

**THE STATE OF DECENTRALIZATION AND DEMOCRATIZATION TOWARDS
DEVELOPMENT: SUMMARY OF EMERGING FINDINGS CONSOLIDATED REPORT
BY THE PSPA NATIONAL TEAM**

Dr. Alex B. Brillantes, Jr.

Professor, National College of Public
Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines

Lizan E. Perante-Calina

Legislative Staff Officer IV House of
Representatives
Executive Director,
Philippine Society for Public Administration
E-mail: lpcalina@yahoo.com.ph

ABSTRACT

This paper explores the state of decentralization and democratization in the Philippine politico-administrative system, particularly at the local level. Essentially, it is assumed that decentralization provides an enabling and powerful framework for citizen participation in governance which is a key feature of democratization. Both decentralization and democratization, if effectively enforced, will lead to address poverty and inequality towards sustainable development.

An assessment of the status of selected aspects of decentralization such as in the following sectors: Health, Agriculture, Social Services, Environment and Natural Resources and Disaster Risk Reduction, Justice and Legal Services will be delved into. On the other hand, the assessment of the state of democratization will look into the institutions processes and instruments of people participation, including the electoral process, non-government organization and (NGO) and people's organizations (POs).

The Study will employ the Rapid Field Appraisal (RFA) approach to provide focused and evidence-based, empirical "agenda for reform". The RFA enables the researchers to get a snapshot of the state of decentralization and democratization in each of the regions in the Philippines. The strength of the said RFA is its perspective: it is bottom-up and is based on observations which are rooted in reality.

Aimed to contribute to the literature on decentralization and democratization, the Study will help improve, (re)design, reform and make local governance policies, programs and projects relevant at the local level, as the Philippines navigated its way through the significant enactment of the decentralization policy in the country which started in 1991.

Table 1. RFA Findings, 1992-2011 and 2015.

RFA	Date	Findings
1 st	July 1992	Newly elected local government officials had “wait and see” attitude towards implementation of the new LGC
2 nd	January 1993	Local officials began LGC implementation, with national government agencies responding to administrative demands of transferring personnel and assets
3 rd	September 1993	Administrative problems in personnel devolution were being solved, and the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) system began to function
4 th	June 1994	Increased momentum on the part of local governments as they reaped fruits of experimentation.
5 th	June 1995	Greater local resource mobilization and improved service delivery, while national government agencies had not pro-actively pursued new roles after devolution.
6 th	May 1996	Diversity of experimentation as the decentralization process diffused across all classes and types of local governments and deepened into more mature management of service delivery. Local governments were more pro-active and developmental, and many sectors advocated even greater local autonomy.
7 th	August 1997	Over-all success in decentralization under the 1991 LGC introduced a new, participatory style of local leadership is emerging. A major constraint to further decentralized democratic development was reluctance at the center to change.
8 th	September 1998	Decentralization is here to stay, with continued success in local governance and local ownership of appropriate national programs. National government agencies had begun to re-design how they related to local governments.
9 th	September 1999	Progressive signs towards deepening of decentralization continue. Significant strides in improving the match between local needs and technical assistance have been achieved as national government begin to recognize the different needs and varying levels of capability of LGUs.
10 th	September 2000	Decentralization has spawned a number of tangible improvements in local governance, such as in the delivery of basic services to the barangays.
11 th	October 2011	The key question that was pursued in the 11 th RFA was, “What are the results of decentralization in the Philippines?” The focus was on the progress of decentralization on the ground, i.e., what the local governments have done in exercising the powers that were devolved to them as provided by the LGC, as well as the benefits to the people

		that followed. The results of decentralization in Philippine local governments specifically are on four key performance areas: local governance and administration, social services and health, local economic development, and environmental management.
12 th	December 2015	The present RFA is essentially the 12 th RFA and has been conducted five years after the last RFA in 2011. The focus of this present RFA is <i>beyond decentralization. It locates decentralization within the broader context of democratization and development.</i>

Democratization and Decentralization

Based on 2015 RFA, we have to recognize the following fact: while decentralization is here to stay, some realities have sunk in and have to be recognized. These realities include the following:

The democratization component of the RFA raised a number of issues and concerns that could substantively hamper the effective implementation of decentralization. Based on our various consultants' reports, the following continue to be among the concerns raised at the regional level that can get in the way of meaningful local empowerment through decentralization:

