

RDC CHRONICLE

1st Semester 2016

A publication of the Regional Development Council, Region 1

Volume 23 Number 14

State of the Region



**Performance
Excellence:
RDC-1 Awards
Winners**



THE CHRONICLE

The RDC Chronicle is published on a semestral basis by RDC-1 which highlights stories, events and matters concerning the various sectors of development

ABOUT THE COVER

This issue focuses on the State of the Region for CY 2015 delivered by RDC Vice Chairman Nestor G. Rillon. Likewise, it highlights the Ambisyon Natin 2040 and the winners to the Annual RDC-1 Awards Program.

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STATE OF THE REGION

*Delivered by Nestor G. Rillon
RDC Vice Chairman*

Our distinguished guests, esteemed friends in the Regional Development Council, frontrunners from various government agencies and local government units, active partners in regional development, friends, ladies and gentlemen, good morning!

It's been a year since we last reported to you the state of our region's economy. Today, join me as we again summarize what we have done, what we are still doing and what we aim to do towards the betterment of the lives of every Juan and Juana in Region 1.

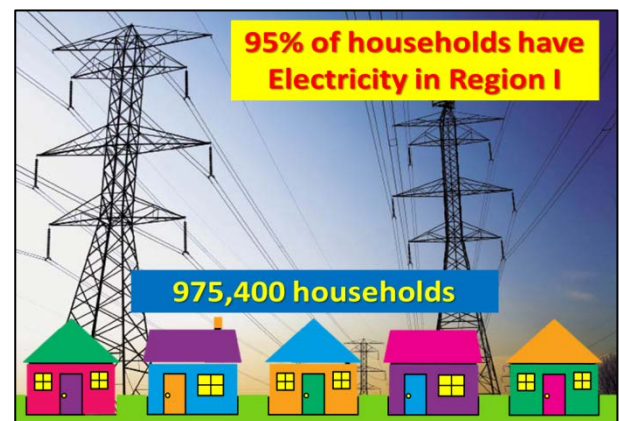
But before we do that, allow me to congratulate and salute each one who has been very aggressive in attaining our vision of prosperity and inclusive growth. I believe that these are all products of our relentless efforts and sheer determination of heading towards a better Region 1. Now, we can say that we all feel the fruits of our labor.

In our little but sure steps towards growth, it is good to look back at the Top Ten best things Region 1 had in year 2015:

At number ten, we have seen the potential of wind and solar power and the increase in the level of electrification efforts in the region

We are proud to say that the region is rich in various potential sources of energy and

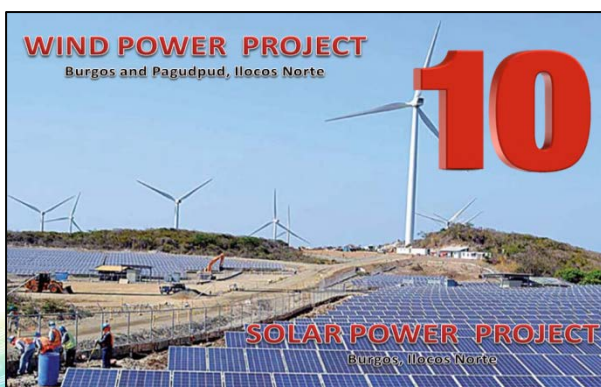
among these are the wind and the sun. The wind power projects in Burgos and Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte, with a combined dependable capacity of 73 MW, as well as the Burgos Solar project having a dependable capacity of 4 MW were completed in 2015.



Out of the 975,400 households, 925,231 of which already have electricity or simply at 95 percentage level. This means that we still have five percent to work on to finally light the whole region and I am truly confident that we can do this together in the years ahead.

