However, efforts to remedy these were undertaken. The sinking embankment at Malaguico, Sipocot, Camarines Sur was remedied with the construction of a temporary steel bridge. About 500 meters of tracks in Bongalon, Daraga, Albay was damaged by flood water from a busted dike at Busay River. On-going restoration of the dike is being undertaken. Most of the track defects on the Bicol line were rectified. Because of this, the Bicol line was re-opened up to Travesia, Guinobatan pending the completion of the Travesia Bridge. A test run to Polangui, Albay resulted to a load factor of 58.7. In May, Bicol Express made its first trial run train service from Manila to Naga. The travel time took nine hours. The Bicol Express train service from Manila to Polangui, Albay was restored in December. The revival of train operations provided the riding public an alternative and affordable means of transportation while ensuring a safe and convenient journey.

The water transport system improved with the opening of Batangas-Masbate-Cebu and Cagayan de Oro sea transport route on board the Super Shuttle Ferry 3 on a weekly basis and the Masbate-Romblon-Manila route on board Mary the Queen also on a weekly basis. Pioduran port was opened on June 28 including the opening of Pioduran-Claveria and Pioduran-Masbate City RORO routes. The RORO service from Nato port, Sagnay to Guijalo port, Caramoan was opened on June 15. Passengers were provided with a bigger facility to enjoy a two to three-hour ride from Nato to Guijalo.

The full operation of the RORO service in Nato port links Camarines Sur and Catanduanes. The release of P45 million for the modernization of Codon Port in Catanduanes is a positive development towards an alternative and shorter link to Caramoan.

To provide comfortable sea travel to commuters, the PPA repaired and maintained port facilities in Tabaco, Bulan, Nato, Caramoan, Masbate, Matnog, Pioduran and Pasacao. Port facilities include drainage system, covered walkway, mooring buoys, pier deck, port lighting system, ticketing booths, etc.

Factors that affected the sector's performance are presence of illegal operators, absence of RORO port facilities in remote islands, financial constraints, and inability of some LGUs to submit requirements for the devolution of a port. Facilities for the increasing traffic in Pioduran port are inadequate. Typhoon Juaning in July caused landslides along the Ligao-Pioduran road that resulted to the suspension of RORO operations between Pioduran and Masbate. Operations resumed in September after the road was cleared.

Four airline companies were served by Naga and Legazpi airports, namely: Philippine Airlines, Airphil Express, Cebu Pacific Air and Zest Air. Virac airport served Cebu Pacific Air, Airphil Express, and Zest Air. Masbate airport served Airphil Express and Zest Air.

The CAAP recorded a nine percent increase in cargo movement compared to the previous year. A 13 percent increase in passenger movement was also recorded, the same as the previous year. Legazpi City airport recorded the highest volume of cargoes and passengers. Regular flights of the Airphil Express and the influx of passengers during peak seasons led to the rise in the number of commercial flights by 29 percent in Legazpi airport. Naga airport also recorded a five percent increase in commercial flights, while Masbate and Virac airports recorded a decrease by eight percent.

Repair and improvement works on airport facilities were undertaken. These include repair of water tank, runway markers, airconditioning units and fire trucks at Legazpi airport and upgrading of runway at Sorsogon airport. Implementation of the Southern Luzon International Airport is ongoing. Phase 1 of airstrip construction is 94.5 percent complete and Phase II is 45 percent complete. Site acquisition is 91.2 percent of the total area.

For 2012, the DPWH will prioritize the construction of Camarines Sur/Albay diversion road, construction of sky bridges and improvement of access roads in Libmanan, Canaman and Magarao, rehabilitation of Daang Maharlika along Calzada-Tuburan section in Ligao City, and completion of Busay-Bongalon river control project in Daraga.

The PNR will continue to restore the mainline train operations, replace rotten bridge ties, strengthen bridges, implement the proposed rolling stock repair program, and complete the reopening of the main line south project up to Legazpi City.

