

# THE TRUMPET

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF DILG XII - SOCCSKSARGEN

ISSUE NO. 21 JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2020

## THE NEW NORMAL



# TABLE

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# Confirmed local transmission puts Region XII borders on lockdown

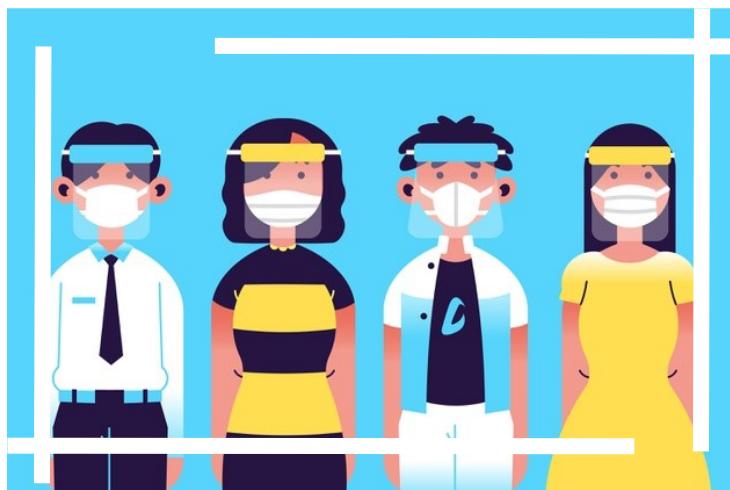


The regional boundaries of Region XII were placed under lock down as Covid-19 cases noticeably spike during the last few weeks. In a recent virtual meeting, the RIATF-EID XII-RTF on Covid 19 XII has unanimously approved the implementation of a "regional border lockdown for non-essential travels" to limit movements of people in the region. The said border lockdown started on September 2 and lasted until September 30.

Earlier, a resolution was pushed by the

Joint Task Force to place two villages under localized lockdown. Purok Mainuswagon in Surallah, South Cotabato had been on a lockdown from August 28 up to September 8 and Purok 4B in Barangay Colon of Maasim, Sarangani Province from August 31 to September 13.

DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III, RIATF XII Chairperson, also confirmed the information from DOH XII that there has



Meanwhile, to ensure the alignment of localized lockdowns with the existing national guidelines, the Joint Task Force has required LGUs to post their respective declarations for massive information dissemination. This declaration must also be concurred by the RTF-RIATF COVID-19.

According to RD Leysa, this course of action will ensure awareness among the general populace; thereby minimizing the inconvenience to the public who might have to move from one LGU to another. "Through the local chief executives, we are also able to provide feedback about any concern relative to their lockdown implementation," the Director clarified.

With the latest development about the confirmed local transmission, Dir. Leysa renewed her appeal to all residents of Region XII to strictly observe the maximum health standards (wearing of face shields and face masks while in public, maintaining safe physical distance, frequent hand washing with soap or disinfectant.)

been confirmed cases of local transmission in General Santos City, Polomolok and Koronadal City in South Cotabato and Isulan, Sultan Kudarat recently which prompted the border closure.

Dir. Leysa called on both local officials and residents to be more responsible and cooperative "especially during this time when there is sudden increase in the number of transmissions".

She added that "we have been consistently advocating (all of these health standards) especially during the height of the quarantine period. We must not ignore the seriousness of this health threat. For now, non-essential travels should be avoided. We know that it is much of a hassle but the inconvenience caused is nothing compared to the impact on the health of our people and community as a whole."



## *DILG XII region-wide vaccination program against pneumonia and flu kickstarts at the Regional Office*

Officials and employees of DILG XII all lined up to get their immunity boosted against pneumonia and flu on Friday, September 11, 2020 as the vaccination program pushed through after brief teleconference hosted by a healthcare facility, which administered the vaccines. In attendance to the video-conference were the provincial directors of DILG XII along with the other personnel and staff.



Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III, led the regional management team, with ARD Lailyn A. Ortiz, CESO V, in receiving the anti-pneumonia and flu shots amidst the cheers of the regional and field personnel who were present at the Regional Office Conference Room and those who were watching the whole proceedings as it was streamed through the Zoom app.

She urged everyone to avail of the vaccines as a way to boost their health while reports about confirmed Covid-19 cases continue to pour in from various places in the Region. "I know we all do our best to boost our immune system through exercise, take the right food and food supplements but we need to get the available vaccine, if we haven't received it yet," Dir. Leysa explained.

"We have experienced this program while we were at the Central Office and I said to myself 'why can't we do it here?'," explains Director Leysa, who served as the Head Executive Assistant to three DILG secretaries before she came home as regional director of Region XII last year. That simple question started the ball rolling leading to the vaccination program on September 11.

Assistant Director Ortiz con-

firmed that for the Regional Office, there were about 72 personnel, including those in the Regional Execom, who availed both of the PCV 13 and flu shots. Other field offices are scheduled to have their vaccination on the following dates: Sept 25 for Cotabato Province and Cotabato City, October 2 for Sultan Kudarat and South Cotabato and October 9 for General Santos City and Sarangani Province.

"Our records from the administrative division showed that out of the 127 personnel, there were some who opted out of the vaccination because they have already availed of it," ARD Ortiz clarified. "While the vaccine against pneumonia and flu do not protect against the Covid 19 virus, vaccination against respiratory illness would be a great help to protect your health," ARD Ortiz stated.

Both employees and members of the Execom and Management Team thanked RD Leysa for pushing through with the vaccination program. PDMU Chief Engineer Herminia S. Ontoy was one of those who relayed her gratitude to Dir. Leysa for 'looking after every member of the DILG XII family.' The outpouring of thanks for the Director continued throughout the day.



In a bid to increase its surveillance capacity for Covid 19, the Department of the Interior and Local Government XII has started with the recruitment process of contact tracers as the Region battles the most recent spike in infections due to confirmed local transmission.

In a radio interview on Tuesday, Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III called on applicants who meet the minimum qualification standards such as having a Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job, with preferred experience on any of the following: an allied medical professional like a nurse, or at least a graduate or an undergraduate of an allied medical course, must be skilled in data gathering and or assisted in research and documentation, must be able to interview Covid 19 cases and close contacts in order to gather data on travel history and conduct health assessment, must possess the ability to advocate public health education messages, and have investigative capability.

"If you noticed *sa mga* media posts, there is no training or eligibility required since our Department, along with the Local Government Academy, will provide the necessary training for these Contact Tracers (CTs)" Dir. Leysa said.

"This contact tracers will serve as members of the Contact Tracing Teams (CTT) for three months. In our Region, we were originally allocated 1, 451 slots for contract tracers but we

# Wanted:

## 1,501 Contact Tracers for Region XII as Covid-19 battle intensifies







**WE ARE  
HIRING**

**CONTACT TRACERS**

SALARY GRADE : 9

LENGTH OF ENGAGEMENT : THREE (3) MONTHS

**JOB APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

**1. LETTER OF INTENT OR APPLICATION LETTER addressed to:**

JOSEPHINE CABRIDO-LEYSA, CESO III  
Regional Director  
DILG Regional Office XII  
Prime Regional Government Center  
Koronadal City, South Cotabato

Thru: (Respective DILG Provincial or City Directors)

**2. SUMMARY OF PERSONAL INFORMATION AND QUALIFICATIONS**  
(Template can be downloaded through [tinyurl.com/summaryinfo](http://tinyurl.com/summaryinfo))

**3. PERSONAL DATA SHEET (PDS)**  
(Template can be downloaded through [tinyurl.com/Revised2017](http://tinyurl.com/Revised2017))

**4. NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI) CLEARANCE**  
- Police clearance if NBI will not be feasible

**5. DRUG TEST RESULT**

Applicants must only submit the valid, original copies of items 4 & 5

**QUALIFICATIONS**

**EDUCATION:** Bachelor's Degree Relevant to the Job  
(Preferably allied Medical Course, Criminology)

**EXPERIENCE:** Preferred experience would be any of the following:

- Gather data and/or assisted in research and documentation
- Investigate Covid-19 cases and close contacts through health assessment
- Advocate public health education

**NO TRAINING AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIRED**

**DEADLINE of  
submission of  
requirements is on  
September 21, 2020**

For interested applicants,  
please submit your  
documents through drop box  
located at DILG Provincial  
Offices OR through their email  
addresses

**DILG Cotabato City**  
Ground Floor, People's Palace Building,  
Malagapas, Cotabato City  
(064) 552-0621  
[dilgcotabatocitycct@gmail.com](mailto:dilgcotabatocitycct@gmail.com)

**DILG General Santos City**  
2/F City Hall Bldg., City Hall Drive,  
General Santos City  
(083) 302-4165  
[dilggensanctt@gmail.com](mailto:dilggensanctt@gmail.com)

**DILG Province of Cotabato**  
Capitol Compound, Amas, Kidapawan City  
(064) 577-8865  
[dilgcotabatoprovincectt@gmail.com](mailto:dilgcotabatoprovincectt@gmail.com)

**DILG Sarangani Province**  
Jabilles St., Alabel, Sarangani Province  
(083) 508-2106  
[dilgsaranganicctt@gmail.com](mailto:dilgsaranganicctt@gmail.com)

**DILG South Cotabato Province**  
Capitol Compound, Alunan Avenue, Koronadal City  
(083) 228-2363  
[dilgsouthcotabatocctt@gmail.com](mailto:dilgsouthcotabatocctt@gmail.com)

**DILG Sultan Kudarat Province**  
Municipal Hall Compound, Kalawag III,  
Isulan, Sultan Kudarat  
(064) 201-3496  
[dilgsultankudaratcctt@gmail.com](mailto:dilgsultankudaratcctt@gmail.com)



haggled a bit *para madagda- gan ito* especially for our present situation *na mayroon na tayong local transmission*. Well, finally, just over the weekend, we were informed that an additional fifty slots were opened. All in all, we will be hiring 1, 501 contact tracers.”