Persistence of political dynasties, political violence, and election violence. Examples of political violence include Mayor Randy Climaco of Tungawan, Zamboanga Sibugay who became the first casualty in the coming 2016 election. He has just filed his Certificate of Candidacy (COC) when he was ambushed and died on the spot on October 12, 2016. During the 2010 elections, the following LGUs in Western Mindanao have been identified as election hotspots: provinces of Basilan and Zamboanga Sibugay and the towns of Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay; La Libertad, Sibuco, Sirawai, Siocon, and Baliguian in Zamboanga del Norte--*those areas have a history of political violence, where partisan armed groups operate and political rivalries are intense.*

Like most other regions in the country, many areas in Region IX has well entrenched political dynasties. As identified, the following are the political dynasties in the ZamPen area:

- a) Zamboanga City - Lobregat, Lorenzo;
- b) Zamboanga del Norte - Adaza, Ubay, Carloto, Jalosjos, Uy;
- c) Zamboanga del Sur - Sagun-Lim, Enerio, Amatong, Cerilles.

The last two local and national elections however, saw the ebb and tide of some of these powerful families. The Jalosjoses of Zamboanga del Norte was replaced in dominance by the Uys of Dipolog City.

In Region XII, we have the Mangudadatus in Sultan Kudarat; Chiongbian in Sarangani; Masturas in Cotabato City; Talino in North Cotabato.

Question of course is that these (dynasties, electoral violence, local control of media) have also existed even before decentralization. The more important question is, have these been reduced after the implementation of decentralization?

Our emerging findings show that while these did not become worse, these did not become better either. In other words, decentralization may not have had a significant impact as far as dynastyism, electoral violence and local control of media is concerned. Unfortunately, emerging evidence gathered by this RFA has shown that while these may not have become better, overall, these – especially dynastyism – have persisted. “The darker side of dynastic politics probably outweighs the positives, though. Wherever there are dynasties, there's less competition for votes” (Bershinsky 2015).

To be fair, however, it must be emphasized we have to go to the main objectives of decentralization which was to increase people participation and hence democratization. As operationalized in the Code, people participation can be through direct participation in local special bodies, or in promoting accountabilities through processes such as recall and initiatives.

The evidence from RFA 2015 has shown that participation has improved especially in the following areas:

Direct people participation in local special bodies (such as local development councils, local sectoral bodies such as local peace and order councils, local environmental councils). Contrary findings in Region 9 emerged such as tokenism and nominal participation in local bodies.

Evidence has also shown that instances of recall in various parts of the country have occurred. Perhaps the best evidence that show the positive side of decentralization may be seen in those documented by Galing Pook, DILG, DOF, academic institutions, international donor organizations, that recognized outstanding innovations and best and good practices at the local level.

The case of Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur under Mayor Pacalioga whose project, Organic Farming won the 2010 Galing Pook Winner exemplifies a good practice in the Agriculture Sector. The Sustainable Organic Agriculture Food Sufficiency Program involved planting of permanent crops for a sustainable agriculture through household approach farming instead of corporate farming and through People Empowerment (Fernandez and Ochotorena 2015).

As observed by a writer, “*Mayor Pacalioga emphasized that among the factors that underpin their success is a clear understanding of the problems of their municipality as the basis for the "haom nga solusyon" (appropriate solution).* The Small-scale mining in South Cotabato is one best example of best practice and innovations (Fernandez and Ochotorena 2015).

While evidence from these may have been considered “anecdotal” at this point, this has not obviated the fact that improved governance at the local level – as evidence by the winners

recognized by those documented by the above initiatives – was attributed directly to local empowerment through decentralization.

In addition to people participation brought about by decentralization, the Code also provided the context for more greater inter-local cooperation to address common concerns hat cut across artificial political boundaries. There is none identified in Region 9; in fact, the lack of interlocal mechanism has been cited as a weakness (Fernandez and Ochotorena 2015).

In Region 12, there are a number of best practices. The PALMA-PB was established to protect the Libungan watershed; the Arakan Valley Development Council to promote agri-based industrial development; manage and coordinate development activities relative to Arakan Valley Complex; Allah Valley Development Complex (AVDC) for management and protection of the physical resources of both South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat (Samonte 2015).

Improved governance leading to development must be supported financially. It is within this context that efforts by local governments to increase financial resources have been documented by RFA 2015. These were in the areas of improved (and innovative methods) of local tax collection, innovative generation of financial resources through BOT and floating of bonds.