The RDC identified the integration of land transportation system as one of the priority sectoral concerns for CY 2012. A technical committee will coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the sector action plan and CY 2012 work program.

MARINA will enforce preventive measures to avert maritime accidents, legalize banca operators, and provide support and incentives for the upgrading and modernization of shipyard facilities, equipment, and capabilities. The qualification and competency of seafarers onboard all vessels with emphasis on ships below 35 GRT will be upgraded. Other programs and projects include the transfer of administration of SRNH ports to LGUs, accreditation of cargo handling operators in some SRNH/municipal ports, and conduct of training for cargo handler operators of devolved ports.

CAAP will continue to operate and maintain the airports, air navigation and other similar facilities in compliance to International Civil Aviation Organization standards. There is a need to upgrade all airports to ensure efficiency and reliability in delivering effective public service and provision of safety to passengers.

Communications

The regional development plan aims to provide effective and efficient communication facilities and services that are universally accessible, interconnected and affordable.

The communications industry is dominated by private companies that offer more efficient services and facilities, such as courier service, cellular mobile and landline telephone systems, cable television, and internet service. Dominant players in the telecommunications industry include PLDT, Bayantel, Globe, Smart, and Suncellular. Government service providers such as TELOF and Philippine Postal Corporation are focused on barangays that are not covered by private providers.

The TELOF is in the process of rationalization. On June 23, TELOF was renamed Information and Communications Technology Office (ICTO) and placed under the supervision and control of the DOST. While gearing up for a major re-engineering of its functions, the ICTO continued to carry out its mandate of providing communication services to 79 municipalities and barangays. The ICTO offers telegram, telephone, fax and internet services.

The ICTO opened two community e-centers in Sorsogon and Masbate message centers, in addition to the three e-centers being operated in 2010. Aside from internet usage, the e-centers offered fax service, encoding, printing and scanning, tutorials and assistance. The e-centers served a total of 17,989 clients, 3.1 percent more than the 17,441 clients in 2010.

Patronage of telephone and telegram services continued to decline due to the proliferation of cellular phones and the entry of wide range internet service providers. The volume of telegrams handled during the year totalled 28,778 representing a decrease by 25.8 percent from the previous year. Two telephone exchange stations located in Ligao and Canaman were operational. The Ragay telephone exchange is not operational due to interconnection problems but tests were conducted to remedy this. Telephone rentals decreased by 31.1 percent from P49,155.60 in 2010 to P33,856.70 in 2011.

Postal communications have been affected by financial problems and viability questions considering the technological advancement in communications. This is the reason why the regional development plan proposes the re-engineering of the postal system as an alternative. In 2011, the Philippine Postal Corporation (PPC) undertook redistricting of post offices, manpower realignment, merging of post offices, modification of mail carriage frequency, and hiring of mail contractors.

Total mail volume declined by 39 percent compared to 2010. Postal ID sales also decreased by 16.6 percent. To cushion the decline in revenue, the PPC maintained the offering of upgraded premium postal services and increased the postage rates. It conducted postal ID caravan in schools, offices and barangays, promoted the e-pouch service, and conducted the philatelic exhibit. It conducted client calls and customer visits in government and non-government offices to promote postal products and services. These activities contributed to a 3.2 percent increase in revenue.

For 2012, the ICTO will continue to maintain existing facilities and provide telecommunication services to clients. The PPC will provide fast, safe and prompt delivery services, reduce the volume of RTS mails, and repair/maintain mail vehicles to ensure efficient and effective mail movement.

PPC will continue to undertake marketing and promotion activities and provide postal quality services to increase revenue by 10 percent. PPC will also pursue the interconnectivity of capital post offices and implement the electronic postal money order project.

Energy

The regional development plan aims to provide sufficient, stable, secure, accessible, and affordable power supply to all domestic and industrial users in Bicol.