At Number nine, we have seen improvements in our health programs, educational assistance and 4Ps coverage:

In our continuous efforts of providing better health programs and improving the health status of our major stakeholders,

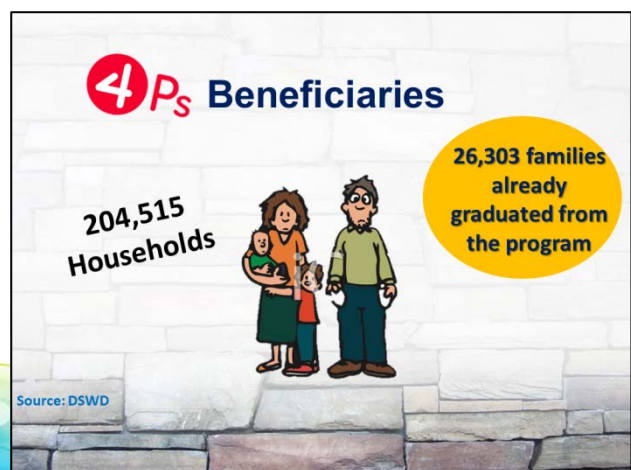
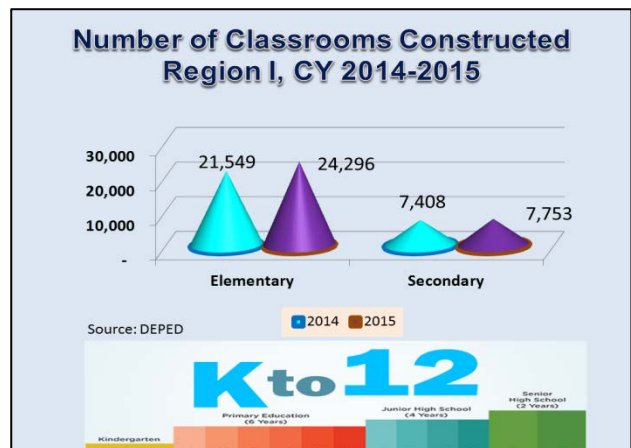
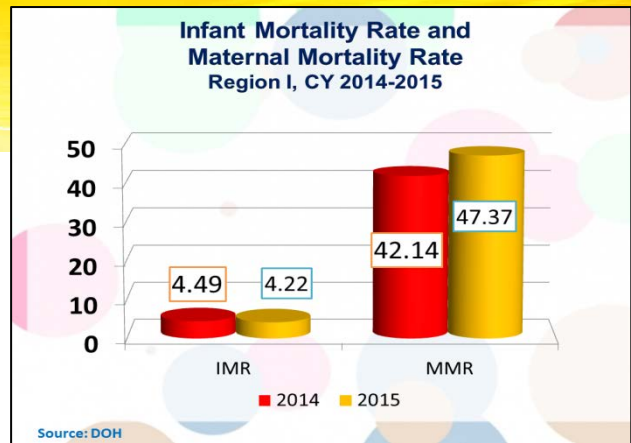


seven additional private hospitals were constructed and passed the rigid accreditation process in 2015. We provided various medical services that led to the decline of Infant Mortality rate from 4.49 percent in 2014 to 4.22 percent in 2015. This is slightly above our goal of lowering IMR to 3.63 percent. Despite the increase of Maternal Mortality Rate, we remain very optimistic that if we make effective use of the provisions under the Reproductive Health Act, then we can significantly reduce the number of mothers dying from complications from pregnancy to birth.

On education, we have witnessed the readiness of both public and private schools to cater to the K to 12 program. Around 24,296 classrooms in the elementary level were erected in 2015 as compared to 21,549 in 2014. For the secondary level, 7,753 classrooms were constructed in 2015 compared to 7,408 in 2014. We also saw the completion of Phase 1 and implementation of Phase 2 of the Public Private Partnership for School Infrastructure projects.

The technical-vocational graduates significantly rose by 34.85 percent, from only 108,988 in 2014 to 146,971 in 2015 which is way above the target of only 115,892 graduates. More importantly, there is a substantial increase in the employment rate of tech-voc graduates from 63 percent in 2014 to 74.96 percent in 2015, beating the target of 62 percent.