Dir. Leysa clarified further that the Department will give priority to its own contract of service personnel, whose contracts have not been renewed or have been affected by the budget realignments due to Covid 19. “We have to single out this issue on prioritization *kasi nga* we are looking for a way to help our qualified *kabayans*, through the hiring of contact tracers (CTs). Included in the list, among others, are “returning Overseas Filipino Workers who are now unemployed, terminated local company workers, displaced workers both from the formal or informal sector, from existing networks of barangay health workers, parent-leaders from 4Ps, members of duly accredited CSOs and

those from high risk areas. *Pati na rin yung mga dating volunteers natin”* the Director said.

There are also other factors to consider in the hiring of contact tracers, Dir. Leysa explained, such as the population size and the number of active cases in an area. “The Province of South Cotabato has the most number of contact tracer allocation due to the high number of active cases. In fact, we are about to hire 469 CTs for South Cotabato since our province has 180 active cases as I speak.

Meanwhile, we need 401 for the Province of Cotabato, 201 for Sarangani, 231 for Sultan Kudarat, 136 for Gen. Santos City and 52 for Cotabato City,” Dir. Leysa stated.

Applicants need only to submit their Letter of Intent, along with their PDS or Resume, Police Clearance (while waiting for their NBI Clearance) and drug test result to their local DILG offices.



# No punong barangays from Region XII among suspended for SAP Tranche 1 anomalies:

*RD Leysa*

**“NOT one punong barangay from Region XII made to the dreaded list of barangay officials who had been placed on a six-month preventive suspension by the Office of the Ombudsman.”**

This was confirmed by Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III as she thanked all the field personnel and local officials about the latest “achievement” for the Region.

In a press release, DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año released the names of 89 punong barangays from all over the country who were suspended following the filing of complaints by the Department “for anomalies and irregularities involving the implementation of the first tranche of the Social Amelioration Program (SAP).”

DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año has given the directive to the Municipal/City Mayors of these Punong Barangays to effect the implementation order of the Ombudsman upon receipt while “the DILG Regional and field officers were directed to ensure the orderly implemen-

tation of the said mass suspension.”

The Office of the OMB Order dated September 2, 2020 articulated that “the evidence on record shows that the guilt of these punong barangays is strong and the charges against them involve Serious Dishonesty, Grave Misconduct, Abuse of Authority and Conduct Prejudicial to the Best Interest of the Service which may warrant removal from the service.”

The suspension, according to the Ombudsman, is necessary as the continued stay in office of these village officials may prejudice the case filed against them. Their suspension is “pursuant to Republic Act No. 6770 is proper under the premises.”

Director Leysa said that the mass suspension is quite “unprecedented”, putting on the record of the nation’s history as the “first mass suspension in the Philippines.” Dir. Leysa believes that the DILG is “simply showing its resolve and commitment to clean up the bureaucracy”, especially the corrupt officials who took advantage of the SAP implementation.

# DILG XII to public: support frontline workers, impose self-restrictions



The Department has earlier given the green light for the "PNP-CIDG to file criminal cases against 447 individuals for violations of RA 3019 (Anti - Graft and Corrupt Practices Act), RA 11469 (Bayanihan Act I), and RA 6713 (Code of Conduct of Government Officials and Employees), among others, again in relation to the implementation of the Social Amelioration Program."

Based on the records, out of the 447 suspects, "211 are elected local and barangay officials, 104 are appointed barangay officials and 132 are their civilian co-conspirators."

Their cases are now in the hands of their respective City and Provincial Prosecutors across the country.

"My deepest gratitude to all the local chief executives for going out of their way to make sure that their punong barangays stay in line, as far as the distribution of SAP is concerned. Yes, there had been reports about alleged anomalies in our Region but upon closer scrutiny, the issues had been dealt with accordingly," Dir. Leysa explained.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government XII (DILG XII) is urging the public to support the country's frontline workers by imposing 'self-restrictions' as the country continues to battle COVID-19.

In a statement on August 3 during the regular Monday convocation, DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III urged the employees and the public to "act as if we are on ECQ", despite the Region is under the Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ) status for quite sometime now.

As cases of Covid 19 surged especially in Metro Manila area, health workers publicly sought for a "time-out" to enable them to rest. Such a call became the basis for President Duterte to declare the MECQ in the National Capital Region (NCR).

Director Leysa encouraged the public to refrain from attending mass gatherings or public worships, visiting recreation facilities, salons and barbershops, or dining in restaurants, to help contain the spread of the disease.

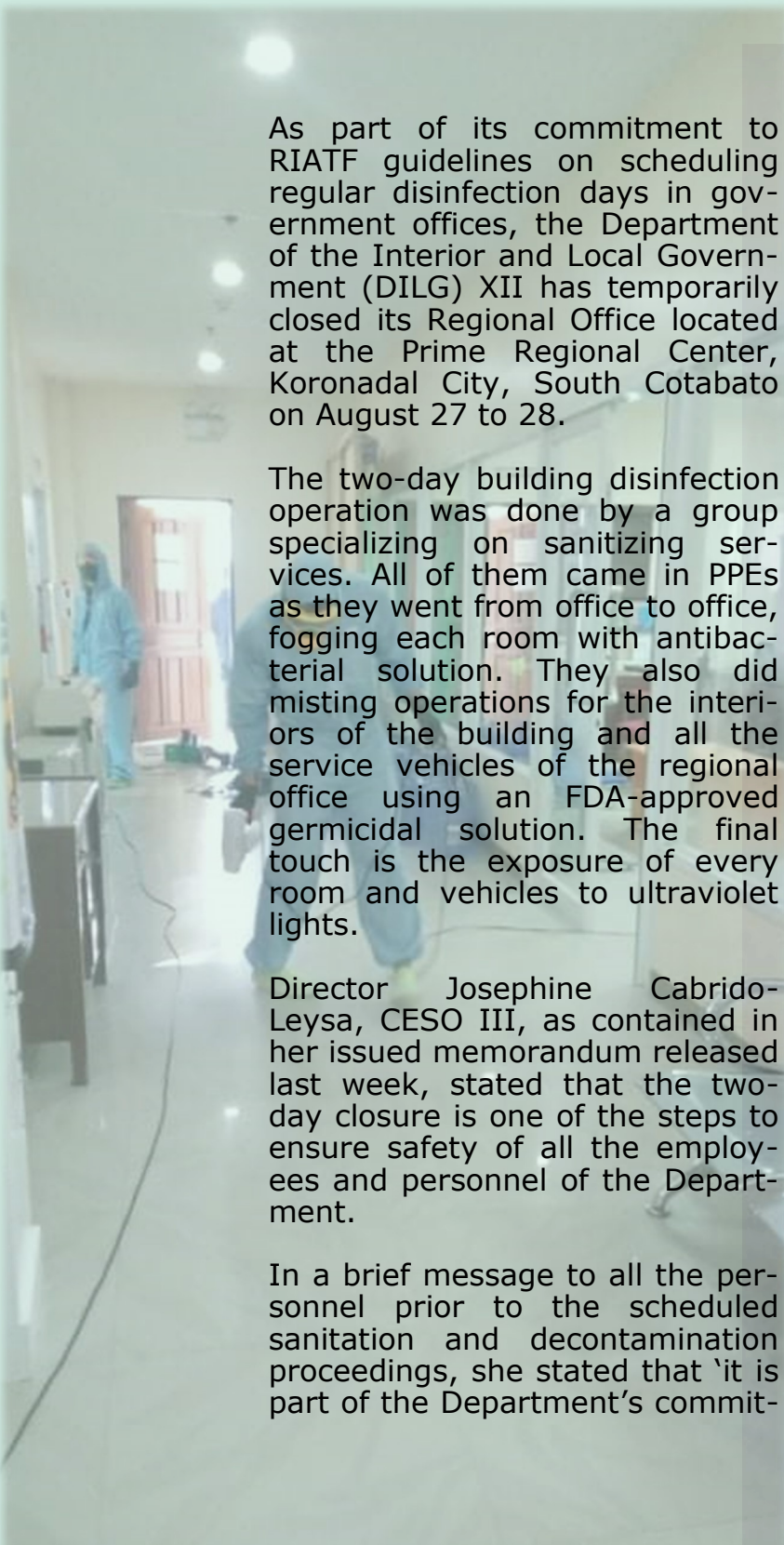
She also called on citizens to do their transactions online, if it were feasible, to minimize or avoid face-to-face contact, and to always wear face masks and face shields when in public places.

During the early days of this month, President Rodrigo R. Duterte announced that he is placing NCR, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, and Bulacan under Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) following the medical sector's appeal for the government to reimpose tighter movement restrictions around the metropolitan area which hosts around 13 million residents.

As of August 3, the Philippines has reached more than 100,000 COVID-19 positive cases; 2,000 of which have died while 65,557 cases have recovered.

The Director then re-echoed her plea to all personnel and staff of the Regional Office, including those in the field offices, not to 'relax' or 'drop their guards' despite the negligible cases of Covid 19 being recorded for the whole of Region XII.

# Two-day disinfection and decontamination shuts DILG XII Regional Office



As part of its commitment to RIATF guidelines on scheduling regular disinfection days in government offices, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) XII has temporarily closed its Regional Office located at the Prime Regional Center, Koronadal City, South Cotabato on August 27 to 28.

The two-day building disinfection operation was done by a group specializing on sanitizing services. All of them came in PPEs as they went from office to office, fogging each room with antibacterial solution. They also did misting operations for the interiors of the building and all the service vehicles of the regional office using an FDA-approved germicidal solution. The final touch is the exposure of every room and vehicles to ultraviolet lights.

Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III, as contained in her issued memorandum released last week, stated that the two-day closure is one of the steps to ensure safety of all the employees and personnel of the Department.

In a brief message to all the personnel prior to the scheduled sanitation and decontamination proceedings, she stated that 'it is part of the Department's commit-

ment to look after the safety of its own people.