In the case of Region XII, Table 1 shows the trend in the income generated from taxes, non-tax revenues, and income from other sources, likewise the total annual operating expenses of Region XII. The table shows how Region XII progresses or regresses in its capacity to generate income over the five year period. This also illustrate the variance of the total annual local income with the total annual operating expenses that will show the extent of dependence LGUs in Region XII with IRA, and direction towards self-reliance.

The table below shows that tax and non-tax revenues and even income from other sources in Region XII have declined significantly in the year 2011. *However*, the figures recovered in the succeeding years. For a period of five years an increase of around 8B was observed in its total income from FY 2010 to 2014 comprising of all income derived by LGUs in Region XII. There is a P 10B variance annually between the total annual income and the total annual operating expense. The variance between total annual income and total annual operating expenses is understood to be financed by the IRA allotment to LGUs in Region XII. This ranges from 80 to 85% which was financed by the IRA of LGUs in Region XII. It can be concluded that for the last five years (2010 to 2014) that a big chunk of the total operating expenditures were financed by IRA, , **However, what is noteworthy is the steady increase** in the total annual income of Region XII that goes to show that it is slowly becoming self-reliant. This scenario of income versus expense of Region XII can be clearly seen in Figure 1 below also.

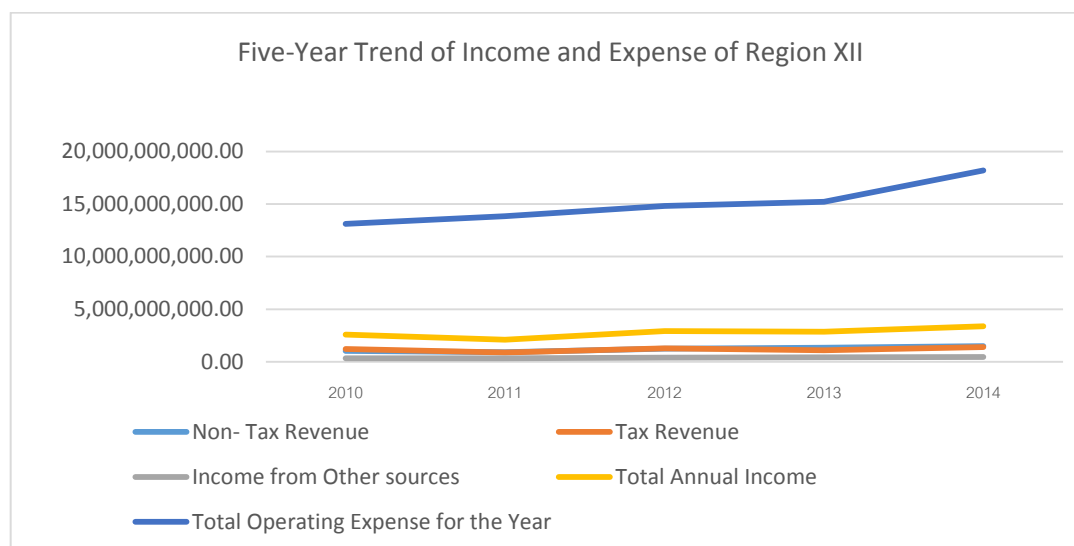
Table 1- Five-Year Data of Income from revenues and Economic Enterprise and Total Annual Operating Expenses of Region XII (2010-2014)