The Energy Development Corporation continued the repair and rehabilitation of the BacMan geothermal power plant to increase its generating capacity so it can contribute to the power supply needs of the Luzon grid. Rehabilitation of the geothermal facilities is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2012. Upon resumption of its full operation, it is expected to generate 130 MW of geothermal energy.

Most electric cooperatives did not achieve a single digit systems loss. As of September 2011, only CANORECO attained a single digit systems loss of 9.93 percent. ALECO experienced the highest systems loss of 23 percent, even higher than the 22 percent in 2010. The electric cooperative encountered other problems, such as: outdated meter reading, billing and collection system; dilapidated distribution lines; substations not compliant to the power grid; and lack of funds for capital expenditure projects.

The barangay energization program of NEA covered 99 percent of all barangays. Of the eleven electric cooperatives, only ALECO has not fully energized its coverage area with two barangays left for energization. The sitio electrification program of DOE and NEA in partnership with the electric cooperatives energized sitios through on-grid electrification. Sitio energization level reached 40 percent or 2,214 sitios out of 5,538 potential sitios, which fell short of the plan target of 49 percent. The Masbate electric cooperative energized the highest number of sitios (488), while Ticao island electric cooperative energized the least (6 sitios). Sitio Garang, Brgy. Patitinan in Sagñay, Camarines Sur was the latest sitio energized. Consumer connections throughout the region reached 78 percent, representing a total of 807,468 consumers served by the 11 electric cooperatives.

On energy conservation measures, LGUs, educational institutions, commercial establishments, outdoor advertisers, civic groups, and households were encouraged to support the Earth Hour movement by switching off their non-essential lights for 60 minutes on March 26, Saturday from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The event reduced electrical consumption and raised awareness on the need to take action on climate change.

For the coming years, NEA will continue the sitio electrification program, implement the barangay line enhancement program, and sustain consumer connections. For CY 2012, one of the priority sectoral concerns identified by the RDC is reducing power rate in the region. A technical committee will coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the sector action plan and CY 2012 work program.

Water Resources

The regional development plan aims to: (1) ensure the availability of adequate supply of clean and safe water at reasonable price; (2) effectively safeguard the biodiversity and health of the environment; (3) contribute to increased cropping intensity and yield; and (4) reduce the loss of lives and damage to crops and properties.

The implementation of various water supply projects provided potable water to households in rural areas. The DPWH constructed six water systems, 29 level I water supply systems, and nine level II water supply systems. The Salintubig Project of the DOH constructed, upgraded, and expanded different levels II and III water systems. The project is on-going in the provinces of Camarines Norte and Masbate, while project bidding and mobilization is being undertaken in the provinces of Camarines Sur and Albay. About 24,499 households are expected to benefit from the project.

The NIA implemented programs in line with the target of irrigating 90,000 hectares. These include: construction, restoration, and rehabilitation of communal and national irrigation systems; small irrigation projects; repair of pump irrigation system; Balikatan Sagip Patubig Program; and establishment of ground water pump project. Out of the total 119 projects targeted for the year, 78 projects were completed, 30 projects are on-going, and 11 not yet started. A total of 5,057 hectares were rehabilitated, 473 hectares were restored, and 369 hectares of new service areas were generated.

The DPWH implemented the flood mitigation component of the Bicol River Basin and Watershed Management Project (BRBWMP). This consists of the following subprojects: revetment (9915 lm), seawall (1326 lm), dredging (400,000 cu.m.), channel excavation (3,000 cu.m.), upgrading and widening (4,380 lm), construction of bridge (70 lm), cover house (12 projects) and construction dam (88 lm). The BRBWMP is programmed under the CY 2011 DPWH Infrastructure Program. The preliminary and detailed engineering for the project is on-going.

For 2012, the priority projects of NIA are the construction of Sibagat Small Reservoir Irrigation Project in Minalabac, Camarines Sur and Ibingan Small Reservoir Irrigation Project in Sorsogon and the implementation of Participatory Irrigation Development Project Phase 1. To increase irrigated cropping intensity, NIA will restore existing but non-functional irrigation facilities, rehabilitate and upgrade irrigation systems to increase serviceable areas. NIA will also sustain the operation and maintenance of existing irrigation systems and construction of small-scale irrigation projects to develop and increase new service areas.