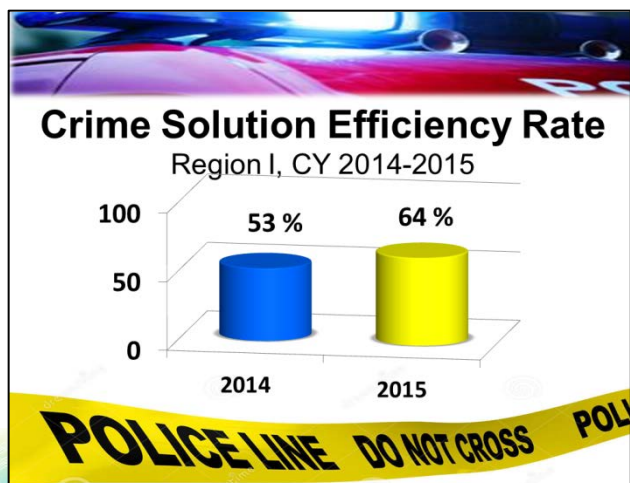
Bringing our people across the borders of extreme poverty remains to be our ultimate goal. Statistics show that the proportion of poor families slightly went up from 16.70 percent in 2012 to 17.20 on the first semester of 2015. However, please note that the comparison is not on a year-on-year basis. We are still hopeful that these figures will be positively reported once we have completed the data for the whole of 2015 considering our poverty reduction efforts. Of which comes the Microenterprise Development Assistance under the



Sustainable Livelihood Development that recorded 21,803 household beneficiaries in 2015 as compared to only 7,772 households in 2014. Likewise, the number of households facilitated for employment climbed from 195 in 2014 to 1,970 in 2015.

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or 4Ps that aims to respond to the immediate needs of poor families is now enjoyed by 204,515 families in the region. Around 26,303 families already graduated since the start of said program. We believe that this will remain to be one of the priority programs of the next administration.

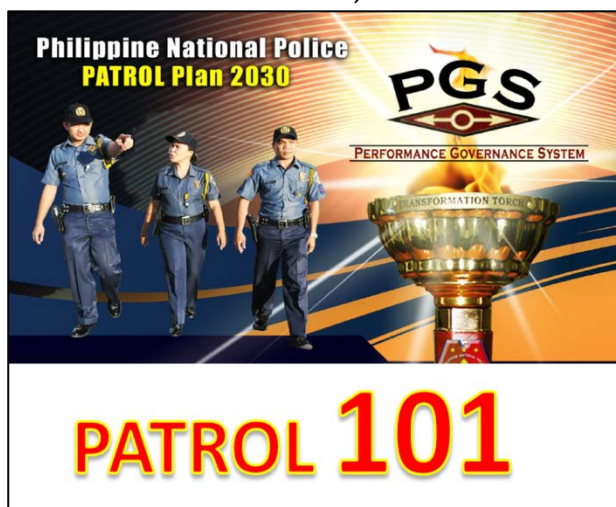
At number eight, in our concerted efforts to solve crimes and mitigate disaster effects, we were able to improve the region's peace and order situation and lowered the casualties brought by calamities



We are pleased to inform you that the crime solution efficiency rate rose by 11 percentage points, that is from 53 percent in 2014 to 64 percent in 2015. This means that we have met our target set in the RDP and we hope a notable increase in the years ahead.

The prompt solution of crimes can be attributed to the serious crime and drug prevention programs led by our uniformed policemen. The strict implementation of PATROL 101 and other effective strategies as contained in the PATROL Plan 2030 sets the difference. Giving our full trust to our law enforcement authorities and opening our eyes on what is happening around, helped a lot in our quest towards combating criminalities within our localities.

In line with our readiness for disasters and other forms of calamities, I would like to



emphasize that 100 percent of Local Government Units already have their respective Disaster Risk Reduction Councils. In fact, all LGUs comply with the Calamity Response Protocols and DRRM Plans and had their assigned DRRM officers. Truly, disasters happen but we can reduce the risk if we only build a more resilient community as evidenced by our continuing efforts on mitigating its impact – not just for us, but for our children and our children’s children.

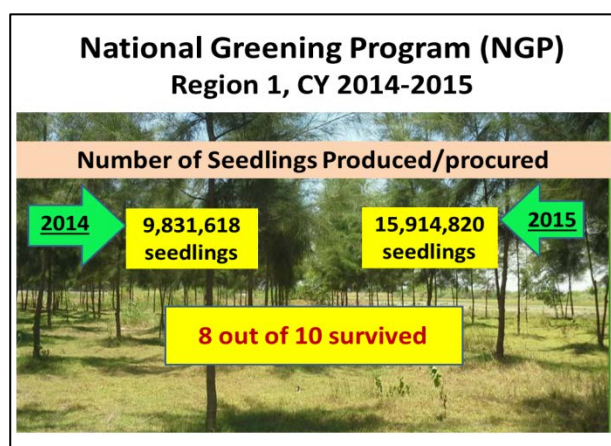
At number seven, everyone has become an environmental advocate



We all know that our region is not spared from natural hazards. We often hear the words, “Whatever you do to mother nature will surely comeback to you.” We believe that we have learned our lessons from what we have experienced in the past that is why we put our energies together in bringing back the beauty of our environment.