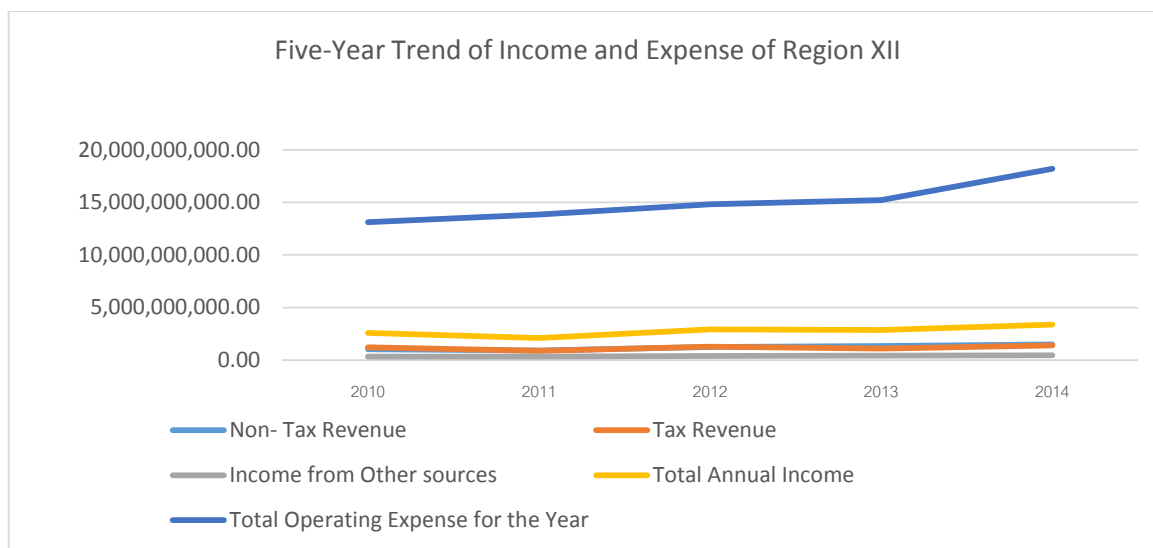
Fiscal Year	Non-Tax Revenue	Tax Revenue	Income from other Sources	Total Annual Local Income	Total Annual Operating Expense
2010	1,033,629,028.48	1,211,812,665.38	329,621,738.21	2,575,063,432.07	13,109,507,229.78
2011	906,178,464.46	878,691,036.33	318,210,447.50	2,103,079,948.29	13,838,752,296.48
2012	1,243,448,219.93	1,286,670,429.88	382,435,684.05	2,912,554,333.86	14,827,438,608.21
2013	1,343,489,825.18	1,105,028,596.64	413,807,215.51	2,862,325,637.33	15,229,834,255.93
2014	1,494,794,839.56	1,410,056,882.41	463,043,669.53	3,367,895,391.50	18,218,092,323.34

Source of Data: Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) in Region XII

Figure 1 shows the steady increase in the income generation capacity of LGUs in Region XII for the period FY 2010-2014. The amount constitutes about 15% to 20% of the total annual operating cost. It may not be as significant as it is at the moment, but with the positive trend being observed, it can be projected that the local income generated by these LGUs if sustained in the next five years will be able to contribute largely in funding social services for the communities.

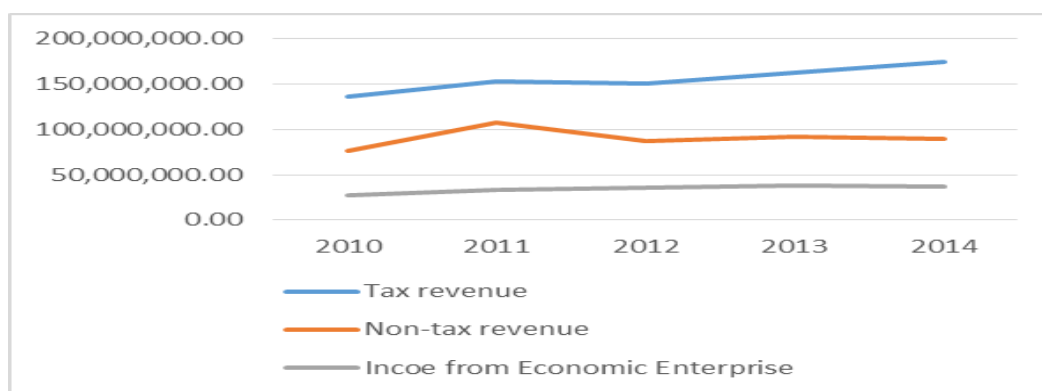
Figure 1: Five-Year Trend of Income and Expense in Region XII, 2010-2014





Generating local financial resources translates to development if these are located within the context of improved local fiscal and financial management to support service delivery. This also includes support for delivery of basic services including areas devolved to local governments.

Figure 3. Region 12



Development

It is within this context that the third dimension of the RFA comes into the picture – development.

Overall, the picture of poverty in the regions has largely remained the same in spite of decentralization in 1992.

There is a growing sense of being abandoned by the national government, of the national government not acting fast enough or decisively enough (Zamboanga City Chamber of Commerce). The Patterns and Trends of Local Development of Region IX are characterized by fluctuation, “*boom and bust*”, economic growth stymied by the volatile peace and order situation in the area and the worsening power crisis. Divisiveness brought about by the continuing debate on the proposed Bangsa Moro Basic Law and uncertainties on the final outcome of several issuances on what should be the region’s administrative regional center continue unabated (Fernandez and Ochotorena 2015).