Chapter IV

Sustaining Development

Good Governance

The plan aims to improve the delivery of public services, create an environment of transparency and accountability, make productivity a way of life for Bicolanos, and ensure peace and order in the region.

To promote excellent public service, the CSC recognized outstanding accredited and non-accredited agencies, LGUs, and government personnel. Under the Honor Awards Program, the city government of Iriga was awarded semi-finalist in the PAG-ASA category. The CSC also conducted supervisory, technical and professional skills training programs for 2,611 government personnel.

The DILG conducted three rounds of assessment of LGUs to determine compliance to the requirements of the seal of good housekeeping as indicative of good local governance. Field validation was conducted by a regional team headed by an NGO representative from Junior Chamber International. A total of 79 LGUs or 66 percent received the seal of good housekeeping for 2011. These LGUs are entitled to avail of the Performance Challenge Fund as incentive.

In compliance with RA 9485 or the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007, the CSC conducted the Report Card Survey (RCS) among 53 government offices in the region. The survey was conducted in partnership with the Legazpi Lion's Club, Pinoy Power-Bicol and the Social Action Center of the Diocese of Legazpi. The survey aimed to gather feedback on how agencies follow provisions in their Citizen's Charter, obtain information on hidden costs incurred by clients in accessing frontline services, and rate agency performance and client satisfaction in relation to frontline service delivery. Agencies that got an excellent rating were the SSS-Catanduanes branch, HDMF-Naga branch, and the NSO-Naga branch. The provincial government of Camarines Sur was awarded the first Citizen's Satisfaction Center seal of excellence for having garnered a very good rating in the RCS conducted by CSC-Camarines Sur. To date, a total of 508 agencies or 90 percent of the 563 agencies covered by the CSC Region 5 are ARTA-compliant.

The DILG initiated the conduct of a consultative conference on full disclosure policy at the Albay Astrodome in Legazpi City. The activity aimed to encourage local officials to comply with the provisions of the full disclosure policy as mandated by the Local Government Code and the 2011 General Appropriations Act. Said policy requires LGUs to post their budget and finances, bids and public offerings in government websites, newspapers of general circulation, and in conspicuous places within their localities.

Local chief executives who expressed full support by affixing their signatures in the covenant entitled “Declaration of Commitment to the Full Disclosure Policy Towards a More Transparent and Accountable Governance” were Governor Joseph Cua of Catanduanes, Mayor Geraldine Rosal of Legazpi City, Mayor Ricarte Padilla, Jr. of Jose Panganiban, Mayor Nebb Santiago of Cabusao, Mayor Socrates Tuason of Masbate City and Mayor Helen de Castro of Bulan. At the end of the year, a total of 113 LGUs or 94 percent have complied with the full disclosure policy.

To facilitate business permit and registration procedures, the Business One-Stop-Shop was established in 15 capital towns and cities in the region. The DILG conducted a training program for 40 LGUs on streamlining reforms in the business permit and licensing system, which aimed to reduce the cost of doing business.

The BIR reported a total collection of P4.714 billion for 2011, an eight percent increase over the previous year but short of the collection goal by 5.6 percent. This is due to a decrease in collection from other taxes by 62 percent because of less one-time transactions compared to the previous year. The DBM institutionalized public expenditure management through the OPIF by conducting workshops in all provinces in the region as part of the capability building of LGUs on public financial management. It continued to implement the e-budget system, a web-based application with modular functionalities that facilitated fund releases to agencies. It also conducted trainings for provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays on the revised implementing rules and regulations of RA 9184, an act providing for the modernization, standardization and regulation of procurement activities of the government.

The PIA disseminated information on the policies, programs, and activities of government through print, broadcast and other media. It also generated feedback and public opinion through consultations, dialogues, and surveys.