"I know that we cannot chose to be complacent or too lax when it comes to our health. This is our way of saying we care for you. Unknown to many of you, top management at the regional office are actually exposed to a lot of potential dangers as they cater to clients in the field, even here at the office" Dir. Leysa explained.

"We have to meet some people in many instances and in the process, we increase our exposure to the virus," Dir. Leysa clarifies further.

As a result, all Regional Office personnel were directed to shift to a work-from-home arrangement to make sure that the delivery of public service in the Region will not be affected.

The public are meanwhile advised to transact official business during office hours through calls and e-mails.

Director Leysa said the she will ensure that whole of DILG XII will be ready by the time work resumes on September 1. A "No Visitor Policy" will still be strictly implemented starting that day.

# DILG XII, TESDA XII

**join hands**

**to extend  
assistance**

**to**

**IPEACE  
Project**



Photo by: Department of Agriculture

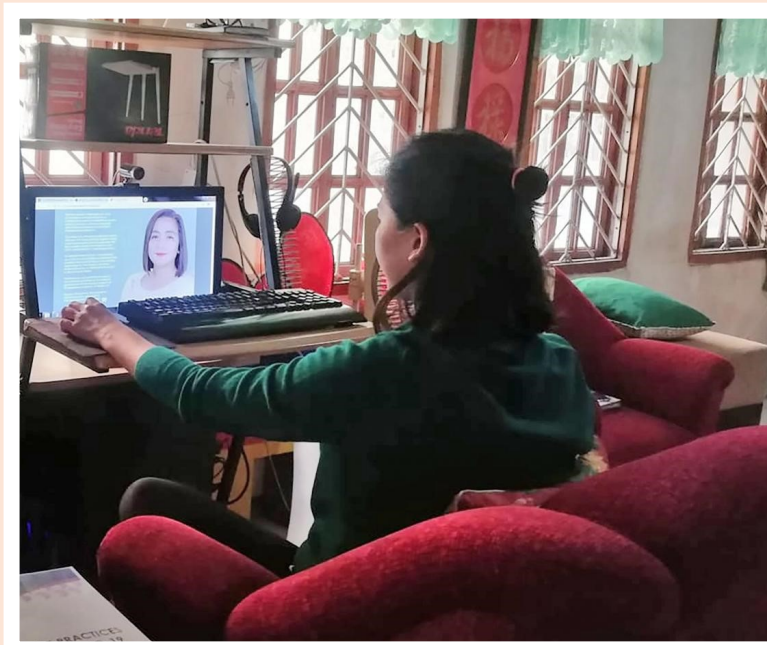
DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III pledged the Department's full support in the implementation of the Indigenous People Empowered as Agripreneurs towards a Collective End (IPEACE).

A project led by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) XII, IPEACE aims to ensure food sustainability in IP communities and help end local communist armed conflict in the region.

Technical and financial assistance will be extended by DILG XII through its Retooled Community Support Program (RCSP), Director Leysa revealed during the recent virtual meeting of the Regional Task Force on Ending Local Communist Armed Conflict XII-Technical Working Group (RTF-ELCAC XII TWG). TESDA XII Regional Director Rafael Y. Abrogar II serves as the current Chairperson of the said technical working group.

RCSP is an inclusive program led by DILG anchored under Executive Order No. 70 or the Whole-of-Nation Approach "that aims to address identified issues of the community by closing the governance and development gaps through provision of needed government PPAs" while ensuring that peace is being promoted and development is sustained.

On June 24, TESDA XII formally launched the IPEACE project in five of its identified pilot areas in Barangay Datalblao of Columbio, Sultan Kudarat, Barangay Manobo of Magpet, Cotabato, Barangay Alegria of Alabel, Sarangani, Barangay San Jose in General Santos City, and Barangay Ned in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato.



## **Work-from-Home Scheme now implemented at DILG XII**

DILG XII has started implementing the work-from-home scheme for some of the Divisions at the Regional Office as earlier proposed by RD Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III.

The move came in the light of the recorded cases of possible Covid-19 transmission in Region XII, which prompted the four provincial LGUs to effect stricter controls on its regional borders.

Dir. Leysa has signified the intention of implementing the work-from-home scheme for the regional office personnel to minimize the number of people who report for work, thereby lowering the exposure of its personnel and staff.

“Out of the 106 or so personnel that we have, it is a big help if the number goes down to half since some of the workload can be done at home,” Dir. Leysa added. She further stated that the scheme depends on the internal arrangements within the Divisions concerned, with some doing the alternate reporting of staff on certain number of days.

“Basically, the purpose is to reduce our number without compromising our deliverables. We owe it to ourselves to be

healthy and safe. By doing so, we keep our family and our community safe from Covid-19,” Dir. Leysa elaborated.

The Regional Director has repeatedly issued warnings about the strict observance of minimum health protocols. Earlier, Director Leysa challenged all employees and personnel to adhere, if possible, to “maximum health standard.”

The Alternative Work Arrangement will run from August 18 up to August 31, 2020. Consistent with the existing regional memorandum entitled “Reporting to office Scheme under the Community Quarantine,” personnel who render services from home are directed to enroll in the regional electronic attendance form. The said form will then be printed out and attached to the DTRs.

Employees should also be able to maintain an open line of communication throughout the office hours and be ready to join virtual meetings, if need be.

Meanwhile, those who compose the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) as members, TWG and Secretariat must be ready to report for work should the need arise.

# RIATF XII concurs with zoning containment strategies in selected areas in the Region

The Regional Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Disease (RIATF-EID XII) has concurred to the requests made by LGUs to implement zoning containment strategies in certain areas with Covid-19 cases.

This was confirmed by DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III, based on RIATF Resolution 2020-29-B dated September 9, 2020. Around four LGUs in Region XII had to be placed under lockdown due to recorded new cases of Covid-19 infection.

“The RIATF deemed it necessary that zoning containment strategies are implemented in the municipality of Surallah and Koronadal City in South Cotabato, Midsayap in Cotabato Province and Maasim in Sarangani Province,” according to Dir. Leysa. During these times, the LGUs, through their local chief executives, have the “authority to determine and declare zoning classification and lockdown”, based on the reported number of suspected, probable, and Covid-19 positive cases in the area, and other preset parameters, the resolution stated.

“We are following the guidelines set forth by the IATF wherein LGUs declaring localized lockdowns have to submit first to the RIATF their request for lockdown implementation, through the screening and validation committee,” Director Leysa explained further.

On September 7 and 8, 4 LGUs in Region XII, namely Surallah, Koronadal City, Midsayap and Maasim requested concurrence of the RIATF for a localized lockdown as new confirmed cases had been recorded among individuals who had travel history to high risk areas prior to the onset of their symptoms and release of their RT PCR Results.

In the municipality of Surallah, Purok 4 in Barangay Centrala is in a localized lockdown and has been identified as the Critical Zone with the area fronting the Centrala Satellite Market as the Containment Zone. The rest of Purok 4 will serve as the Buffer Zone and will all remain in lockdown from September 3 until September 17.

The same dates for a localized lockdown also covered seven places in Koronadal City, namely Purok Maligaya in Zone 1, Agreda Phase 3, San Antonio Phase 4 and Purok Ramos and Purok Hillside, all in Barangay Sta. Cruz, Purok Maunlad in Barangay Saravia and Purok Pagkakaisa in Barangay San Isidro.



## Additional new target barangays in RXII prompts EO 70 Focal and Alternate Focal Persons to make adjustments



Focal and alternate focal persons on Localizing Executive Order 70 (LEO 70) from the Provinces of Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, South Cotabato and Cotabato Province gathered recently at the DILG Regional Office XII Conference Room in order to prepare for the necessary adjustments and approaches to end local armed conflict and insurgency in the Region.

This development came as the additional list of target barangays for the Region was released. DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III informed that there were 1,325 target barangays for the 2020 nationwide target of which Region XII has 103 identified barangays. This includes the original 63 target barangays and the additional 40 barangays which were added by the National Task Force (NTF) on ELCAC to be targeted for CY 2020." This "translates to adjustments, as far as our implementation plans and programs are concerned considering that DILG XII heads five (5) Line of Efforts (LOE) clusters, including the Local Government Cluster."

Director Leysa, in an earlier statement recalled that "the advocacy on Ending Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) has been sustained by the Department" and all the adjustments are in place as a way of ensuring that all the efforts toward the realization of insurgent-free communities will not be paralyzed, even during the dark days of Covid 19 pandemic.

DILG XII LEO 70 Regional Focal Person Ian Jon S. Clemente, who acted as the facilitator for the said meeting, requested all the attendees to facilitate LGUs' formulation of catch up plans and commitments for LEO 70 deliverables.

"There has to be extra efforts from our end to be able to gain more ground and maintain the momentum we have gathered. The meeting we just had is our way of getting your assurance that the target PPAs for CY 2020 relative to the implementation of the LEO 70 is in place," Mr. Clemente concluded.



# EO 70 VIRTUAL MEETINGS ON FULL GEAR IN THE MIDST OF COVID SITUATION

Lockdowns and quarantines have not hampered efforts to reach out to partners and other players involved in the Localization of Executive Order No. 70 (LEO 70) with a series of virtual meetings that were conducted during the past few months.

"The advocacy on Ending Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) has been sustained by the Department and we have utilized every available Apps for teleconferencing to ensure that our efforts will not be paralyzed, even by the pandemic," DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III explained.

DILG XII heads five (5) Line of Efforts (LOE) clusters and as chair of the Local Government Cluster, it played host to a series of orientation to the various Retooled Community Support Program (RCSP) Teams and Barangay Task Forces.

It started with the Local Task Force (LTF) Chairperson's Conference on July 23, 2020, which was attended by the Local Chief Executives of the 4 provinces, 2 Cities (General Santos City and Kidapawan City) and 12 municipalities.

Succeeding virtual orientations were held on July 24, 27 and 28, 2020. This time, the attendees were the RCSP Core Team, Department Heads and Local Functionaries of the target provinces, cities and municipalities and barangay officials and functionaries of the 63 target barangays in the Region.