The Region belongs to the bottom half of the poorest regions in the country in 2012 and continues to lag behind other areas of the country despite its rich economic potential and strategic location as the Philippines’ gateway to the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area or BIMP-EAGA. This lackluster economic performance is seen as the result of the volatile peace and order situation in the region exacerbated by the worsening power crisis. Region IX’s economic growth was a *jobless growth* even if the region’s economy had been experiencing an annual average growth rate of 4.0 percent (Fernandez and Ochotorena 2015).

However, in areas where decentralization has been successfully implemented as evidenced by the emergence of local good and best practices, has there been “development” operationalized in terms of improved delivery of services, especially those that have been devolved including health, agriculture, environment and social services.

Health Sector	<p>Some LGUs are not prepared while others lack the capability in governance and the political will to address health issues. but “<i>LGUs do not appreciate trainings and capability building on health matters and lack knowledge and interest in health concerns and issues.</i>”</p> <p>LGUs have reactive “band aid “solutions to problems, lack preparation, mitigation and pass health ordinances but implementation is very poor.</p> <p>Devolution has been implemented inconsistently and unilaterally by LGUs without consideration for overall effects; led to decrease in budgets leading to lowering of morale among health workers; poor involvement of local health boards (LHB) in decision-making, e.g., budgeting, prioritizing health programs and activities.</p> <p>Delay in construction of health facilities in several regions of the country including Region IX. There is a continuing need for re- training, enhancement for LGUs on leadership and priority health programs – constant monitoring and evaluation, utilization of scorecards in evaluation.</p>
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Agriculture	<p>Good practices on agriculture initiated by national office being observed in the Region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan (PAMANA) • Gawad Saka Award • Organization of local Agricultural and Fishery Councils (AFCs) • Organic Agriculture • Gulayan sa Paaralan Project (GSP) <p>Administrative concerns: slow implementation of projects (Sibugay) and juggling of funds (Dapitan City). Farmers observed decrease in income and inadequate development in the agriculture sector.</p>
Social Services	<p>a) Sea-based Anti -trafficking Task Force (SBATFF) recognized as one of the most outstanding Anti-trafficking Task force all over the Philippines, have catalyzed multi-stakeholder movement in other Anti trafficking task Forces. A total of 1,360 trafficked victims have been assisted, provided with psychosocial intervention and after-care services. Fifty four (54) rescue and operation have been participated; 50 cases have been filed which resulted to successful conviction of the cases.</p> <p>b) Best and Good Practices in the Sector. Rating the level of functionality of the Local Social Work development Offices through a three-scale score; Fully functional, Functional and Partially functional. This initiative forms part of the effort to devolve the delivery of basic social services to the LGUs and that the DSWD's role shall shift from "rowing" to "steering". However, the implementation of certain programs based on special laws remained within the DSWD's mandate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In 2012, DSWD was awarded as Outstanding Inter-Agency efforts in combating human trafficking by the Inter-Agency Council against Trafficking in the Philippines. ▪ Local Ordinance: Adoption of Reintegration for Deportees by LGU-Zamboanga City <p>Emerging Challenges of the Sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responding more efficiently to concerns of Internally Displaced Persons • Human trafficking and human smuggling • Increasing number of children in conflict with the law. • Violence against Women and Children • Administrative Concerns: Unliquidated funds of some LGUs on other programs implementation hindering the downloading of funds for the region; Delay in the conduct of payout due to 15 days clearing of

	checks especially in Zamboanga del Sur areas.
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Source: Fernandez and Ochotorena 2015

Again the evidence gathered by RFA 2015 provides a positive response. The RFA has documented dramatic examples from all over the country that demonstrated improved delivery of services in the above areas, and more.

Under the Socially Protective and Safe LGUs, North Cotabato implements the *SALINTUBIG (Sagana at Ligtas na Tubig sa Lahat)*. The program is designed to grant financing and capacity development programs for the implementation of water supply projects in poorest barangays and communities deprived of access to safe drinking water (Samonte 2015) The recipients included four (4) waterless municipalities – Aleosan, Arakan, Banisilan and President Roxas which were given P7M each for the construction of potable water sources. A barangay in the Municipality of Mlang was also given P1M for the said purpose.

The Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan (PAMANA), a DILG driven project allocated the amount of P30M for road improvements, water systems and farm equipment in North Cotabato. Eight poorest municipalities were identified and were given P3M each. These included: Arakan, Aleosan, Kabacan, Libungan, Carmen, Midsayap, Pigcawayan, and Pikit and. The remaining P 6M was downloaded to the Province. As of November 30, 2013, turn-over ceremonies were held for all accomplished and completed projects and with only two (2) projects are still ongoing such as the Farm to Market Road in Arakan and the water System in Makilala, Cotabato (Samonte 2015).