The Regional Peace and Order Council formulated the Security and Economic Convergence Action Plan 2011-2013 covering a total of 20 threatened barangays in seven municipalities and three provinces in the region as priority areas. Priority needs of the target barangays were identified in coordination with barangay officials. A list of existing and proposed programs, projects and activities of government agencies and LGUs in the target areas was also drawn up. Of the total 120 LGUs in Bicol, 100 LGUs or 83 percent have organized their local peace and order councils (LPOCs). As mandated under Section 51 of RA 6975, all LPOCs are required to prepare the Integrated Area Community Public Safety Plan (IACPSP) that contains programs, projects and activities on peace and order, public safety and counter-insurgency. Sixteen LPOCs have submitted their IACPSP.

The Office of the Presidential Assistant on the Peace Process (OPAPP) started the implementation of the Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan (PAMANA) Program in the provinces of Sorsogon, Albay, Camarines Norte and Masbate. The program aims to strengthen peace building, reconstruction and development in conflict affected and vulnerable areas. A planning workshop was held in March to orient participants from key agencies, target LGUs and civil society groups on the PAMANA program framework and formulate an indicative work plan and implementation mechanism for Bicol.

A total of 11,630 crime incidents were recorded in 2011, lower by 30 percent than 16,700 incidents recorded the previous year. Majority or 55 percent of the crime incidents were index crimes, the most prevalent of which were physical injury, followed by theft, robbery, murder, rape, homicide, and carnapping. Of the total index crimes, 1,183 were solved and 2,552 were cleared, thus attaining 18 percent index crime solution efficiency and 39 percent index crime clearance efficiency. Non-index crime solution efficiency was 27 percent.

The average crime rate was 18 per 100,000 population, lower than the previous year's 26 per 100,000 population. Overall crime solution efficiency rose to 21.5 percent from 17.3 percent the previous year. Police to population ratio was 1:745 as of December 2011, better than the previous year's 1:816.

The PNP arrested nine most wanted persons (MWP) in the region, three provincial MWPs, 161 city/municipal MWPs, and 1,800 other wanted persons. The implementation of LOI Marikmat resulted in the neutralization of 31 newly identified criminal gangs and the arrest of 71 gang members engaged in theft, estafa, robbery/hold up, bank robbery, gun running, carnapping, drug pushing and swindling. The implementation of Adarna and Maya Costa special intelligence projects resulted in the neutralization of 12 communists/terrorists regionwide.

Operations against illegal drugs resulted to the arrest of 275 suspected drug personalities. A total of 546 grams of shabu and 827 grams of marijuana were confiscated. Operations against loose firearms resulted to the recovery of 354 firearms, arrest of 238 persons and 112 cases filed in various courts regionwide. Operations against illegal gambling resulted to the arrest of 346 persons and confiscation of P150,333 bet money. A total of 219 persons involved in illegal logging were arrested and 179,900 board feet of assorted good lumber were confiscated. There were 1,474 persons arrested for various illegal fishing activities. Anti-carnapping operations resulted to the arrest of 68 suspects and the recovery of 152 vehicles. LOI Bantay Kalye was continuously implemented in close coordination with various LGUs, CVOs and crime watch groups. It served as deterrent to criminal elements and provided prompt action to any call for police assistance.

The RDC passed Resolution No. 69 S. 2011 calling for a stop to illegal fishing activities in the region, particularly in Ragay Gulf and Burias Pass in Camarines Sur and Asid Gulf in Masbate. A regional multi-agency task force against illegal fishing was organized in September, composed of representatives from BFAR, NAVFORSOL, PCG, PPA, MARINA, DOJ, and PNP. Since the activation of the task force, 32 anti-illegal fishing operations resulted to the arrest of 263 persons and the seizure of 22 fishing boats, two fishing vessels, and 14 motorized bancas. A total of 14 cases were filed in court. The task force drew up an action plan that includes: anti-illegal fishing operations focused on seaborne patrols and market dial operations with the active participation of bantay dagat, FARMCs, and LGUs; establishment of composite checkpoint at fish ports; and tracking the source of chemicals and explosive ingredients used in illegal fishing.