To ensure that the RCSP Teams of the 8 municipalities and barangay officials and functionaries of the additional 40 target barangays are on-board and to have deeper understanding on the various phases of the RCSP, DILG XII, conducted another series of orientations on August 13, 2020 to August 17, 2020.

LGMED Asst. Division Chief Ian Jon Clemente, the LEO 70 Regional Focal Person who acted as the moderator during the series of conferences said that "almost all participants have adjusted to the new modality of conducting meetings" but points to the minor handicap of 'poor connectivity and reception' in some places as the main problem.

"What is encouraging, though, is that our participants can manage to get the necessary update and guidelines in the safety of their own communities. We just hope that better internet connectivity becomes available to all and will be the new standard soon", he added.

During the last leg of the series of orientations conducted via Zoom Teleconferencing, RD Leysa posed the challenge and emphasized that there is a need to step up government's efforts and re-affirm the commitments of the Regional Line Agencies (RLAs) in order to achieve the end-state of EO 70 which is "Sustained Peace and Prosperity in Communities" particularly in conflict-threatened and vulnerable communities.





Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of the Interior and Local Government**  
 REGION XII



# *Congratulations!*

to

## **Country's Top Performers**

in the implementation of the Conditional Matching Grant to Provinces (CMGP) Program based on the result of the Absorptive Capacity Assessment for Provinces conducted by the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

### **Region XII Top Performers**

**Rank 4 - Cotabato Province**

**Rank 7 - Sarangani Province**

**Rank 9 - South Cotabato Province**

*out of the 10 top performing provinces*

### **Average Performer**

**Rank 8 - Sultan Kudarat Province**

*out of the 29 average performing provinces*



*LGU Absorptive Capacity  
 (Assessment of LGU capacity to implement  
 the project vis-a-vis amount the  
 allocated amount based on the prescribed  
 implementation timeline)*

# Provinces in Region XII

among country's top performers

in

# CMGP

# implementation

Three provinces in Region XII were among the country's league of top performers when it comes to implementing the national government's Conditional Matching Grant to Provinces (CMGP) Program, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Central Office said in a recent virtual meeting.

The provinces of Cotabato, Sarangani, and South Cotabato ranked fourth, seventh, and ninth, respectively, among the 10 top performing provincial governments led by the Provinces of Nueva Viscaya, Camarines Norte, and Masbate.

Meanwhile, the province of Sultan Kudarat ranked 8th among the program's list of 29 average performers. At least 13 other provinces were identified as slow performers by the Department's monitoring division.

The Department explained, the provinces' performance was based on the conducted Absorptive Capacity Assessment, which measures the LGUs' "capacity to

implement the project vis-à-vis the allocated amount based on the prescribed implementation timelines."

DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III, lauded the provinces' performance and dedication to the program and vowed the Department's continuous support.

CMGP is an institutional reform and governance program of the national government that specifically aims to improve the delivery of road services in the provincial level. Provincial Government-beneficiaries are given one year to complete their CMGP-funded road projects from the receipt of funds from the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr).

From 2016 to 2019, CMGP funded 63 provincial road projects in the Region worth Php 2.919 billion covering at least 198.762 kilometers of road.

RD Leysa graces  
DISIPLINA MUNA  
launching of  
PNP Regional  
Office XII

*“Let us all embrace  
this call for discipline,  
if we want to see a  
much better  
constituency...”*



This was the challenge posed by DILG XII RD Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III to all the officers and troops of PNP Regional Office XII in Tambler, Gen. Santos City at the most recent launching of the Disiplina Muna Advocacy Campaign.

Director Leysa was invited by P/BGen. Michel John F. Dubria, the new PNP XII Director, as the guest of honor and speaker for the said event. The launching for Region XII is part of the nationwide launching of the advocacy campaign made possible through the use of various apps that allow virtual meetings to be conducted by groups of people.

During the regular Monday Flag raising ceremony at the Parade Grounds of PNP Regional Office XII, RD Leysa also awarded a Medalya ng Kagitingan to P/Maj. Romy D. Castanares for his 'meritorious act during the conduct of hot pursuit operation against' carnappers of a motorcycle on February 21, 2020 at Sito Bleboy, Brgy. Canahay, Surrallah, South Cotabato.

The operation eventually led to the arrest of the suspects Arjay Grayn and a minor companion and the recovery of

the stolen vehicle and two sachets of suspected shabu during the conduct of body search.

Director Leysa exhorted the awardee to "continue to be an inspiration to others" among fellow police troopers as an "example to be emulated by the others."

After the Disiplina Muna briefing and presentation, Dir. Leysa expressed her heartfelt message to all the attendees at the PNP XII Multi-purpose Hall, with the presence of PNP XII RD P/BGen. Dubria and all the regional top brass to "live with discipline, apply it in our lives, and help in this campaign by starting with your family, your circle of colleagues and (eventually) the whole force." She further challenged the PNP officers and personnel to "own" Disiplina Muna and 'do away with lip service" in compliance to orders.

RD Leysa and RD Dubria led the signing of the pledge of support and other PNP XII personnel affixed their signatures after the ceremonial pledge to Disiplina Muna in a huge ceremonial pledge board as witnessed by all the attendees, both at the conference room and online.

# DILG XII's LGMED hosts the first-ever Virtual POPS-PCMS Reorientation

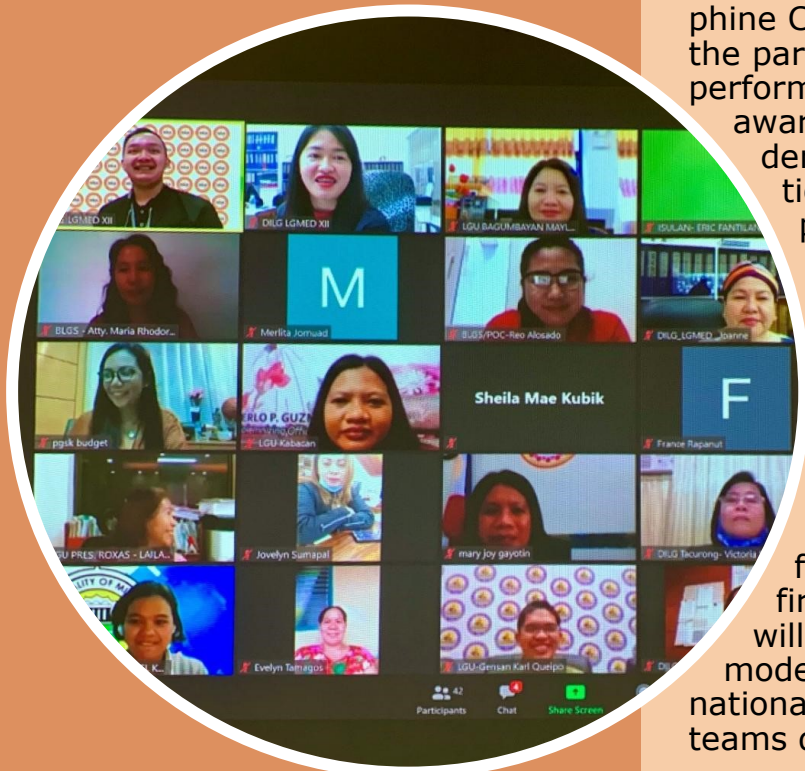


On July 23, 2020, the Department of the Interior and Local Government XII through the Local Government Monitoring and Evaluation Division (LGMED) hosted a virtual reorientation activity on Confidential Funds Utilization and Accomplishment Reporting, Peace and Order and Public Safety Plan (POPS) Updating and Review, and the monitoring of POPS – Performance Compliance Monitoring System (PCMS).

Peace and Order focal persons both from the DILG and the Local Government Units, and City and Municipal Local Government Operations Officers participated in the said activity. The five-hour training had been engaging and very informative, with lively discussions facilitated by the panel of resource persons from the NPOC Secretariat led by Atty. Maria Rhodora R. Flores, Chief of the Policy Compliance and Monitoring Division of the Bureau of Local Government Supervision (BLGS).

In her message, Regional Director Josephine Cabrido- Leysa, CESO III challenged the participants to maintain the CY 2019 performance of Region XII where it was awarded by the National Peace and Order Council (NPOC) with a special citation for garnering the highest compliance score in POPS-PCMS. Furthermore, RD Leysa encouraged participants to continue working hard despite the (COVID-19) pandemic because several peace and order issues could arise during the period of national health emergency.

Atty. Flores thanked the DILG XII for organizing the activity, being the first in the country. Accordingly, this will be used by the Central Office as a model on how to support the Sub-national POC Secretariats to equip the teams during the Covid-19 Pandemic.





DILG XII Assistant Regional Director Lailyn A. Ortiz, CESO V (Left-2), Koronadal City Mayor Eliordo U. Ogena (C) and DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III (C-R), together with DILG XII Execom members, during the conduct of the City's 10th Tree Growing Festival.

## DILG XII Regional Execom joins Koronadal City's 10th Tree Growing Festival

Members of the DILG XII Regional Executive Committee (ExeCom) showed their full support as the City of Koronadal, South Cotabato celebrated its 10th Tree Growing Festival last June 29.

Led by DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III, the ExeCom joined this year's urban greening program and planted cherry blossom trees and other ornamental plants along General Santos Drive, right in front of the Koronadal City Hall.

"As a resident of the city, I fully subscribe to the idea of the urban

greening project. That is why we always support programs such as these, especially with the partnership of the city government," Director Leysa said during the activity.

Celebrated through City Ordinance No. 12, series of 2012, the Tree Growing Festival is also part of the city government's celebration of the annual World Environment Month every June.

Since the project was launched, thousands of indigenous and fruit-bearing trees have been planted in various identified sites ranging from the city's mountainous areas, upland farms, and riparian zones, among others.

These planting materials were often taken from the local government's nursery and donations from local establishments and private organizations.

Bicycle lanes were also provided along some portions of the city's national highway as part of the local government's promotion of healthy lifestyle, urban greening and roadside beautification program.