As in previous RFAs (1992 to 2011), and as suggested earlier, RFA 2015 has also gathered examples of innovative fiscal and financial management that translated to improved delivery of services.

Sarangani lives up to its vision of “United towards a Strong, Wealthy and Globally Competitive Sarangani Province” locally dubbed as USWAG. The program is an annual celebration of business entrepreneurs in collaboration with the seven component municipalities of the Province. The gathering continually aims to take concrete steps in ushering SMEs development activities and develop policy measures through “Uswag Goes to Town.”

As an initial step, Sarangani has revised its Local Investment and Incentive Code (LIIC) to encourage more local and foreign investors in establishing a productive, globally competitive, culture-sensitive and environmentally sound agri-industrial and eco-tourism industries in the Province. Over the last nine years, the province has opened various business opportunities to investors which already generated more than 90 major investments in the various priority investment areas mostly in tourism, plantation agriculture, aquaculture, manufacturing and support services. With its success in this endeavor, the DILG Sarangani personnel always extend its technical expertise as members of the Technical Working Group.

RFA 2015 was different from earlier RFAs in the sense that it located the assessment and analysis of decentralization within the context of democratization and development. RFA was also different from the earlier RFAs as it does not only assess the decentralization but also

identifies two fundamental strategies to sustain the gains of decentralization. These are the following:

The imperative to identify, support and develop the capacities of local government *leaders* (barangay captains, mayors and governors) who because of their strategic position as frontline leaders in local governance.

We have a similarly inspiring success story right here at home, albeit on a much smaller scale. Mayor Nacianceno Pacalioga Jr., known to his Dumingag, Zamboanga del Norte constituents as Mayor Jun, won the prestigious Galing Pook Award in 2010 for “Steering Local Development thru People Empowerment” in his town. Among other things, he urged farmers in his town to embrace organic farming. Starting his campaign at the schools, all teachers were trained in the basic principles of organic agriculture, now incorporated in the curricula as a required subject. Practical workshops on organic agriculture were organized in all barangays, and interested farmers offered intensive training courses at the Center for Organic Agriculture. Even the local military camp has embraced organic farming; visitors say the camp looks more like an organic farm than a military outpost. Barangay development workers sustain the mayor’s program, and the organic farmers have organized themselves into a marketing cooperative (<http://opinion.inquirer.net/44893/hope-against-hunger>).

The benefits of the program have been palpable. The town has achieved food security, cultivating 98 different local rice varieties that need not be purchased from multinational seed corporations. Remarkably, only two out of what used to be 10 local pesticide dealers remain in business, a good indicator of the program’s following. Within the initial developmental phase, the number of organic farmers rose from only 20 to 500 (<http://opinion.inquirer.net/44893/hope-against-hunger>).

Siayan, Zamboanga del Norte, once known as the poorest municipality in the Philippines wins accolade for being one of the 10 winners of the 2015 Galing Pook Awards. Siayan’s Pangkabuhayan Centers under Community Enterprise Development Program earned the municipality the much-coveted award with a cash prize of P1-million. Mayor Flora Villarosa said the award was so fulfilling. Since she was elected as mayor of Siayan in 2010, she donated her net monthly salary of P27,000.00 as start-up capital of the cooperatives in the 22 barangays and 2 big sitios of the municipality. As counterpart, the farmer-members also paid P400.00 membership fee (<http://news.pia.gov.ph/article/view/1441441690831/once-poorest-municipality-wins-2015-galing-pook-award>)

Barangay Sanito rose to prominence when it was chosen as one of the 2008 Gawad Galing Pook awardees in ceremony held at Malacanang on February 12, 2009. This annual award were given to deserving local government units for their innovations and outstanding local governance that promotes general welfare and contribute to attaining the Millenium Development Goal (MDG) of the United Nation. Sanito was also a recipient along with Pampanga, Negros Oriental, San Fernando City and Albay from UNDP for anti-poverty. These four LGUs were interviewed by ABS-CBN’s Tina Monzon-Palma sometime in March 2009.