The 9th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army reported that 320 barangays in the region are still affected by insurgency, 77 of which are influenced and 243 are less-influenced. For 2011, the Command's campaign plan "Anduyog" focused on the defeat of the communist terrorist movement in Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur. The division's counter-insurgency operations resulted to the neutralization of 71 communists/terrorists and 33 lawless elements, recovery of 54 high-powered and 50 low-powered firearms, various war material and intelligence documents. Peace and development operations were completed in 32 barangays, which were recommended for deletion under the insurgency-affected barangays.

Defeating the local insurgency movement through the peace process has gained mileage with the model community program in cooperation with the province of Camarines Sur. However, limited funding and extensive processing requirements hindered the immediate granting of re-integration benefits to former rebels under the Comprehensive Local Integration Program and PAMANA program.

The BJMP continued to improve jail facilities and the welfare of inmates. Jail facilities in Daet, Aroroy, Iriga City, and Legazpi City were improved. The BJMP regional office initiated the Jail Residents' Pledge of Commitment program, the first of its kind in the country. The program aims to raise awareness among the inmates on the significance of their reformation in the battle against crime. Legazpi City jail residents signified their support to crime prevention through a ceremonial signing of the pledge.

The CHR investigated 62 cases of human rights violations, down from 84 cases documented the previous year. Topping the list were extra-judicial killings and murder (20 cases). Other cases were torture, violence against women, and abuses against children. The CHR provided legal aid, counseling and financial assistance to victims of human rights violations.

For 2012, priority activities include the conduct of RCS and ARTA Watch as provided by RA 9485, provision of technical assistance to 80 percent of agencies with failed ratings in ARTA-RCS, and campaign for more nominees to the Honor Awards Program.

The DILG will continue to encourage LGUs to comply with the requirements for the seal of good housekeeping and commit to the full disclosure policy. Training programs on streamlining the business permit and licensing system will likewise be sustained.

The PNP will sustain the integrated transformation program and performance governance system, periodic performance audit, one police supervisor per barangay, enhancement of procurement, financial and logistics management system, build-up of equipment, reward and disciplinary system, and enhancement of morale and welfare projects. The BJMP will continue to upgrade jail facilities and promote the welfare of inmates. The Philippine Army will continue implementing campaign plan Anduyog and expand the concept of model community program of Camarines Sur to other provinces in the region.

Land Use Management

The objective under land use management is to ensure the sustainable allocation of land for development and environmental protection. This can be achieved by monitoring the implementation of provincial development and physical framework plans (PDPFPs) and comprehensive land use plans (CLUPs) of cities and municipalities.

The six provinces prepared their PDPFPs with technical assistance from NEDA under the PLPEM project. The provinces of Albay, Camarines Norte and Catanduanes have approved PDPFPs. The other provinces are completing their PDPFPs for approval by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

A total of 51 LGUs or 45 percent have CLUPs that are due for updating, i.e., with lapsed planning period of ten years or more. Thirteen LGUs or 11 percent have never formulated their CLUPs. The remaining 50 LGUs or 44 percent have CLUPs that are updated or have lapsed planning period of less than ten years but are still enforceable.

For CY 2012, the RDC identified the low compliance of cities and municipalities on the preparation and implementation of CLUPs as a priority sectoral concern under the development administration sector. A technical committee will coordinate and facilitate the implementation of a sector action plan and the CY 2012 work program.

Aside from promoting CLUP preparation by cities and municipalities, another priority for 2012 is the completion and approval of the PDPFPs of Sorsogon, Camarines Sur and Masbate.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

To achieve zero casualty and minimum damage to property during disasters, the strategy is to improve capacities of institutions involved in different phases of disaster risk management, i.e., pre-disaster, disaster response, and post-disaster activities.