On that note, we further intensified the implementation of the National Greening Program – a clear strategy in protecting our forests. Records show a very significant increase in the production of seedlings for planting both forest and fruit trees. From around 9,831,618 seedlings in 2014 to 15,914,820 in 2015. We even surpassed the actual area planted as contained in the RDP by 29.45 percent with a survival rate of 87.26 percent which means 8 out of 10 seedlings we planted survived.

To mitigate the effects of climate change, we also focused some of our efforts on



R. A. 9003

Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000

List of LGUS with 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan

ILOCOS NORTE	LA UNION
• Bacarra	• Rosario
• San Nicolas	
ILOCOS SUR	PANGASINAN
• Sta. Cruz	• Alaminos City
• Vigan City	

Source: DENR-EMB

projects like watershed rehabilitation, protection and conversion in 2015.

We have also focused our attention in reducing solid wastes by complying to Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. There are already 20 LGUs with sanitary landfills, 29 were assisted in the

development of SLF and 51 sites were assessed and proposed for construction. Today, there are some LGUs that already have their official 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan as approved by the National Solid Waste Management Commission. These are the municipalities of Bacarra and San Nicolas in Ilocos Norte, Sta. Cruz and Vigan City in Ilocos Sur, Rosario in La Union and Alaminos City in Pangasinan. Technical assistance to other LGUs are also provided in the preparation of their respective plans.

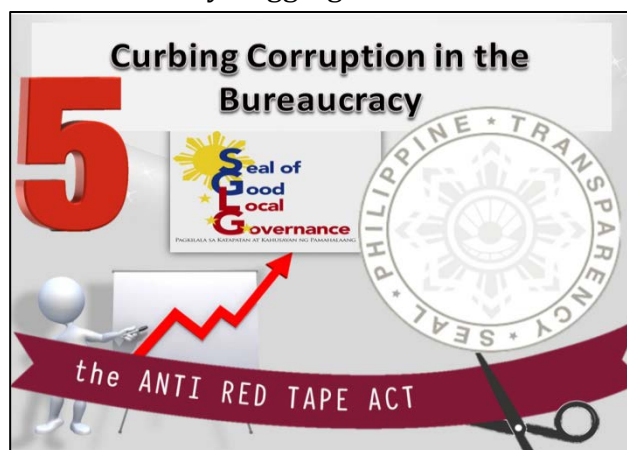
Those of you who would like to enjoy the summer break and feel like swimming in our beaches, good news - our beaches are still suitable for these activities. Thank you for closely monitoring our beaches and for continuing the implementation of various Coastal Resource Management practices that greatly helped our coastlines and shorelines.

At number six, we continue to see improvements in agriculture despite countless challenges on the sector



Early last year, we already felt the effects of El Niño. This has dried up most of our agricultural lands and destroyed our products. However, we have put mitigation measures to really ease its harmful effects. In fact, the region continued to be more than sufficient in all major food commodities. On the average, the region's food sufficiency level was posted at 163.99 percent in 2015.