The innovations introduced by its new chairman, Jose Cabaral Tiu, elected in 2002, produced far - reaching results that the barangay is now working on several programs - among

them: the Trichanthera Feed Production (for livestock), the Sanito Urban Poor Housing project, a 10 - hectare housing project, the Barangay Water System, which would also supply water to the metropolitan Ipil area and the expansion of the Barangay Bagsakan to include a food plaza, a motorcab - jeepney terminal, and other projects of barangay impact. This was made possible through the mandate given to the incumbent barangay officials by the Sanito Barangay Government Code which endowed so much governmental powers and enormous responsibilities upon them. Interviewed by the local media why they decided to venture into this kind or style of governance, Brgy Chair Susing (as he is fondly called) replied: "We have to do this after almost 40 years of neglect. The constitution and Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, have given us such powers so we must enforce it. "We cannot afford to lie idly while the problems - overpopulation, solid waste management, poverty, hunger, education, housing, nutrition, health and sanitation, and peace and order and getting serious every day. We have to fast-track our efforts to catch up with these problems."

The barangay has a unique concept of governance - the participation of the people. They have adopted a program called the: "KAPIT BISIG STRUCTURE of GOVERNANCE in BARANGAY SANITO." There are a number of politicians who questioned the legality of the Sanito Barangay Government Code but no one dared to go to court for its nullification. The provincial government and the DILG acknowledged it. No less than Her Excellency Pres. Gloria Macapagal - Arroyo also acknowledged it in a speech before the Sibugaynons on February 20, 2009 when she declared that "what made your barangays outstanding is that Barangay Sanito is one of this year's Gawad Galing Pook awardees for harnessing resources at the barangay level by virtue of its Barangay Government Code" (http://www.zamboanga.com/z/index.php?title=Sanito_Ipil_Zamboanga_Sibugay_Philippines)

RFA 2015 was also different considering that it focused on the INSTITUTIONS that were needed to sustain and build upon the gains of decentralization. More specifically said institutions are the GOVERNANCE HUBS that are locally based academic institutions that perform multifarious roles that are critical in the continued advocacy for development, democratization and decentralization.

RFA 2015 began an assessment of the capacities of local academic institutions in terms of the availability of public administration and local governance programs that will house the governance assessment centers, the availability of faculty and resource persons, and the extent of resources dedicated by the administration for said purpose.

RFA 2015 has identified a number of academic institutions PER REGION that could play a critical role as hubs of governance within the context of academe-community / academe-industry / and academe-LGU linkage.

Conflicting Monitoring. WMSU partnered with the World Bank through International Alert in the project Bangsamoro Conflict Monitoring System (BCMS). This project fills the gap in dynamic, real-time data that track conflict incidence, typology, cause, actors, and effects in a publicly accessible manner and enables development practitioners and peace building actors to identify where, when, and how resources can be targeted and to understand the conflict effects of development initiatives. The BCMS harvests data from reports of the Philippine National Police and credible media sources.

The system is the product of a partnership between a number of agencies. The World Bank thanks International Alert as the main implementing agency, together with the Mindanao State Universities in General Santos City and Iligan and Western Mindanao State University of Zamboanga City. We also acknowledge the support of the Philippine National Police and a number of media outlets that are providing the main sources of data for the monitoring system. The partnership with the local universities is of particular importance. This, and making the data fully accessible to the public, is explicitly intended to help stimulate local discussions and build local capacity for conflict analysis.

Promotion of Culture of Peace. Western Mindanao State University Center for Peace and Development (WMSU-CPD) collaborated with Indonesia-based PeaceTech and other stakeholders in initiating a teleconference among Muslim and Christian youths in Mindanao, with WMSU as the hub, and their counterpart in De La Salle St. Benilde, Manila.

CPD Director Dr. Carpizo as National Chairperson of Philippines Against Child Trafficking (PACT), and in collaboration with the Department of Justice, the Philippine National Police and other partner agencies and cause-oriented organizations, has been promoting the safety and protection of children from human traffickers; pursuing prosecution of child traffickers; and the healing and social reintegration of trafficked children. Collaborates with Katilingan Para sa Kalambuan, Inc. (KKI) in operating a shelter for trafficked children for the psycho-social healing of victims and to prepare them, as well as their families, for social reintegration.

CPD continues to conduct trainings and capability building activities on how to handle trafficked victims, and on laws protecting children from all forms of abuses particularly under RA 9262, also known as the Violence Against Women and Children Act and RA 9208, the Anti-Trafficking of Persons Act of 2003.

Dr. Carpizo is deeply grateful to the Center's many committed partners: PACT; Katilingan Para sa Kalambuan, Inc. (KKI); the Women's and Children's Desk of the Philippine National Police; Department of Social Work and Development; City Social Welfare and Development Office; Philippine Information Agency; Bantay Bata 163; ABS-CBN; Radio Mindanao Network; IRDT; Department of Justice; Visayan Forum; Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention Network (CAPIN); Akay Kalinga; Christian Children's Fund; Kabalik; the local government; and Peace Advocates Zamboanga; and HDES.

