

HIGHLIGHTS OF ASSESSMENT-BASED NATIONAL DIALOGUE (ABND) ISLAND-WIDE CONSULTATIONS MINDANAO CLUSTER

APRIL 27-28, 2015

Seda Centrio Hotel, Corner Corrales and C.M. Recto Avenues, Cagayan De Oro City

I. ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

In conclusion of the three-part consultation legs, the Assessment Based-National Dialogue (ABND) Island-wide Mindanao Consultation was conducted last April 27 to 28, 2015 at Cagayan De Oro City. It was attended by representatives from Social Security System (SSS), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC), Office of Social Security Commissioner (SSC) Ibarra Malonzo, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and their respective regional counterparts, Technical Skills and Development Authority (TESDA) RO X, Regional Tri-Partite Councils, sectoral representatives from National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), and non-government agencies and organizations such as Federation of Free Workers (FFW), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and International Labor Organization (ILO). It was also attended by Regional Planning Office of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

II. OBJECTIVES

As part of the undertakings of Human Development and Poverty Reduction (HDPR) Cluster to accelerate poverty reduction measures through strengthening the social protection for poor, vulnerable and marginalized sector, the conduct of ABND was approved towards establishing a minimum set of guarantees of Social Protection Floor in the Philippines.

After the inventory of present social protection policies and programs in the Philippines through bilateral and multi-lateral meeting with concerned agencies at the national level, Island-wide Consultations aim to validate and generate comments and recommendations on the social protection policy and program gaps from stakeholders at the regional/local level such as the representative from Regional Development Councils, Regional Tri-partite Industrial Peace Councils, employers' group, workers' group, and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

III. HIGHLIGHTS

- Director Ahmma Charisma Lobrin-Satumba of DOLE-Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns (BWSC) led as the moderator of the Day One program. Ms. Marinelle Marcos of DOLE-Planning Service led the invocation and was followed by the singing of Philippine National Anthem.
- DOLE Regional Office No. X Director Raymundo G. Agravante gave his welcome remarks to formally start the program. He acknowledged the participants from each respective government agencies, international organizations and social partners. He also expressed his gratefulness for selecting Cagayan De Oro City as the venue for the Mindanao consultation of ABND.
- DOLE Undersecretary Rebecca C. Chato delivered her keynote message. She said that the primary focus in the closing years of Aquino administration is to achieve inclusive growth in line with the continuous economic growth rate of the Philippines in past years. In doing so, she noted that the gap between informal and formal sectors should be looked into due to challenges brought by our vulnerability to risks and vulnerability such as sudden loss of income, life-cycle, natural and man-

made calamities, and the rapid changes brought by ASEAN integration. These challenges are pushing some individuals to unemployment and underemployment, and resort to informal employment for temporary solution. In response to these challenges, she emphasized the need to develop right interventions and responses through social protection.

After a quick walkthrough of the ABND process, she encouraged all participants from both public and private sectors to actively participate and discuss the present social protection programs and policies and identify gaps and provide recommendations. She clarified that by raising the social protection floor, there should be a study on how to even it out. Furthermore, since it is a floor, it should meet the recognized standard. Moreover, she reminded all participants that their task is truly historic since it is the first attempt of the Philippines to identify gaps and recommendations for the establishment of social protection floor.

- Ms. Girlie J. Casimiro, Chief EDS of NEDA-Social Development Staff, gave an overview of social protection in Philippine context. She gave a walkthrough to the concepts and definitions related to the Philippine social protection. She emphasized that social protection does not only cover the poor, but also those marginalized sectors such as indigenous people, the PWDs, the women, the children, the youth, elderly and among others. Although aimed to reduce poverty, she clarified that not all poverty reduction programs are aimed to reduce risks and vulnerability.

She explained the four components under the Philippine Social Protection Operational Framework Strategy namely: (1) Social Insurance, (2) Social Welfare, (3) Labor Market Interventions, and (4) Social Safety Nets. Several social protection programs and schemes were referred as respective examples for each component. She added that social insurance requires of pulling out of resources, making it different with other SP programs.