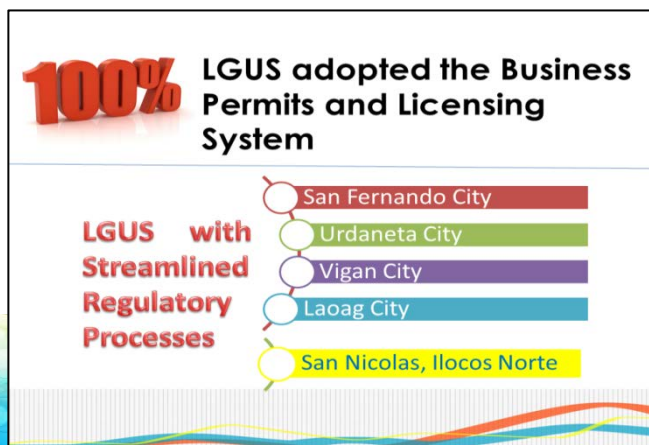
The region continued to exhibit a strong comparative advantage in the agri-fishery sector as it ranked first in the production of mango, mongo, garlic, tomato, eggplant, shallot, tobacco, and milkfish in the country. It ranked fourth in rice production contributing 9.79 percent of the total rice production in the country and ranked fifth in corn production, comprising 2.70 percent of the country's aggregate.



At number five, we have become more aware and active in curbing all forms of corruption in the bureaucracy

Good governance and effective public service delivery spells the difference in our drive towards curbing corruption. This was evident in 2015 as 100 percent of LGUs in the region comply with the Anti-Red Tape Law or RA 9485. Gone are the days when information on government transactions was unclear and worse - hidden from the public.

We are again pleased to announce that all 129 LGUs conform with the Full Disclosure



Policy of the government. Forty were awarded with Seal of Good Local Governance and we are hopeful they will serve as inspiration for others to follow.

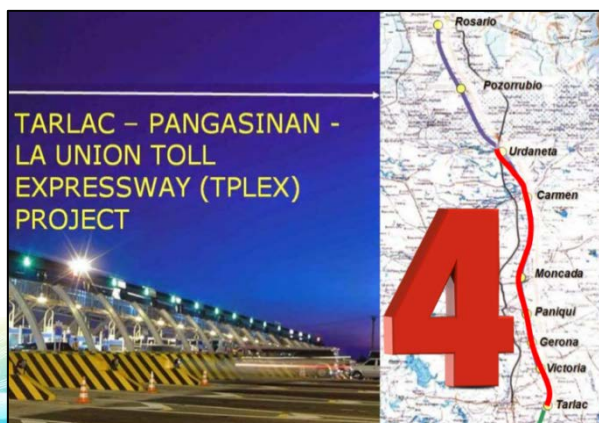
Further, all LGUs adopted the Business Permits and Licensing System where five (5) implemented and upgraded the said system: these are the Cities of San Fernando, Vigan, Urdaneta and Laoag, and the municipality of San Nicolas.

On the whole, all government agencies and LGUs surpassed the challenges of the past and brought back the trust and confidence of the public that they serve.

Recognizing the efforts of LGUs in providing social services and improving infrastructure facilities through local tax collection, we surpassed the 2014 collection targets by 66.96 percent in 2015 or amounting to 5.61 billion in 2015 as compared to 3.36 billion in 2014 for the whole region.

In the Regional Development Council, we have continued recognizing government agencies, LGUs and individuals who have portrayed excellence in public service delivery and continued to serve as inspiration to others. Some of them have become Hall of Famers due to their unwavering efforts of serving the best interest of their constituents. They are with us today, and later they will be recognized.

At number four, completion of the TPLEX to Urdaneta City and other infrastructure projects



WIDENING OF THE MANILA NORTH ROAD



Agno River Irrigation Extension



Our roads and infrastructure facilities serve as the backbone of our economy.

As 2015 closes, the TPLEX to Urdaneta City was completed which greatly shortened travel to the north and other neighboring areas. The third phase from Urdaneta City to Rosario, La Union has been started and targeted for completion in 2017.

Other major infrastructure projects include the widening and concreting of road shoulders and replacement and retrofitting of bridges along the Manila North Road in Pangasinan, La Union and Ilocos Sur.

Likewise, we also take this chance to report on the approval and implementation of the Agno River Irrigation System Extension Project

We have seen also the improvement in the air transport sector particularly at the Laoag International airport. Air craft movement increased by 7.66 percent – from 979 flight movements in 2014 to 1,054 in 2015.



At number 3, tourism industry is at its peak

The 2015 tourist arrival record of 1,624,805 tourists surmounted the actual volume of arrivals in 2014 at 1,145,388. This can be attributed to the effective DOT-DPWH Convergence Strategies that brought numerous improvements on access roads leading to tourist destinations.