# DBM approves Php 64-M road, water projects in Cotabato Province

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has formally approved the release of the Php 64.3 million budget to jumpstart the implementation of the road and potable water projects in Cotabato Province.

DILG-PDMU XII said, a total of nine projects composed of three road concreting, two road upgrading, and four potable water system projects were approved based on a letter from the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr).

Two of the road concreting projects will be implemented in the Municipality of Libungan and one in the Municipality of Aleosan. Meanwhile, road upgrading projects will be implemented in the Municipalities of Alamada and President Roxas.

Aleosan will also implement three of the approved potable water system projects in Barangays Pagangan, New Leon, and San Mateo, while Alamada will implement the same in Barangay Rangayan.

The road and water projects will be implemented under the national government's 2020 Assistance to Municip-

palities (AM) and Sagana at Ligtas na Tubig para sa Lahat (SALINTUBIG) programs, respectively.

AM aims to assist municipalities in implementing projects included in their local development plans, while SALINTUBIG aims to provide potable water to waterless communities. Both programs are funded under the National Government's Local Government Support Fund.

These LGU-proposed projects were endorsed by DILG to DBM early this year after the proponents successfully complied with the good governance criteria and technical requirements of the said programs.

On July 9, the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) has formally issued the Notice of Authority to Debit Account Issued (NADAI) of the said projects informing LGUs that funds will be downloaded to their accounts soon.

To date, DILG has formally endorsed 22 projects from 19 LGUs in the region for funding under the 2020 AM program while 41 projects from 15 LGUs were also endorsed under 2020 SALINTUBIG program.



# **DILG XII RECORDS HIGH DELIVERY RATE FOR LGSF PRIORITY PROJECTS**

Region XII recorded a 97.16 percent delivery rate, roughly translating to 411 on-going and completed Local Government Support Fund projects in the Region, based on a recent Memorandum signed by Undersecretary Marivel C. Sacendoncillo, CESO III.

The memorandum stated that the data covers LGSF projects funded from the years 2016 to 2018, and Region XII has a total of 423 LGSF projects during these years. LGSF is the national government's financial subsidy for Local Government Units (LGUs) to implement their priority plans and projects, as provided in the General Appropriations Act.

This subsidy is provided through various programs such as the Conditional Matching Grant to Provinces (CMGP) and Konkreto at Ayos na Lansangan ang Daan tungo sa Pangkalahatang Kaunlaran (KALSADA), Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities / Assistance to Municipalities (ADM/AM), Bottom-Up Budgeting (BUB), and Sagana at Ligtas na Tubig para sa Lahat (SALINTUBIG).

Meanwhile, at least 375 (88.65%) of

the total LGSF projects in the region have been completed based on the recent update of the Subaybayan ang Proyekto ng Bayan (Subaybayan), DILG's official monitoring platform for its locally funded projects (LFPS).

From 2016 to 2018, the National Government funded 11,760 LGSF projects nationwide. To date, NCR is the lone region to have successfully completed its projects.

Overall, DILG-Central Office recorded a national project completion rate of 91% and delivery rate of 97%, including projects funded in 2019 and an overall compliance rate of 64% from all 16 regions in the country was obtained.

Compliance rate refers to the conformance of LGUs in encoding and updating project profiles and milestones, including physical and financial accomplishments, of their LGSF projects in the Subaybayan portal.

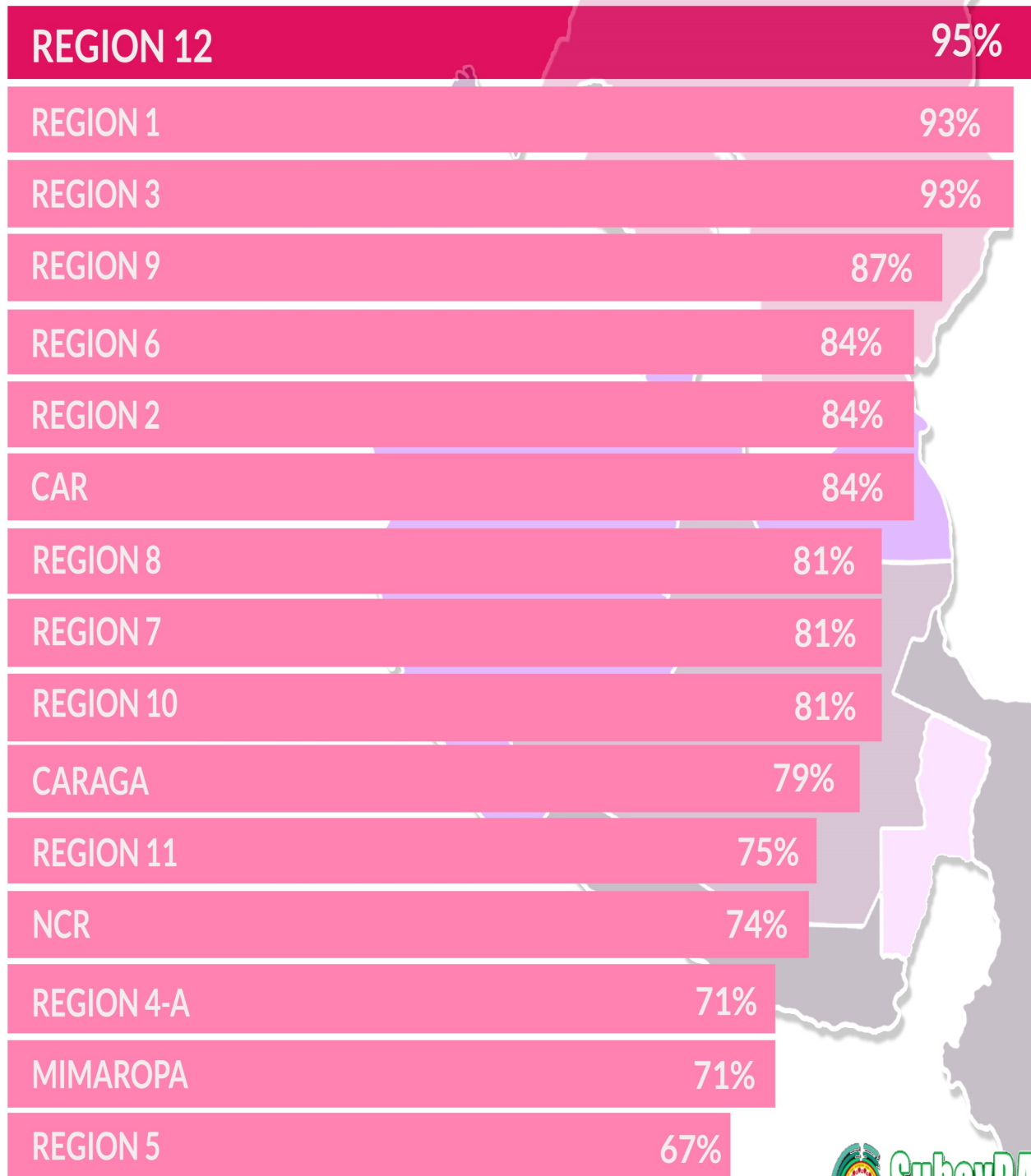
Region XII ranked second among the regions with the highest compliance rate of 82% encoding rate, next to Region I with 83%.



# NATIONWIDE SUBAYBAYAN

## COMPLIANCE RATING

*(as of August 25, 2020)*



# Region XII leads in recent Nationwide SubayBayan compliance rating

Region XII recorded the highest compliance rate in the recent nationwide Subaybayan ang Proyektong Bayan (SubayBayan) update, leading other regions in the compliance ranking provided by the Department of the Interior and Local Government-Central Office.

The Region reached a 95% compliance rate based on the SubayBayan portal as of August 25, 2020, the Department's latest report. This equates to a 13% increase from its previous 82% compliance rate last July 2020 when it placed second among other regions.

Undersecretary Marivel C. Sacendoncillo, CESO III confirmed the said report through a Memorandum signed last September 18, 2020, which was made available to DILG XII.

Other regions with the highest compliance rates include Regions I and III with 93% and Region IX with 87%. Region I topped the list in the July 2020 compliance ranking with 83%.