CSWCD Engages Barangays for Sustainable Development. In keeping with its motto, "La Universidad na Servicio del Comunidad," the Western Mindanao State University (WMSU), through the College of Social Work and Community Development (CSWCD) conducted a participatory resource appraisal (PRA) in the clustered barangays of Cawit – Tulungatung on February 11-12 and Ayala – Talisayan on February 15-16 in order to assist the barangays attain sustainable development utilizing the Ecosystem-Based Community-Centered Sustainable Development Organization and Management Approach (ECSOM). La Paz – Pamucutan barangays on March 1-3.

ECSOM is a strategy for change and sustainable development which is being advanced by the T. Kalaw Institute for Sustainable Development which is based in Makati City. WMSU,

through CSWCD, collaborates with the institute by integrating the strategy in the University's efforts to come up with a community outreach program that is responsive to the needs of the community as well as cognizant of the need for ecological sustainability.

Research on Native Chicken Profitability in Partnership with PCAARRD & Bureau of Correction. Western Mindanao State University (WMSU), the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) and the agency responsible for the rehabilitation and transformation of prisoners—the Bureau of Corrections, through the San Ramon Prison and Penal Farm, Zamboanga City partnered in the project Evaluation of the Profitability and Sustainability of the Zampen Native Chicken as Source of Livelihood in Rural Communities.

Knowledge for Development Community (KDCs) in partnership with the World Bank. KDCs are schools and policy and research institutions in the Philippines that promote knowledge sharing and active citizen involvement in governance issues. They are established in partnership with the World Bank and institutions in country since 2002.

Currently, there are 19 KDCs nationwide: 8 in Metro Manila, 4 in Luzon, 3 in Visayas and 4 in Mindanao. Western Mindanao State University (WMSU) is the 4th in Mindanao, after the University of Southeastern Philippines in Davao, Notre Dame University in Cotabato and Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro.

The grant of autonomous and deregulated status among private higher education institutions is the CHED's manifestation of recognizing PHEIs that have consistently displayed exemplary performance in the provision of education, research and extension services. The selection is based on three main criteria: (a) long tradition of integrity and untarnished reputation; (b) commitment to excellence through academic performance; and (c) sustainability and viability of operations.

Of the total ninety-nine (99) Philippine Higher Education Institutions (PHEIs) in Region XII, one has been awarded an autonomous status for five years- the Notre Dame of Dadiangas University (NDDU) in General Santos City; and two were awarded deregulated status – the Notre Dame University (NDU) in Cotabato City and Notre Dame of Marbel University (NDMU) in Koronadal City.

Of the three institutions granted with autonomous and deregulated status, it is only Notre Dame University (NDU) in Cobato City which offers programs and short-term courses in Public Administration. Its curriculum was patterned from UP-NCPAG.

In the case of state universities and colleges (SUC), the Cotabato City Polytechnic State College (CCSPC) offers public administration courses from bachelor to doctorate; the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) in Kabaccan, North Cotabato offers public management in masters degree only while the Sultan Kudarat State University (SKSU) in Sultan Kudarat offers Masters in Public Management and Doctor in Institutional Development (PhD IDM).

In the clustering of disciplines made by the Commission on Higher Education, public administration is subsumed under Business and Management Education.

These locally based institutions – are mostly public higher education institutions whose leadership administration have articulated a commitment to host the local governance hubs. Governance hubs will play the various roles from researcher, networker to capacity builder, advocate and knowledge creator (Figure 1 of GOP and UNDP).

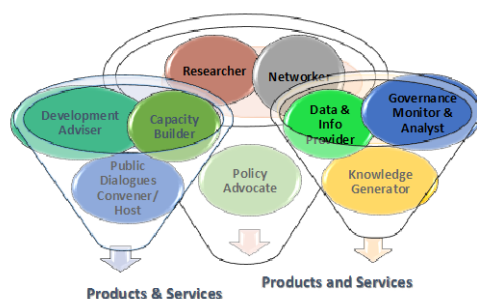


Figure 3. Governance HUBS with Multiple Roles & Products

Source: UNDP 2015

The RFA 2015 has assessed and identified initial locally based institutions that have demonstrated initial capacities to play the roles as identified in Figure 3.

References

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