Moreover, she gave a brief account on the achievements of Philippine government to lead, which are as follows: (1) issuance of Administrative Orders 232 and 232-A, strengthening social welfare programs, (2) Development Academy of the Philippines' (DAP) study entitled "Review and Strengthening National Social Protection and Welfare Program" which recommends to enhance and harmonize government programs, (3) Institutionalized NEDA-Social Development Committee (SDC) Sub-committees on Social Protection and Informal Sector. She further discussed the operating structure highlighting the convergence among government agencies such as DBM, DOLE, PSA, NCIP, and non-government organizations, and among others. It was also reiterated that it has its own counterpart at the regional level.

To further comprehend the operational framework and strategy, she explained the definitions of several social protection concepts such as (1) poverty, (2) risks, (3) shocks, and (4) vulnerabilities. Lastly, she identified the challenge, which are as follows: (1) lack of targeting mechanism that identifies the vulnerable as well as the risk and shocks that they confront, (2) strengthen the capacities at the local level to implement disaster risk reduction strategy at social protection services, (3) limited number of poor and vulnerable beneficiaries despite of the nation-wide programs, and (4) increasing vulnerability of OFWs and migrant workers due to armed conflicts and economic downturns.

Finally, she shared the ongoing initiatives of the Philippines government to strengthen social protection in the country. DSWD has developed social protection handbook. Legislative bills which will increase social security coverage for informal sector and institutionalize condition cash transfer. She made an assurance that all the inputs from conduct of ABND and CODI will be part in the crafting of the five-year social protection action plan.

- Ms. Loveleen De and Ms. Katharina Bollig presented the ILO perspective of social protection which is the key responses of the society to sudden loss of income due to the emergencies and contingencies such as maternity, disability, old-age, economic crisis, armed conflicts and among others, preventing them to fall further to poverty line. Also, the present social situation of each sector across the Asian region was also presented.

Ms. Loveleen De reiterated the following points. First, social protection floor must be established to ensure that all residents in a given country should have access to minimum level of social protection. Second, social protection floor must be nationally defined depending on the specific their situation, needs, resources and values. Lastly, there is no one size fits all approach in designing, defining and implementing social protection floor.

The ABND serves as a mechanism to define and design a nationally defined social protection floor. Its concepts and process were by summarized into three basic steps: (1) draw an assessment matrix which is an inventory of existing social protection programs and schemes to identify gaps in the policy and implements as well as its corresponding recommendations, (2) estimate the cost for implementing the recommendations as against country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), to determine if it's feasible for the government to implement , and (3) finalize and launch the national social protection floor. She explained the different sections of the assessment matrix and how will be the parameters for the cost estimation will be determined.

At the ASEAN level, the conduct of ABND is ongoing for Myanmar, Laos PDR and the Philippines, while the Malaysia is set to follow. ILO is also preparing for a cross-country report on ABND. During their ABND exercise, Thailand has identified pension, trainings

Ms. Bollig enumerated the strengths and limitations of ABND exercise. Among the strengths cited were: (1) holistic and coordinative approach which involves all relevant stakeholders in a given country to define the national SPF, and (2) stakeholders are engaged into a national dialogue for the SPF to identify issues and give recommendations, and estimate its affordability. On the other hand, the limitation is that the proposed recommendations needs more detailed and actuarial studies given the generality of the ABND.

- After the discussion, the moderator opened the floor for comments and questions. Below were the highlights:
 - Atty Saguisag of UNICEF asked what is the definition of Children used for the basic health for children and Director Satumba of BWSC responded as per DWSD that Children as defined for the social protection are of ages zero (0) to eighteen (18) years of age. The non-representation of Children and youth sector was also questioned by Atty Saguisag however, Dir Satumba assured that the working group ensured to ask for the representation of these sectors to which NAPC has the discretion on sending the representatives.
 - The implementation of the social protection programs are established to be done in the local level however there were still no representation from any Local Government Units as cited by Atty. Saguisag to which Director Satumba ensured that LGUs where invited for the Luzon consultation but the representative was not able to participate well on the said dialogue however they are still invited in the National validation.