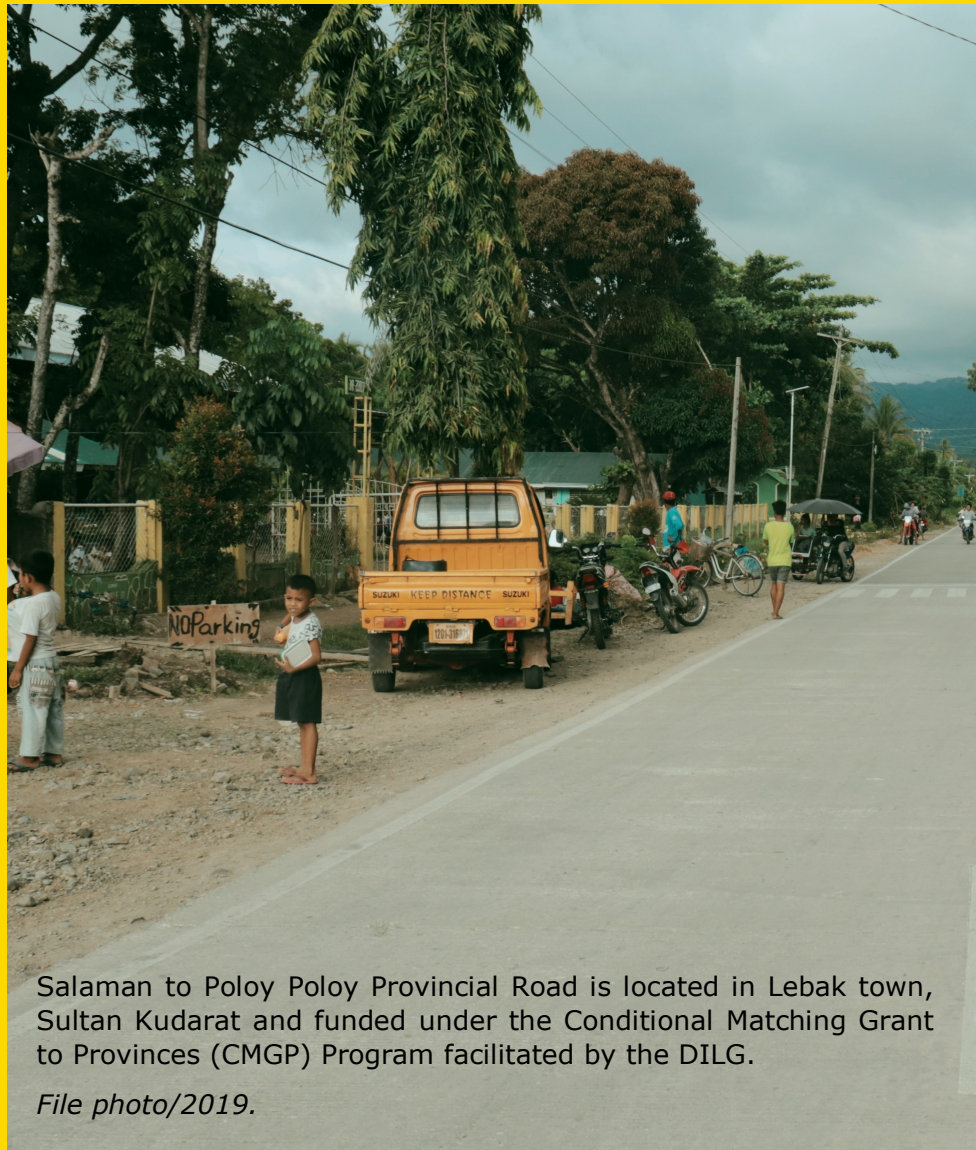
The SubayBayan compliance rate refers to the conformance of local government units in encoding and updating project profiles, milestones, and physical and financial accomplishments of local projects in the Subaybayan Portal, which were subsidized by the national government through its Local Government Support Fund (LGSF).

"I hope that this new success will inspire our LGUs to continue their efforts for government transparency and accountability, and may this also motivate them to continue serving their communities, especially in this time of crisis when their constituents need government support the most," said DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III as she extended her gratitude to the LGUs.

SubayBayan serves as the Department's official platform to monitor the status of locally-funded projects across the country to promote transparency in government projects and accountability in LGUs.

# BID FOR SAFER

# PROVINCIAL PROAADS



Salaman to Poloy Poloy Provincial Road is located in Lebak town, Sultan Kudarat and funded under the Conditional Matching Grant to Provinces (CMGP) Program facilitated by the DILG.

*File photo/2019.*

**ALL OVER THE REGION**

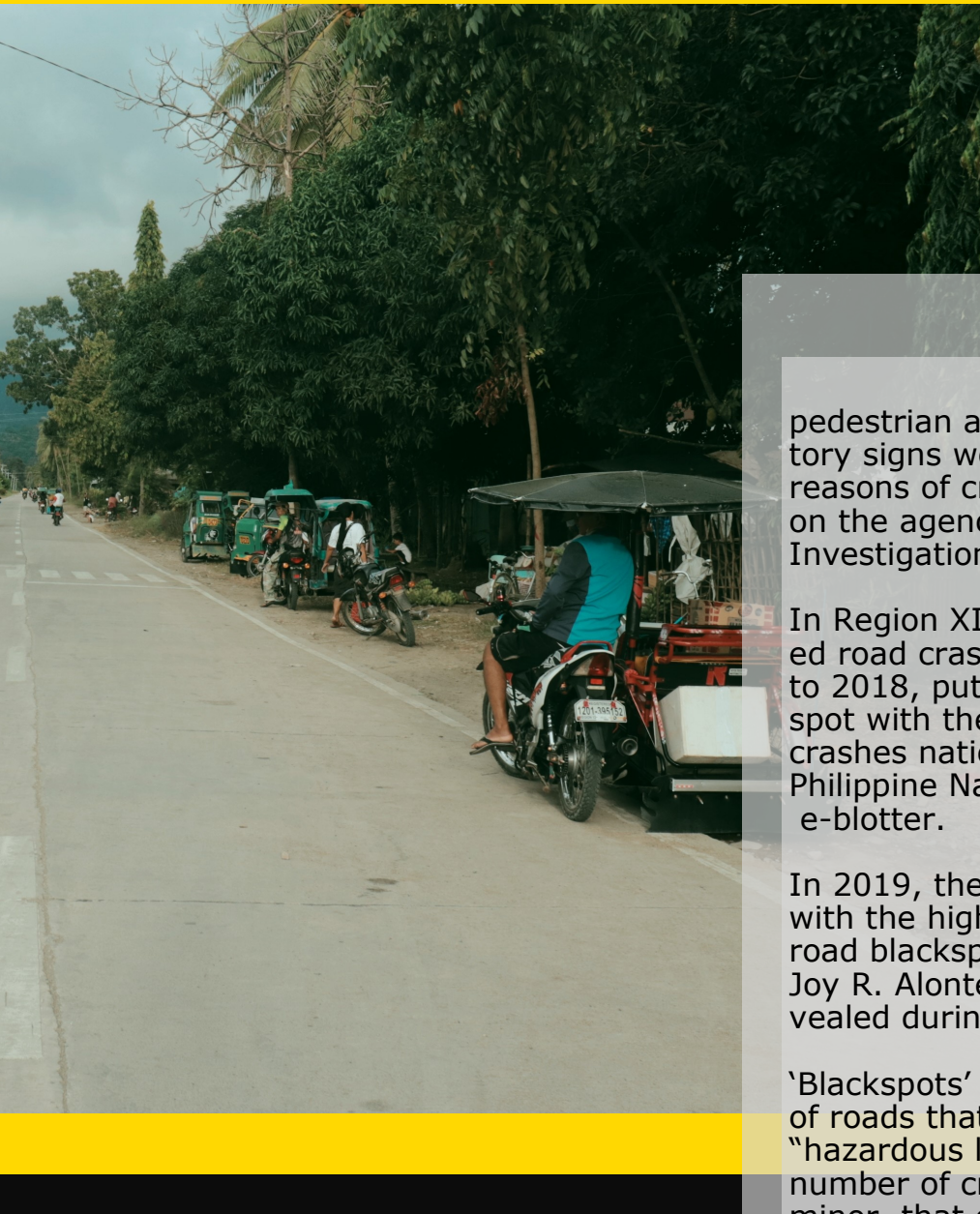
**GETS SUPPORT**

**FROM DILG XII**

A four-day virtual training was facilitated by the Department of the Interior and Local Government XII for provincial engineers and development planners, as support to the provincial governments' efforts to ensure safer roads in the region.

On August 11 to 14, the Department's Project Development Management Unit (PDMU) hosted the Road Safety Audit virtual training in partnership with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Central Office. A total of 32 provincial engineers and planners from the provinces of South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, and Sarangani participated in the said training.

The Department targets to strengthen the provincial government's knowledge and capacity in analysing and preventing



road crashes as they plan and construct local road projects, including those funded under the national government's Conditional Matching Grant to Provinces (CMGP).

DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III said, the training will help provincial governments construct safer, quality roads "with the end goal of minimizing accidents".

About 7, 000 Filipinos die due to road crashes annually with motorcycles making up the biggest fraction among vehicles involved with at least 6, 000 cases each year from 2011 to 2013, followed by cars, vans, rigid trucks, tricycles, and jeepneys.

DPWH further explained, high speed, lack of advance curve warning, and no

pedestrian advance warning and regulatory signs were among the top three reasons of crashes in the country, based on the agency's 2019 Accident Blackspot Investigation (ABI) report.

In Region XII, more than 5, 000 reported road crashes were recorded in 2016 to 2018, putting the region in the ninth spot with the highest cases of road crashes nationwide, according to the Philippine National Police's (PNP) e-blotter.

In 2019, the region also ranked eighth with the highest number of identified road blackspots of 149, Engr. Kristine Joy R. Alonte of DPWH Central Office revealed during the virtual training.

'Blackspots' are intersections or lengths of roads that were identified as "hazardous locations" due to the high number of crashes – fatal, serious, or minor, that occurred in the area over the past two to three years, she said.

Region III (Central Luzon) recorded the highest number of blackspots in the country with a total of 473, followed by the National Capital Region (NCR) with 299. These regions also recorded the highest number of road crashes from 2016 to 2018 with more than 25, 000 and 15, 000 reported cases, respectively.