Domestic tourists continued to account for the biggest share at 95.61 percent, while foreign visitors and Overseas Filipino Workers accounted for 4.20 percent and 0.18 percent, respectively. The

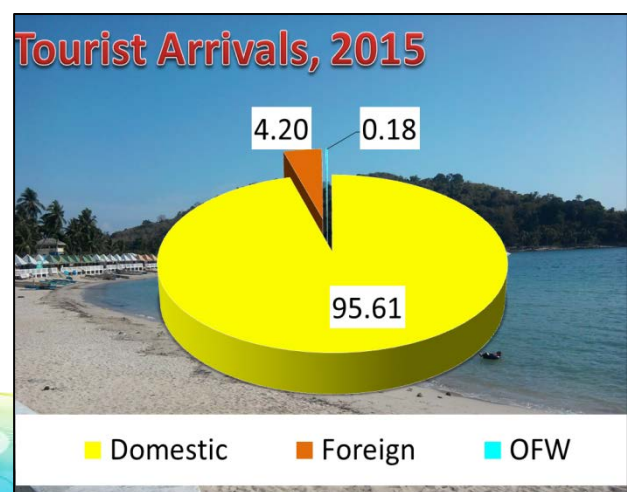
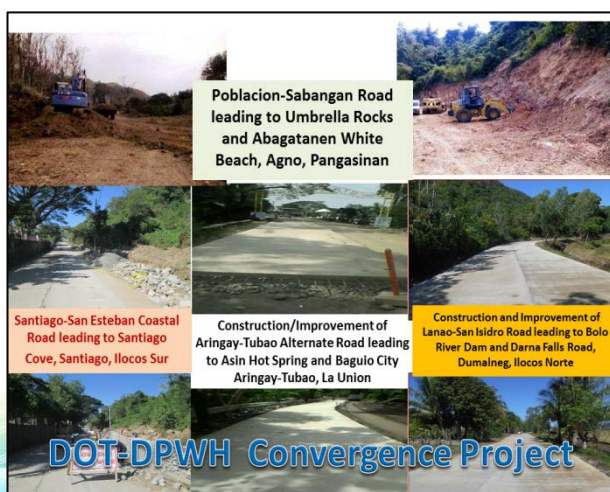


province of Ilocos Norte posted the highest number of tourist arrivals due to the proximity of the province to the ASEAN region coupled by the effective packaging of tourist attractions in the northern part of the region.

Various new enticing and picturesque tourism sites also popped up and got much attention even in the social media. Top picks include Tangadan Falls, Bolinao Falls, Surfing Break, Pagudpud Dos



Hermanos Islands, Wonderful Cave, Bangui wind mills, Baluarte, Vigan dancing fountain, Paoay sand dunes adventure, among others.





At number 2, the economy of the region remains on good track

The region's economy remains on track as it posted a 5.7 percent growth in 2014 although slightly lower than the 6.8 percent growth in 2013. We feel confident that comes July 2016, the Philippine Statistics Authority will be reporting a more positive figure on the region's economic performance. In fact, the 5.7 growth in 2014 is still within the 5-8 percent target set in the RDP.

In addition, the proportion of investments to GRDP increased by 3.6 percentage points from 14.1 percent in 2013 to 17.7 percent in 2014 which is within the 15-20 percent target of the region.

Around 2,188,000 individuals ages 15 and above are in the labor force and ready to look for jobs. Region 1 registers an employment rate of 92 percent which can be inferred that 9 out of 10 jobseekers are employed. The Agriculture, Fishery and

Forestry Sector contributed the biggest share on the region's total employment at 34.05 percent.

The region also experienced a remarkable decline in inflation rates averaging 1.4 percent in 2015 from a high of 4.5 percent in 2014. This means that prices of commodities in the region have become more and more stable.

At number 1, the best thing that happened in 2015 is that we remained to be One Region - One Community, with one hope and one dream of achieving what is best for our people...Thank you to each one of you for making it possible.



The Regional Development Council is one with you in achieving our vision. We promise to always put our best foot forward in orchestrating sustainable regional development.

I would also like to take this rare opportunity to thank the LGUs who are in one way or the other partnered with us in our journey towards inclusive growth. You shed light to the implementation of various programs that brought positive results in the region.