- Mr. Mercado of KAMPI for PWDs asked for clarification on the implementation of the 20% discount entitled for PWDs since most of them only get to enjoy 8% discount compared to the senior citizens. Director Christian Deloria of DWSD on the other hand said that it is not explicitly stated in the provisions that the 20% discount should be subjected to 12% tax in which Dir Banawis of ECC seconded that this issue was also raised in the previous dialogues in Iloilo and Clark and that this is an implementation issue. Dir Christian however promised to take note of this issue and clarify this on the national validation.
- According to UNICEF, in the description of children, they are articulated as part of the family however some risks like basic needs, hunger, violence and abuse are not addressed in these programs, Ms. Girlie Casimiro of NEDA acknowledged the risk that were mentioned and NEDA has been currently working on establishing a program for child protection though it does not fall directly under the social protection.
- According to Mr. Ronnie Mondragon of RTIPC Labor Region 12, Job Order (JO) and contractual employees are not given protection on security of tenure when in fact it is critical for them to have one. Usec Chato address the issue that SOT are not left behind and it is done simultaneously with Social Protection. She added that we can develop portability of SSS as social protection for the security of tenure and that the government has done a lot of things for security of tenure.
- Mr. Yap of RTIPC-Management RO XII asked if there is a corresponding premium on SSS and PHIC if we go to universal coverage and if there are, how secure the fund to provide for this coverage is. Dr. Israel Pargas of PHIC replies that they have an expansion of benefit already and they are in that direction. He added that the premium will be subsidized by the government through taxation. Regarding the indigent population, NHTS already addressed this in which PHIC covered senior citizens without contributions by virtue of RA 10645 to which Ms. Ma. Nympha Ragel of SSS concurred that there is no free premium, instead, it is being taxed.
- ARD Yahya Centi of DOLE RO IX asked why is education not included in establishing a social protection floor if the end objective of this is to improve quality of life. He also asked what the difference between social protection and social security is. Ms De of ILO clarified that Social Protection is more encompassing to include more schemes and services compared to social security and education is already included in SPF two (2) which is the income security for children.
- Mr. Collantes of RTIPC-Labor RO 9 inquired what are other reasons for the Social Protection to be suspended or cancelled aside from death and are the incarcerated included in the program. VP Pargas admitted that this is still a question even to the PHIC however he said that it is everyone's dream to have absolute social protection without termination for all. As to the inclusion of the incarcerated, most of these people are from the Informal sectors and are dependent to their families and according to VP Pargas and they are still working on the inclusion of these people through engagements from the bureau of Corrections, NCIPs for the IPs as well as with DAR for the fisher folks.
- Mr. Serrano of NEDA 10 suggested for a participation of Private sector for gainful ideas that be contributed in determining the social protection. Dir. Satumba

responded that the Employers' confederation of the Philippines is already part of Core Group and private sectors are also being represented by RTIPC from labor & management however assured Dir. Satumba also assured of inviting some representatives from the Private Sector in the National validation.

- Employee's Compensation Commission (ECC) Executive Director Stella Z. Banawis gave a walkthrough of the social protection programs and schemes identified in the assessment matrices. In general, the discussion moved deliberately by pointing on the following: (1) overview of the SPF guarantees, (2) corresponding SPOFS components, and (3) list of identified programs and schemes in the assessment matrix.
- The moderator discussed the mechanics of the workshop consultations. Seven (7) groups were formed namely: (1) SPF1 (Health Care), (2) SPF2 (Children) and Cross Cutting Gaps, (3) SPF3 Labor Market Intervention, (4) SPF3 – Social Welfare and Social Safety Net, (5) SPF3 – Social Insurance, (6) SPF3 – OFWs and Migrant Workers, and (7) SPF4 – Income Security for the Elderly and Cross Cutting Gaps. Participants were free to choose which group they want to join in.