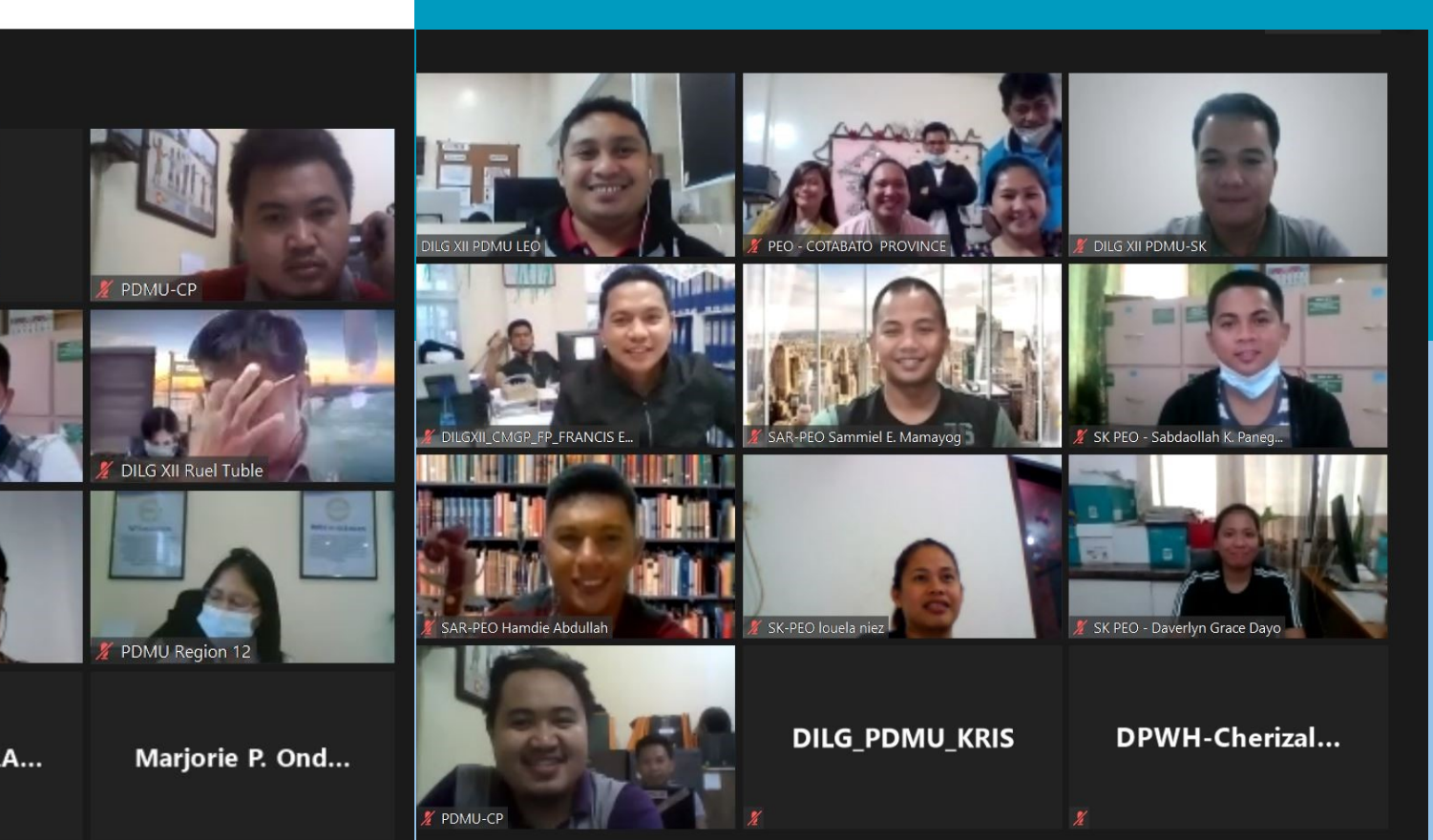
"We want you to give importance to road safety rather than capacity," Engr. Alonte said.

PDMU Chief Herminia S. Ontoy said, the Department will continue supporting the provincial governments despite this pandemic to ensure unhampered quality service for the people.

DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III (highlighted), virtually welcomes the LGU participants to the four-day training on Project Supervision and Contract Management facilitated by the Department's Project Development Management Unit (PDMU).



# Provincial engineers, planners train for project supervision and contract management



A total of 19 engineers and planners from the four provincial government units in the region underwent a four-day virtual training on Project Supervision and Contract Management facilitated by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) XII on August 4-7, 2020.

DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III said that “this is the way how meetings or trainings are done nowadays and our Department is on track to impart learning and lessons in the virtual way”. As such, Director Leysa added, “capacity development training is essential to ensure that we maintain the construction of quality roads and buildings in the Region without disregarding minimum health standards and risk being victims of this pandemic.”

“The Construction industry has been a big contribution to the socio-economic development of our nation. Through the building of vertical structures, road constructions and a lot more, we provide services that help boost the economy

through the generation of employment. These activities, in turn, help alleviate poverty,” the Director explained.

“I understand how important it is to have effective management and administrative practices. It all starts by providing sufficient knowledge on the basics like Project Supervision and Contract Management, which I know is familiar to project implementors at the local government unit level,” she further added.

Engineers from the Department of Works and Highways (DPWH) Central Office served as Resource Speakers during the four-day training with discussions focused on procurement planning and processes, contract execution, monitoring and control, and establishment of leadership and teamwork to ensure timely implementation of projects.

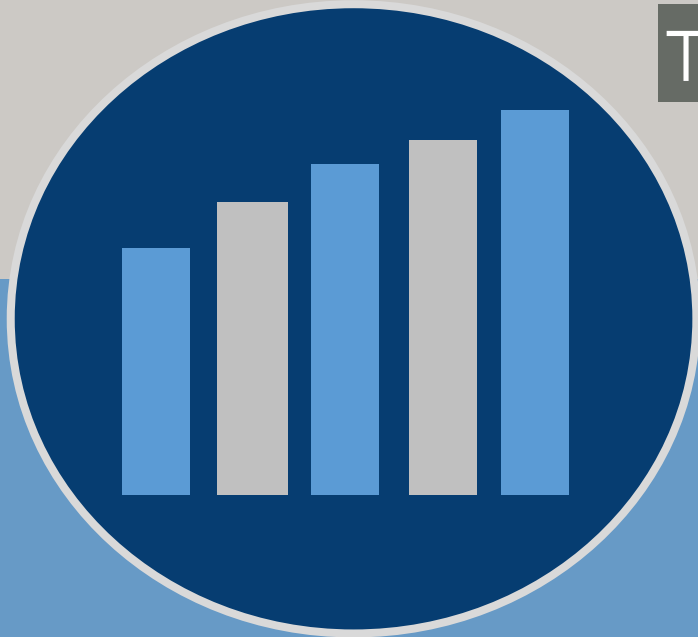
Director Leysa hopes that the LGUs will “apply good leadership and management skills after the activity, provide a systematic and delivery of operation, and implement projects that are not only good but are of standards.”

# DILG XII CALLS FOR SELF-SUFFICIENT,

## RESILIENT LGUs

THROUGH EFFECTIVE

# REVENUE PLAN



The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) XII is calling for more resilient and self-sufficient LGUs, especially in times of crisis, by strengthening their revenue generation plans.

DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III said, LGUs have been greatly dependent to Internal Revenue Allotments (IRA) from the National Government, and this dependency “will not sustain the citizen’s needs in times of uncertainty” like this time of COVID-19 pandemic.

Currently, the world is battling an “epidemic” that has begun to cripple not just the government sector but also the private sector... As a result, it has put a limit to the government’s revenue and tax collection efforts. LGUs must increase their effort to find a stronger and more reliable stream of revenue”,

Director Leysa said.

Due to COVID-19, the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) projects a 30% reduction in its collection this year from the original revenue target of Php 307.08 billion set by the Department of Finance (DOF), BLGF’s attached agency.

Through its Project Development Management Unit (PDMU), the Department facilitated a two-day virtual training on Revenue Generation Plan formulation last August 25 to 26, in partnership with BLGF XII.

BLGF XII Regional Director Jeany T. Tedera served as the Resource Person for the said virtual training, which was participated by provincial engineers, budget officers, treasurers, accountants, economic enterprise officers, and planning and development officers from



**“Increasing the revenue generation is one way of building self-sufficiency in the local government, as it is considered as the lifeblood of the government,”**



Regional Director Leysa said as she welcomed the participants to the virtual meeting.

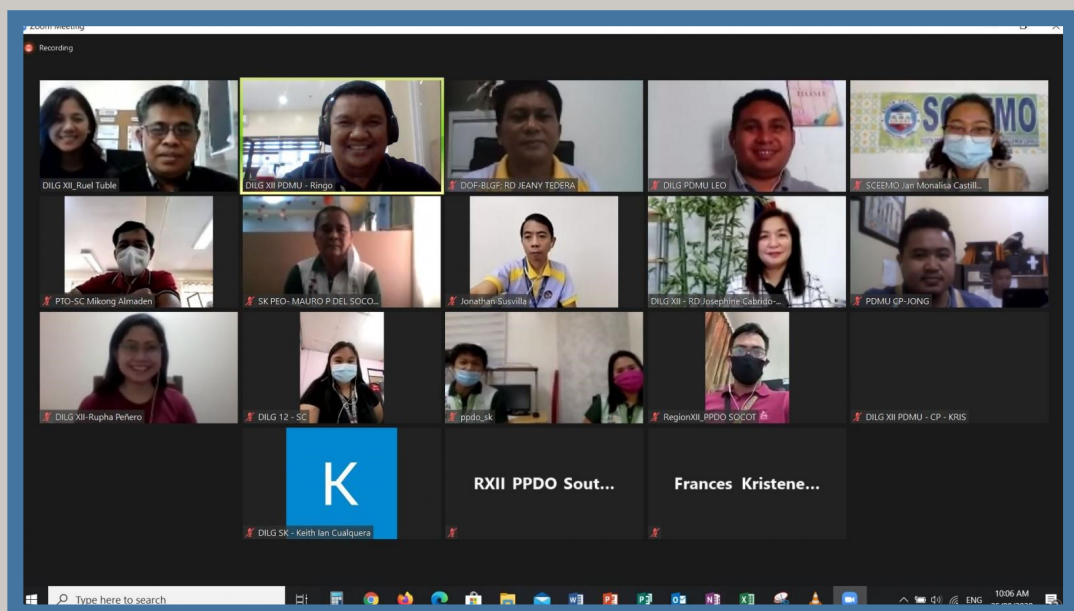
the four provinces in the region.

During the virtual training, Regional Director Tedera advised the LGUs to consider various strategies and measures to improve their revenue generation, which include intensifying and modernizing their Business Tax Mapping, deputizing municipal treasurers to collect amusement taxes, and implementing a single real property tax information in the provinces.

He further encouraged LGUs to rationalize the imposition of fees and charges, improve the information education

campaign on revenue and taxes, provide additional human resource as tax mappers and deputize barangay officials to conduct inspections, conduct regular Tax Mapping to update real property uses and new improvements, and regulate the use of dump trucks and other heavy equipment to generate revenues, among others.

Director Leysa expects the provincial LGUs to create a suitable revenue generation plan for the next five years and apply the strategies for revenue generation.