In compliance with RA 10121, 48 LGUs or 40 percent have created their local disaster risk reduction and management offices (LDRRMOs). Although there were 77 LGUs or 64 percent that have disaster operations centers, these centers were only operational during disaster events. So far, 61 LGUs (51 percent) have submitted their local DRRM plans, 40 LGUs (33 percent) have early warning systems, 45 LGUs (38 percent) have completed their hazard vulnerability and risk maps, and 52 LGUs (43 percent) have organized their local emergency response teams.

A number of disaster events occurred during the year. In January, the tail end of the cold front brought continuous heavy rains that left 13 dead and ten missing in the region. Tropical storms Bebeng, Juaning, and Pedring left 71 dead, seven injured, and twelve missing. A total of 10,996 houses were totally damaged by tropical storm Juaning and an estimated P3.3 billion worth of infrastructure, agriculture, fishery, and irrigation facilities were damaged.

As Vice-Chair for rehabilitation and recovery cluster of the RDRRMC, NEDA prepared a strategic action plan for the provinces of Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes and Sorsogon that were affected by tropical storms Juaning and Pedring.

The NDRRMC in coordination with the RDRRMC conducted a regional consultation on the preparation of a DRRM framework. The province of Albay through the CIRCA and in coordination with the RDRRMC conducted a training course for the six provinces on the formulation of the regional action plan on DRR/CCA.

The OCD reviewed DRRM plans, contingency plans and other disaster-related plans at the local level. It assisted 48 LGUs in the preparation of contingency plans. It participated in capacity building on multi-hazard vulnerability mapping and disaster risk analysis by partner agencies and stakeholders. It organized skills training programs for local responders and conducted three earthquake drills, two tsunami drills, fire drills, and other disaster simulation drills and exercises.

As Vice Chair of the RDRRMC for disaster risk reduction and mitigation, the DOST collaborated with ASTI, PAGASA, PHIVOLCS and LGUs on risk assessment and installation of early warning device in various sites in the Province of Albay.

The DILG assisted in the conduct of the Bulusan Summit to capacitate six LGUs in the province of Sorsogon that are mostly affected in the event of Mt. Bulusan eruption. As lead agency in disaster risk management, the OCD coordinated, monitored and supervised emergency response and rehabilitation activities. These include timely dissemination of advisories, validation of hazard incidents, monitoring of the state of calamity declared by LGUs, evaluation of calamity fund request of LGUs, and mobilization of various response agencies in coordination with AFP, DEPED, and search and rescue teams.

Under the UNDP/AusAid-assisted project Mainstreaming DRR/CCA in Local Development Planning, the NEDA regional office provided technical assistance to the pilot provinces of Albay, Camarines Norte, Sorsogon and Catanduanes in coming up with their disaster risk assessment (DRA) reports. The non-pilot provinces of Camarines Sur and Masbate also participated in the mapshop, the outputs of which include preliminary hazard maps of the two provinces. The pilot provinces of Albay and Camarines Norte submitted their draft DRA reports that include hazard characterization, frequency and consequence analysis, risk estimation and risk evaluation.

President Benigno S. Aquino III inaugurated the country's first Climate Change Academy on November 25, 2011. Located within the campus of the Bicol University in Albay, the academy aims to train LGUs on disaster risk management, evaluation of climate risk hazards and enhancing adaptive capabilities. The academy's strategic approach includes raising awareness on disaster risks, progressive training on scenario building, climate and disaster risk assessment and management, and technical assistance on local management and planning. The provincial government of Albay worked with other agencies and international organizations in putting up the academy.

Priorities for 2012 include the completion of disaster risk and vulnerability assessment reports of the pilot provinces of Albay, Camarines Norte, Catanduanes and Sorsogon under the Mainstreaming DRR/CCA project and approval of the DRR/CCA-enhanced PDPFPs of these provinces.