IV. SUMMARY OF WORKGROUP DISCUSSIONS

GROUP 1 - SPF 1 (HEALTH CARE)*		
Facilitator	:	Dr. Israel Francis Pargas, PHIC
Secretariat	:	Ms. Marinelle Marcos, DOLE-PS

The group discussed the social protection schemes enlisted under SPF 1 guarantee on Essential Health Care. Dr. Israel Francis Pargas of PHILHEALTH led the discussion and Ms. Marinelle Marcos documented the proceedings. It centered on PHILHEALTH coverage on informal sector, accessibility to and quality of services of government health facilities, and the proposed establishment of veteran hospitals outside the Metro Manila area. Below were the highlights of the workgroup discussion:

- On the issue that some vital health care services are not part of the PHILHEALTH package, it was clarified by PHILHEALTH that HIV testing is included for those who have shown symptoms during confinement. Furthermore, there are two packages for those positive from AIDS: OPD for those full blown AIDS patient who take medications and for those confined.

PHILHEALTH does not cover ultrasound, MRI and CT scan for OPD but included for confinement.

- The group noted that the regulation of professional fee must be considered as a policy issue. They concurred with the identified recommendations.
- On the issue of limited coverage on informal sector, NAPC sectoral representative said that they are willing to be enrolled to SSS, PHILHEALTH, and PAG-IBIG but have problems when it comes to payment of the premium. They can and are willing to pay premium but payment centers are not that accessible.

NEDA inquired why the premium payment the same for those in the formal sector and those belonging to the IS. PHILHEALTH replied that the premium contribution base is 200 per family monthly but for professionals it is 3,600 per year. Regardless of contribution, all members are entitled to same benefits.

- On the issue of difficulty to pay premium contributions, PHILHEALTH said that there were LGUs which might already be accredited as collecting agents. Furthermore, it was added that they also have payment centers in malls and currently planning to outsource collection services. During the discussion, the group made an agreement that PHILHEALTH Regional Office No. 10 will inform the NAPC representatives on the accredited LGUs.
- The group concurred with recommendations to increase funding of the program and to set-up special wings for veterans through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between VMMC and the government retained health facilities.
- On the policy gap of the need to institutionalized modified conditional cash transfer (CCT) program, DOH said that proposed additional conditionalities will also increase the demand for the LGU to provide social services to CCT beneficiaries. Increase the amount of incentive being provided to CCT beneficiaries and Provision of sanitary toilet and source of potable water as additional conditionalities were added by group as recommendations.

GROUP 2 - SPF 2 (INCOME SECURITY FOR CHILDREN) AND CROSS-CUTTING GAPS	
Facilitator	: Director Christian Thomas Deloria, DSWD
Members	: Ms. Girlie J. Casimiro, NEDA-SDS Ms. Jannith Gumanid, NAPC-Cooperative Ms. Vilma Gamilan, NAPC-IPSC Ms. Maureen Bello, TIPC-RO IX Ms. Eleanor Reyes, NEDA RO IX Mr. Jesus Far, UNICEF Atty. Anjanette Saguisag, UNICEF Ms. Kim Erro, PHILHEALTH
Secretariat	: Ms. Marie Elaine Ceralde, NEDA-SDS

The group conferred on the social protection schemes enlisted under SPF 2 guarantee on the Income Security for Children and Cross Cutting Gaps. Director Christian Thomas Deloria of DSWD facilitated the discussion and Ms. Marie Elaine Ceralde documented the proceedings. It centered on the 4Ps implementation on child beneficiaries and the feeding program while the targeting mechanism, unified database and information dissemination were highly discussed as for cross-cutting gaps. Below are the highlights of the workshop discussion:

- PhilHealth coverage for orphans, street children (based on the law, Program for working children aged 15-18 years old; OFW; migrant children Lack of cost assistance for early detection of children with disabilities. PhilHealth has ongoing discussion on benefit packages for PWDs
- Regarding the Pantawid Pamilyang, - Exclusion of 4th child and beyond on the benefits of Pantawid, - Lack of culturally appropriate services to IP children, Insufficiency of P300 cash grant to support education due to inflation were among the gaps and issues discerned by the group. In response, the group concurred to recommend the following: (1) conduct impact evaluation that can support institutionalization, and (2) Revisit the Pantawid program to explore benefits for adolescents.