# 3rd Quarter

## NSED

at DILG XII  
regional  
office

proceeds amidst

COVID-19  
pandemic



DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III practices the “duck, cover, and hold” drill in case of earthquake.

In an atmosphere of increased vigilance and alarm over local Covid 19 transmissions, the Department of the Interior and Local Government XII, under the leadership of DILG XII Regional Director and Vice-Chairperson for Disaster Preparedness of RDRRMC XII, RD Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III, led the whole force of Regional Office XII during the 3rd Quarter Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill on September 10, 2020.

At exactly 2:00PM, a long siren signaled the occurrence of an earthquake. As a response, all DILG XII personnel grabbed their hardhats and immediately performed the “duck, cover, and hold”-routine utilizing their sturdy tables as cover while keeping away from fragile materials or objects, which could potentially fall in the event of a tremor.

Due to the existing health protocols related to the threat of COVID-19 virus, the exercise was only confined to the “duck, cover, and hold” -routine as the personnel who took part in the drill were not required to vacate the office premises.

Dir. Leysa explains, “There is quite a difference in the way we did our exercise today in which we made sure that strict physical distancing measures are observed, even in an emergency like an earthquake.”

A total of 76 personnel showed their

readiness in the event of a strong quake. Just recently, some areas in the Region experienced frequent tremors which, fortunately, did not cause any damage to structures.

The activity is in compliance with the NDRRMC Memorandum No. 71 series of 2020, which requires the LGUs and NGAs to participate in the quarterly conduct of NSED purposely to instill the culture of resilience to the communities and government office personnel as earthquakes can never be predicted.



DILG XII Local Government Monitoring and Evaluation Division (LGMED) Chief, Musarapha A. Alim, and Chief of Staff, Atty. Michelle P. Viejo, seek cover under their desks during the 3rd Quarter NSED.



# DILG XII HOSTS GPBMS ONLINE ORIENTATION

A total of 93 participants from various local government units, and City and Municipal Local Government Operations Officers (C/MLGOOs) in the Region joined the virtual orientation through the Zoom app on July 6, 2020, hosted by the Department of the Interior and Local Government XII.

The said orientation served as the venue for various issues and concerns from GAD Focal Persons relative to the submission of their GPB, with the other matters related to the crafting of their plans.

Some 31 LGUs were able to

encode their GPBs in the system, while the rest were given until July 10 to encode their GPBs, in compliance to the advisory on Easing the Review Process of the FY 2020 GPB of the LGUs.

The COVID-19 epidemic situation necessitated the extension of deadline for submission as LGUs have been swamped with other concerns, like the returning stranded Individuals and foreign workers, and the various lockdown implementation.

For her part, DILG XII RD Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III lauded the partici-

pating government units who appreciated the relevance of timely submissions and compliance.

“These matters will affect the delivery of our services thus there is a need to be prompt in our submissions. More than meeting deadlines, it is also our way of showing how focused we are with what we do, despite the bulk of other tasks we need to handle,” the Director added.

The orientation was attended by 63 women and 30 men, who finished the four-hour session.

# PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS TO FINALIZE PROCUREMENT MANUALS

Provincial governments in the Region will soon have their respective Customized Provincial Procurement Operations Manual (CPPOM), one of the major targets under the Governance Reform of the Conditional Matching Grant to Provinces (CMGP) Program funded by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

DILG XII, through its Program Development Management Unit (PDMU), facilitated a two-day virtual capacity development activity to finalize the CPPOM of the provinces of South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, and Sarangani with the members of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) and BAC secretariat from the three provinces in attendance.

Cotabato Province was able to successfully finalize their CCPOM in 2019, PDMU revealed.

CPPOM is important for an “effective, efficient, and economical procurement,” Procurement Consultant and Resource Speaker, Ms. Marilou Reyes said.

“Standards and uniform understanding of rules and regulations in all stages of the procurement process across all levels of the provincial government is important. This is to increase transparency in the procurement process, and enhance accountability awareness among all concerned officials and personnel, and the private sector as well,” she said.

Last year, DILG XII conducted a follow-through activity on CPPOM with the provincial governments, but was interrupted and eventually postponed due to the magnitude 5.6 earthquake that jolted the Region, which left thousands of families displaced and numerous structures badly damaged in the Province of Cotabato.

South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, and Sarangani are set to submit the draft of their CPPOMs to DILG XII by August 2020 for review by the Procurement Consultant. Once finalized, the manuals will be submitted to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan for approval.



## PINGGANG PINOY™

Healthy food plate for Filipino adults



# DILG XII joins 2020 Nutrition Month Celebration

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) XII acted as the frontliner, at least, in the dissemination of various regional webinar activities, initiated by the National Nutrition Council (NNC), to the LGUs for this year's 46th celebration of Nutrition Month.

During the first few days of July, DILG XII has taken the 'virtual' and 'non-contact' strategies for the campaign in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic which caused massive lockdowns in communities. It has also shown support to the campaign through the hanging of streamers in designated places, gardening activities, and holding of a quiz bee.

During the January 30 meeting of the NNC Technical Committee, the approved theme is **"Batang Pinoy SANA TALL... Iwas stunting, SAMA ALL!"** which was meant to promote awareness and mobilize actions to address stunting among Filipino children.

The campaign, according to DILG XII RD Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III, needs the full participation of government, non-government organizations,

civil society, business, academe, communities and families. Stunting or *pagkabansot* in the Filipino language, refers to the impaired growth and development experienced by children due to poor nutrition, repeated infection and inadequate psychosocial stimulation.

Stunting, according to the NNC briefer, "can result to low educational performance, lost productivity, increased risk of developing non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and even death. The economic cost of stunting is high, which is equivalent to 1.5 to 3% of the country's gross domestic product."

The theme underscores the urgency of addressing stunting considering that the NNC data shows that the Philippines is one of the 10 countries with the most stunted children in the world. Currently, 1 in every 3 or 30% of Filipino children 0-59 months old are stunted with stunting highest among 12-23 months at 36.6% (2018 ENNS, DOST-FNRI).

This high prevalence of stunting in the country remains to be a concern due to the limited scale by which nutrition and related services and programs have



The Department of Health - Cordillera joins the nation in celebrating the 46th Nutrition Month this July 2020



**Batang Pinoy, SANA TALL...  
Iwas Stunting, SAMA ALL!  
Iwas ALL din sa COVID-19!**



46<sup>th</sup> Nutrition Month  
July 2020



been delivered. This is made worse by the fact that many Filipinos believe that stunting is hereditary thing (*namamana*) and not actually an illness.

NNC reiterates that stunting is irreversible and thus must be prevented with proper nutrition and care in the first 1000 days or the period of conception until the child's second birthday.

"Clearly, everyone should have a role in addressing stunting. It can be done by ensuring that families have access to nutritious food, have the knowledge and skills to feed their children from locally sourced food, have access to and seek services, *lalo na sa* first 1000 days of a child's life," Dir. Leysa stated, in reference to RA 11148 or the "Kalusugan at Nutrisyon ng Magnanay Act".

On July 27, 2020, the Office of the Regional Director (ORD) spearheaded the Nutrition Month culmination activity wherein all the DILG Regional Office XII personnel participated in a quiz bee.

RD Leysa then challenged the employees to participate in the "*Gulayan sa Opisina*" as it has been the practice before. "Let us not forget what we have started last year, when we grew our own vegetables through our Edible Landscaping. It is our way of making vegetables accessible to all, even while we are in the Office and most especially in the LGUs," RD Leysa added.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government Regional Office XII looks forward to the completion of its third floor as construction continues and it is now midway, according to its construction calendar.

According to ORD- Project Development Management Unit Chief Engr. Herminia S. Ontoy, the pouring of columns and beams are right on schedule and the trusses are going to be raised on the first week of August.

"On the first day of June, we officially started the construction of the third floor of our office building through its winning contractor F.H. Gopiteo Construction and Supply. The target completion date is set on September 28, 2020 and the project costs Php 15, 704, 915.33," Engr. Ontoy stated.

"We are now midway of the 120 calendar days construction schedule but the incessant rains during the past few weeks have greatly hampered our efforts to proceed without delays," she said. "Still, our contractor will be doing extra efforts, and we hope for a fair weather, so that they will be on schedule."

The PDMU chief also revealed that "the building will have an elevator, paved driveways, sidewalks and a landscaped outdoor area, among others". Under the current contract, guard and power houses will also be built. The third floor is expected to provide additional work space for its 100 employees and comfortable waiting areas for guests and clients.

Earlier, DILG XII Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III pointed to 'some setbacks' which caused the delay in the implementation of the project but it was able to proceed after a brief hiatus. She remarked, "We owe it to our people to have this building completed as part of our service, commitment and heritage."

DILG XII has since relocated to the Prime Regional Government Center after the building's initial completion of the first two floors in 2017. Prior, the Department rents an office building in Barangay Zone III in Koronadal City, about 7 kilometers away from its new location.










DILG Regional Office

3<sup>rd</sup> floor construction

now midway

Department of the Interior and Local Government-LGRRRC XII  
 in partnership with  
 Association of Regional Development Executives (ARDE) XII

*Present*

**Leadership Inspiration  
in Difficult Times**

*with*

**FRANCIS J. KONG**

**September 24, 2020 | 8:30 AM-12:00 NN**

**SAVE THE DATE**

## LEADERSHIP INSPIRATION IN DIFFICULT TIMES WITH FRANCIS J. KONG

To help local officials and government employees manage the stress and anxiety brought by COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of the Interior and Local Government XII facilitated a half-day online wellness activity dubbed, "Leadership Inspiration in Difficult Times" with Inspirational Speaker Francis J. Kong.

Mr. Francis J. Kong delivers his virtual talk on online Wellness and leadership attended by DILG XII personnel, local officials, and Regional Task Forces against COVID-19.



DILG XII Budget Officer Katherine M. Llano, MPA attending the virtual wellness activity.



Personnel from DILG XII's Finance and Administrative Division (FAD) on full attention while attending the virtual wellness activity in their office.