Clearly, this is not about POLITICS so to speak but an acknowledgment of your countless efforts of making the lives of our constituents a lot better. So, allow me to mention a few but remarkable contributions of our provinces and key cities in the region:

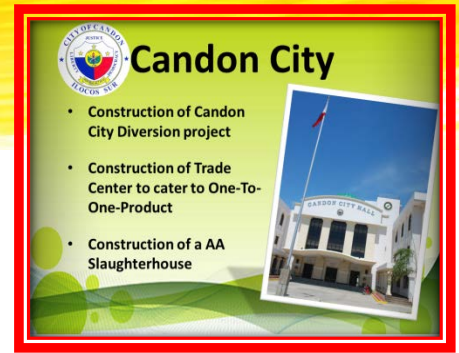
- Ilocos Norte
 - Expert Global Solution (EGS) started operation at the Centennial Arena with 280 agents. They are now building for a 1500 seats location.
 - Small and Medium Enterprise Sector has gained its momentum and transportation sector shows robust growth.
- Ilocos Sur
 - The province was chosen as one of the Five Outstanding Provinces recognizing the milestones of the province in quality corn production.
 - The “Excellence in Kalusugan Pangkalahatan” was likewise



bagged by the province. Recognizing their hardwork in strengthening health systems and programs.

- La Union
 - Thousands of tourists and party goers flocked the beach of Urbiztondo, San Juan, La Union for the 10th La Union Surfing Break (LUSB) with the theme: “Hangten: Catch the highest wave of fun and adventure.”
 - The province also continued strengthening the Integrated Social Forestry (ISF) program as one of the effective means of invigorating its platforms on Forest Management
- Pangasinan
 - The province was hailed for improving hospital services increasing bed capacity and hiring additional medical personnel.
 - Notable continuation of its certified seeds subsidy program





- **Laoag City**
 - Hall of Famer, Quality Corn Awards in the 11th Philippine National Corn Congress.
 - Public service program “Agserbi 24/7, Walang Iwanan” – providing services to its constituents through quick delivery of services in a mobile outreach program.
- **Batac City**
 - Continues development of projects in rural areas that include farm-to-market roads and Small Water Impounding Projects
- **Candon City**
 - Construction of Candon City Diversion project
 - Construction of Trade Center to cater One-To-One-Product
- **Vigan City**
 - The establishment of the Vigan Central Plaza along Quezon Avenue and the Vigan Transport Hub at Jose Singson St. in Vigan
 - Continued to be the seat of the New 7 Wonders Cities of the World as formally awarded in 2015
- **San Fernando City**
 - The implementation of IGP sa Barangay Program as part of the Model Barangay Program.
- **Barangays were given start-up capital for their respective IGPs.**
 - Upgrade of Health and Wellness Facilities and conversion and upgrading of the existing health facilities
 - All the 59 Barangays within the City were ISO accredited
- **Alaminos City**
 - Continuing preservation of the Hundred Islands National Park (HINP) and upgrading of tourism facilities to cater to the needs of both foreign and domestic tourists
 - Intensified implementation of their solid waste management practices as contained in their 10-year plan
- **San Carlos City**
 - Roll-out on Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act; and
 - Free anti-rabies vaccination, free castration of male dogs and cats
- **Urdaneta City**
 - Implementation of various programs that would uphold Children’s Protection and Children’s Rights
 - Winner to the 1st DigiBayani Award through its City Library

- **Dagupan City**

- Promotion of Dagupan Certified Bangus and other seafood products in the International Market
- Stronger social advocacy through anti-drugs textline, OFWs anti-illegal recruitment desk, anti-bullying campaign, VAWC, at anti-flesh trade task force.

All these and more are the programs and projects that truly contributed a lot in the region's development.

In the past years, we were challenged by various circumstances that dampened our economy, disasters that have taken away the lives of our family members and even our properties, situations that subdued us, but we are here, we stood up and remained firm because of our unquestionable unity.

With your continuing support and commitment towards progress, we shall continue to do what we have planned in the years ahead. We look forward to completing various by-pass road projects in Candon, Laoag and Alaminos-Bani. We shall expand the manufacturing sector as the primary growth driver of the region's economy and formulate an Industry Roadmap to further improve our region's industry competitiveness. We shall also sustain the implementation of the Coastal Resource Management program with the various river basins and develop potential eco-tourism sites to further boost the tourism industry.