- With regards to Supplementary Feeding Program, it was raised that some children have lack of access to institutions providing SFP. In response, it was recommended to explore provision of home-based SFP.
- It was raised the limited LGU budget and technical knowledge to provide case management support to vulnerable groups. It was recommended that DSWD should provide technical assistance and/or training to LGUs.
- When the cross-cutting issues were discussed, the following points were raised: (1) Birth registration, children in labor, and children exposed to harmful social cultural practices, child neglect, children not under family care as hindrance in accessing SP programs, (2) (n SFP recommendation for further nutrition intervention (similar with Family Life Development Services (FLDS), (3) Special program for IP children and children in conflict areas, (3) Better design of relief assistance, and for long-term assistance for recovery after shocks, (4) Program gap for education for children (scholarship) as social protection, (5) Absence of socialized tertiary education program.

GROUP 3 - SPF 3 (LABOR MARKET INTERVENTIONS)	
Facilitator	: Mr. Antonio Asper, FFW
Members	: ARD Yahya Centi, DOLE RO IX Mr. Gerry Besinga, TIPC CARAGA Ms. Marigold Cherie Garrido, TESDA RO X Mr. Rodolfo L. Roa Jr., TIPC CARAGA Mr. Lamberto C. Boligor, TIPC CARAGA Mr. Rhandy L. Ladonog, DSWD FO X Mr. Anthony S. Collantes, TIPC Ms. Rachel P. Guinan, TIPC RO XI Mr. Abdulgani L. Manabcon, ARMM-Planning Office
Secretariat	: Mr. Cyrus Policarpio, DOLE-BWSC

The group discussed the labor market interventions programs enlisted under SPF 3 guarantee on Income Security for the Working Age People. Mr. Antonio Asper, FFW, act as moderator and Mr. Cyrus Policarpio of DOLE-BWSC documented the proceedings. The discussion focused on the issue of accessibility of PHILJOBNET, Public Employment Services Offices, and TESDA Programs.

- When the TESDA programs were discussed, the group made particular recommendations, which are follows: (1) Review training regulations, especially with respect to the specific competencies, particularly work-place communications and business correspondence. (2) Improve training delivery and emphasize enterprise-based trainings (e.g. apprenticeship) and dual training system (DTS). (3) Improve Trainers' training , (4) Improve equipment used in training, especially heavy equipment operation (e.g. use of simulators)
- The significant role of PESO was recognized by the group. Thus, it was agreed that the recommendation to institutionalize PESO at the LGU level be retained. Include in the recommendation the increase of IRA funding by 50% provided that they fund all the social protection floor programs at the local level.
- On the Sustainable Livelihood Program of DSWD, the group recommended for the following: (1) continuation of convergence of DSWD, TESDA and Technical Vocational Institutions (TVIs)

for employment facilitation towards micro-enterprise development, (2) Maximizing Community Driven Enterprise Development (CDED) to promote micro-enterprise developments in certain localities, and (3) Review the mandate and functions of concerned agencies to avoid duplication and overlaps.

- The group recognized the need for skills training programs in Mindanao, in particular for the Muslim population, to be developed in anticipation of potential changes in the region brought by ASEAN integration, proposed Bangasamoro basic law, and ASEAN-BIMP EAGA. Thus, the group recommended to develop contextualized trainings for Indigenous People wherein Skills training in Halal slaughtering in the local industries.
- On PhilJob.Net, Improvement the accessibility in particular to localize job searching through searching parameters is recommended.

GROUP 4 - SPF 3 (SOCIAL INSURANCE)	
Facilitator	: Exec. Dir. Stella Z. Banawis, ECC
Members	: ARD Roy Kantuna, NEDA-CARAGA Ms. Ma. Nympha Ragel, SSS Mr. Emmanuel Gidacan, NEDA-CARAGA Mr. Ronie Mondragon, TIPC RO XII Ms. Virginia Camus, TIPC RO XI Mr. Norlan Yap, TIPC RO XII Ms. Rebecca Inubio, TIPC RO X Mr. Bernardo Mercado , NAPC - PWDs
Secretariat	: Ms. Stella Mae Obice, ECC-RO X

The group conferred on the social insurance programs and schemes identified under SPF 3 guarantee on the Income Security for the Working Age People. Executive Director Stella Banawis of ECC acted as the moderator and Ms. Stella Mae Obice of DOLE RO-X ECC documented the proceedings of discussions. Feasibility of unemployment insurance and increase coverage of Social Security System (SSS) was the main highlight of discussion. The following were the highlights of the group workshop:

- On the issue that unemployment insurance is not provided in the country, SSS said that they have already conducted actuarial studies to look on the feasibility of unemployment insurance but still needs to further study an appropriate scheme for the Philippines. Moreover, it was noted that DOLE will institutionalize a program that will link job placement services and skills/livelihood training to displaced workers and severance payment. The group agreed that it should be developed in a form of tax-based or contributory based on target beneficiaries (e.g. tax based subsidy for informal workers). It was added to include an income replacement or job search allowance linked to job placement services (registered with PESO) and skills/livelihood training (TESDA).
- On the issue of limited number of land-based OFWs covered by SSS, the group concurred that that OFWs should recognize SSS as an investment. The group recommended to consider the membership of land-based OFWs as compulsory, instead of voluntary. In addition, the group agreed that bilateral agreements should be pursued with other countries to cover OFWs in receiving countries.

- The group recommended for SSS to develop a social security program responsive and customized to the needs of the informal sector. As of present, SSS is moving towards to this direction. They have recently created a Cooperatives and Informal Sector Department.

Furthermore, the group recognized the issue that some informal sector members, and from other marginalized sector such as PWDs, cannot pay their premiums on a regular basis due to the seasonal nature of their incomes. It was recommended to develop a government subsidized social security program for indigent PWDs, missionaries, IPs, elderly and similarly situated people to be administered by SSS.

- On the issue of lack of comprehensive database, the group identified the isolated discrepancies in the SSS database as an issue Such as two SSS number for single member, unposted premium contributions and loan payments. On this matter, SSS are already being addressing the issue.
- On the issue that's self-employed workers are not covered under ECP, it was noted that there is a proposed bill on the coverage of self-employed indigents under the EC program. The following were recommended by the group: (1) pursue DOLE – ECC direction to cover self-employed workers under ECP, (2) study the possibility of a single agency to handle the ECP, and among others.

GROUP 5 - SPF 3 (Social Welfare and Social Safety Nets)		
Facilitator	:	Dir. Ahmma Charisma Lobrin-Satumba, DOLE-BWSC
Members	:	Dir. Raymund Agravante, DOLE RO X Dir. Joffrey Suyao, DOLE RO XI Mr. Achmad Musa, NAPC-Victims of Disaster & Calamities Ms. Viola Siozon, NAPC-Cooperatives Mr. Jean Paul Parajes, DSWD CARAGA Ms. Mia Glenda Aracid, NEDA XI Mr. Apollo Manlawe, NEDA XII Ms. Gelse Lanzaderas, DOLE RO XII Ms. Criste Perfecto, DOLE RO X Ms. Marilou Sagado, DILG CARAGA Mr. Kenneth Lee Piloton, NAPC Youth
Secretariat	:	Mr. Francis Balitaan, DOLE-PS

The group conferred on the existing social welfare and social safety nets programs identified under SPF 3 guarantee on the Income Security for the Working Age People. Director Ahmma Charisma Lobrin-Satumba of DOLE-BWSC facilitated the group discussion and Mr. Francis Balitaan of DOLE-Planning Service documented the proceedings of discussions. Among the programs that were discussed are DSWD's Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan - Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services - National Community Driven Development Program (KALAHI-CIDSS-NCDDP), accreditation of partners and civil society organizations to access government funding, shelter assistance program, and Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM). The following were the highlights of the group workshop:

- The issue of Sustainability of the community-driven development approach in the last phase of institutionalization after the expected turnover to LGUs was raised during the discussion of KALAHI CIDSS. The group recommended that the LGUs must guarantee the adoption of CDD approach through Sangguaniang Bayan or Sangguniang Panlalawigan Resolutions, and further inclusion in Annual Investment Plan.

- The issue of lack of concrete and evidence-based criteria for target setting was raised during the discussion of livelihood programs. The group concurred to put on recommendation the regular validation of evidence-based criteria for target setting. On the accreditation of accredited partners (ACPs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) by DSWD Central Office (current setup may hamper implementation of livelihood programs), it was recommended to decentralize the accreditation process at the regional level and to possibly lower the accreditation fee and/or extend the validity from 1 to 3 years.