Resilience to disasters by communities will be enhanced through capacity building activities and improved coordination of pre-disaster and response operations at the local level. The DILG and OCD will continue to provide assistance to LGUs on the organization of their LDRRMCs, LDRRMOs, disaster operations centers, and emergency response teams. In coordination with other agencies, they will also assist LGUs in the formulation of local DRRM plans and establishment of early warning systems.

Science and Technology

The utilization of science and technology in regional development aims to increase regional productivity and competitiveness, develop research and development (R&D) capability of government and private sectors, and promote intellectual property rights.

The DOST provided assistance to different firms in the region under its various programs on technology transfer and commercialization, packaging and labeling, productivity improvement, standards and testing services, and technology training.

Technology interventions were provided to 20 firms which generated gross sales of P10.4 million and created 1,396 jobs. Technology interventions were also provided to 15 non-core projects involving 15 firms in the region. The DOST also provided packaging and label designs to 35 firms that were enrolled for the project.

Five packaging and label designs for pili nut products were completed for five firms selected as program beneficiaries. The DOST assisted two firms on cleaner production technology; two firms on food safety; and one firm on energy audit. DOST also conducted productivity consultancy services to 27 firms.

The DOST conducted 41 technology training programs in different provinces with a total of 1,266 participants from MSMEs, government agencies, LGUs, NGOs, and POs. Likewise, 11 technology fora were conducted with a total of 524 participants also from MSMEs, government agencies, LGUs, NGOs and POs. The Regional Standards and Testing Laboratory Services and Regional Metrology Laboratory conducted 1,184 laboratory/calibration tests. These tests served 475 clients and assisted 327 firms.

In cooperation with the Technology Application and Promotion Institute, the DOST conducted the Bicol Regional Invention Contest and Exhibits (BRICE) on October 18-20 at the Pacific Mall in Legazpi City. The BRICE showcased Bicolano inventions, innovations and researches where 10 out of 18 contest entries emerged regional winners.

The Provincial S&T Center in Catanduanes was inaugurated to provide timely and appropriate packages of technology to MSMEs and the general clientele through programs and services that would improve productivity and expand market niche. The book "Inventory of Pili Processing Technologies, Products and By-Products" was also launched on June 21.

A technology training and livelihood on saline tilapia was held on October 12-13 at CBSUA-Calabanga campus to assist LGUs in managing small-scale fisheries within their jurisdiction by adopting appropriate technologies for sustainable development.

The BCARRD coordinated and completed three R&D programs during the year, namely: coconut-based S&T interventions for the rehabilitation of selected calamity-stricken areas in Albay; S&T-based rehabilitation of disaster-resilient forestry and natural resources livelihood; and enhancing the demand for agriculture, fisheries and natural resources (AFNR) graduates through S&T. BCARRD member agencies implemented 239 R&D programs and projects on AFNR, 54 percent of which were completed during the year.

The biggest proportion (46%) of these programs was focused on crops, followed by environment (25%) and fisheries (19%). The consortium developed its S&T agenda for 2011-2016, identifying pilinut, coconut, abaca, native chicken, queen pineapple, and environmental services among its banner commodities. The agenda will ensure a sustained support to the AFNR sector from R&D and its utilization, policy analysis, and capability building.

Results of R&D were disseminated through the TechnoGabay program (TGP) which includes IEC, ICT, the Farmer-Scientist Bureau, and the Farmers' Information and Technology Services (FITS) centers. The TGP aims to build the capacities of frontline extension workers who deal directly with farmers and clients in the region. By the end of 2011, a total of 48 FITS centers have been established in the region.

For 2012, priorities are continued promotion and publicity of S&T innovations; ISO accreditation; enhancing the involvement of R&D agencies; packaging of R&D proposals on native chicken, abaca, and environmental services; supply and value chain analysis; and management of intellectual property rights.

BCARRD will start implementing the Pinoy S&T for farmer entrepreneurs with pilinut and abaca as priority commodities. A business model for pili oil manufacture will be developed, including technologies that will mechanize the manufacturing process, standard operating procedures, and marketing support.

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