Furthermore, the group recognized the overlaps among programs and initiatives of various government, private and humanitarian agencies in particular to provision of livelihood. It was recommended to have only one agency who will identify, organize, conduct social preparation activities, and endorse the potential beneficiaries to funding or implementing agencies. National Anti-Poverty Commission was suggested the possible central agency.

- With regards to Core Shelter Assistance Program, it was found that there is inadequate funding particularly for LGU counterpart contributions and, in addition, most LGUs do not have shelter plans. In line with this, the group recommended for DILG to ensure the LGUs' utilization of the 5% Calamity Fund and the implementation of their AIPs; and LGUs to consider inclusion of shelter plans in their CLUPs.
- On disaster risk reduction management in the Philippines, the group recommended to strictly implement the DRRM Law particularly in the coordination of the delivery of services in pre-/during/post disasters

GROUP 5 - SPF 3 (OFWs and Migrant Workers)		
Facilitator	:	Dir. Harry Borres, OWWA RO X
Members	:	Dir. Johnson Cañete, DOLE CARAGA Ms. Aubrey M. Fabiala, NAPC Formal Labor and Migrant Workers Mr. Roel B. Martin, NRCO
Secretariat	:	Ms. Carol Puno, DOLE

The social protection concerns for the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and other migrant workers were discussed on this group. Director Harry Borres, OWWA RO X facilitated the discussion and Ms. Carol Puno of Office of Undersecretary Lagunzad documented the proceedings. OWWA and NRCO programs were the main focus of the discussion. The following were the highlights of the group workshop:

- On the issue of lack of sustained membership of OFWs under OWWA after expiry and renewal of their contract on-site, the group agreed to put in recommendation to expand information dissemination campaign on the application process, benefits and etc. to increase membership through active participation of periodic consular missions conducted at the Post and include the significance of enrolling for OWWA in the PDOS. It was also said that they have to focus on various OWWA programs and services that OFWs and their families left behind can avail of.
- With regards to the provision of Social Benefits to OFWs and their qualified dependents such as disability and death benefits, the centralized processing of disability assistance is among the identified policy gaps. In response, the group concurred to recommend for full decentralization of disability assistance at the regional level with the availability of medical

retainer or through collaboration with the Department of Health in utilizing government doctors and/or hospitals in the locality and a provision of stand-by fund amounting to PHP 1.0M for ICF subject to replenishment in order to speed-up processing and releasing of benefits.

- The reintegration programs for the OFWs and migrant workers were also discussed by the group. It was recommended to develop the similar program that has a low-ceiling loan window. In addition, it was recommend to to link and forge a partnerships with other financial institutions other than banks such as cooperatives and NGOs with micro-finance programs or tap private partners who can cater to OFW clientele in order to increase accessibility among the sector.

GROUP 7 - SPF 4 (Income Security for the Elderly) and Cross cutting Issues		
Facilitator	:	Mr. Errol John Ramos, SSC-Office of Commissioner Malonzo
Members	:	Ms. Viola C. Siozon, NAPC - Cooperatives Ms. Erlinda E. Oras, NAPC - Urban Poor
Secretariat	:	Ms. Riza Mae B. Daguplo, ECC

The SPF guarantee 4, which pertains to income security for the elderly, and cross cutting issues was discussed by this particular group. Mr. Errol John Ramos of SSC-Office of Commissioner Malonzo moderated the discussion and Ms. Riza Mae B. Daguplo of ECC documented the inputs. Among the key issues discussed were: (1) benefits are inadequate to meet the needs of the elderly, particularly with PWDs, (2) old age pension for veterans, and (3) feasibility to provide ample on basic goods. Below are the highlights of discussion:

- On the issue that the benefits are not sufficient to meet the needs of the pensioners. Moreover, benefits for the PWDs are not realistic since they have higher cost of living, it was recommended to develop a long-term strategy for benefit adequacy and sustainability by either increasing contribution levels or subsidizing a portion of the contribution of the informal sector or self-employed working poor.
- On the issue of inadequacy of P500 per month social pension for the elderly to cover daily sustenance and buying medicines, the group recommended to Increase the existing amount of social pension but emphasized that it should be higher than the minimum pension received by regular SSS pensioners.
- On the issue of providing discounts on basic goods for the elderly, the group concurred with the recommendation to expand the coverage of basic goods that can be discounted for senior citizens.
- When the cross-cutting issues and gaps were discussed, the group agreed to recommend the following: (1) All LGUs should setup ah Social Protection Action Centers (SPAC) for information, registration activities and other assistance that can be provided by Social protection agencies, and (2) all government agencies, both at the national and local level, should help in intensifying the advocacy for Social Protection for all.

V. HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESENTATION OF WORKSHOP OUTPUTS

Each working group has designated to present their respective outputs of discussion to the plenary. The floor was opened for comments, questions and clarifications after the outputs of each SPF guarantee was presented. DOLE Assistant Secretary Ma. Gloria A. Tango facilitated for this particular part of the activity. The following are the highlights of the open forum:

- Dr. Israel Francis Pargas clarified that orphan children under the care of DSWD and other accredited agencies are covered by PHILHEALTH. Also, individuals with congenital or acquired disability can now be qualified dependent, even those whose age is 21 and above. At present, PHILHEALTH is preparing a package for assisted devices such as wheel chair, hearing aids, among others.
- Regarding the issue of difficulty to pay premium contributions, PHILHEALTH said that there were LGUs which might already be accredited as collecting agents. It was added that they are considering to outsource collection services such as the telecommunication companies.
- NAPC sectoral representative expressed his concern on how the livelihood programs of the government are not pro-poor given that most programs require counterpart funding from the co-partner or beneficiaries which some individuals could not afford. DOLE Assistant Secretary Ma. Gloria A. Tango replied that people can access many funding sources for livelihood.
- NAPC Urban Poor sectoral representative raised that the requirements to access livelihood programs are too tedious. Regarding the issuance of joint-circular memorandum centralizing the authorization of CSO as third party implementers, DOLE Assistant Secretary Gloria Tango noted that DOLE has already sent a communication to DSWD requesting the latter to automatically accredit its accredited co-partners (ACPs). DSWD Director Christian Deloria clarified that the said initiative is in accordance to the on-going initiatives of COA and DBM due to the issues inflicted by the third party implementation. On the registration fee, it came from DBM and COA.
- Mr. Antonio Asper inquired about the registration of non-government organizations and people's organizations as partners for government funding and whether it might violate ILO convention or not. DOLE Assistant Secretary Ma. Gloria Tango replied that the people organizations are included.

Dr. Israel Francis Pargas, PHILHEALTH Vice President for Corporate Affairs, made his closing remarks for the activity. He acknowledged the support from the public and private sector and hoped that all the inputs during the Island-wide Consultations.

**ASSESSMENT-BASED NATIONAL DIALOGUE (ABND) ISLAND-WIDE CONSULTATION
MINDANAO CLUSTER**

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION



TOP: DOLE RO X Director Raymundo Agravante delivering his opening message to formally open the activity. LOWER LEFT: DOLE Undersecretary Rebecca C. Chato encourages the participants to be active in workshop discussions. MIDDLE RIGHT: Ms. Girlie Casimiro of NEDA-Social Development Staff give a walkthrough on the overview of social protection in the Philippines. LOWER RIGHT: Ms. Loveleen De and Ms. Katharina Bollig of International Labor Organization (ILO) discuss the Social Protection Floor and Assessment-based National Dialogue (ABND) concepts and process.



TOP LEFT BWSC Director Ahmma Charisma Satumba facilitates the open forum after the presentation from ILO and NEDA. TOP RIGHT: ECC Executive Director Stella Banawis enumerates the programs and schemes enlisted in the assessment matrix. CENTER: ABND Island-wide Consultation (Mindanao) participants from the national level and CARAGA Region. LOWER: LEFT: DSWD Director Christian Deloria leads the discussion of SPF2 (Children) matrix. LOWER RIGHT: Mr. Antonio Asper of FFW gives a walkthrough of the gaps and issues identified in SPF3 (Working Age People).