We also aim at transforming our farmers into agri-based entrepreneurs equipped with appropriate technologies, skills and resources to successfully compete in the ASEAN market and we call for greater convergence of programs to address poverty problems through the Tatsulo or Tatlong Sulo program.



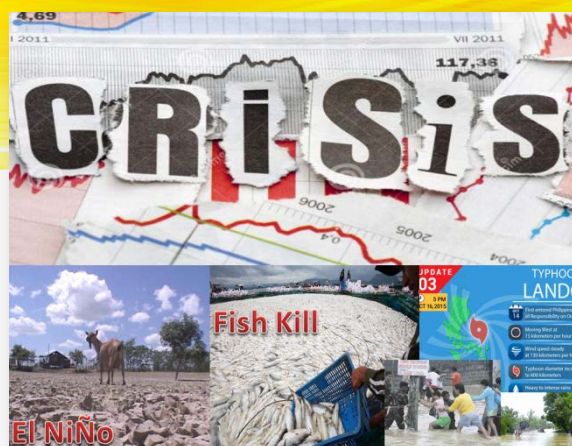
Yes, I know that what we have done are not yet enough and we still have a lot of homework to do but I also know that with all these, we are already getting to where we truly want to – and that is change! I believe that if every single hand here will join and unite together then nothing is impossible. Let us all continue becoming a rainbow of hope for our children.

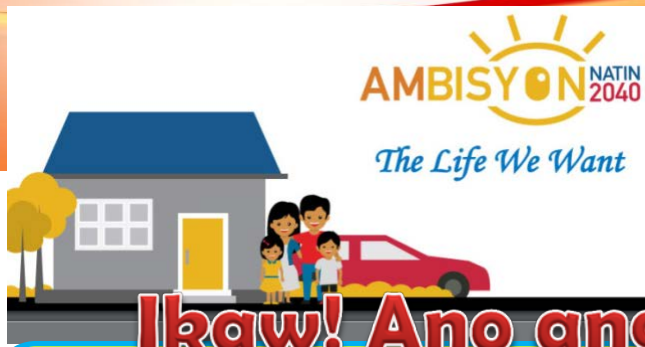
Are we not happy to live in a region that is peaceful and united? Isn't it that we prefer to stay in a region which each centavo of our paid taxes come back to us in services that we justly and rightfully deserve? Don't we think that it is indeed great to live in a region where each dream and ambition can become a reality?

Coming from that, the NEDA launched the AmmbisyonNatin 2040 that envisions to unite Filipinos and serve as a guide in development planning across administrations. This also aims to ensure the continuity of policies, programs and projects and development plans on a long-term view of what we want, and where we want the country and the economy to be in the foreseeable future.

Now, let me end my speech by asking you. Are you one with us in attaining our ultimate dreams and ambitions in the coming years?

Thank you and a blessed day to everyone!





Ikaw! Ano ang ambisyon mo?

To ensure the continuity of policies, projects, and programs, development plans have to be anchored to a long-term view of what we want, and where we want the country and the economy to be in the foreseeable future. Hence, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) started developing the long term vision project in 2015.

This project is envisioned to be a basis of unity among Filipinos, where we generally want the Philippines to be by 2040, and serve as a guide in development planning across administrations.

Source: NEDA Central Office





CY 2015 WINNERS RDC-1 AWARDS

Search for LGU-NGO

Partnership

CHAMPION

(LGU) – Laoag, ILOCOS NORTE
(NGO) – Government of Laoag
Employees Development Cooperative

1st RUNNER UP

(LGU) – San Nicolas, ILOCOS NORTE
(NGO) – San Nicolas Bawang
Association

2nd RUNNER UP

(LGU) – Piddig, ILOCOS NORTE
(NGO) – Piddig Basi Multipurpose
Cooperative

Search for LGU Best Practices – Project Based

CHAMPION and HALL OF FAME

San Nicolas, ILOCOS NORTE
Project: Catching Rain

RECOGNITION

Laoag City, ILOCOS NORTE
*Project: Experimental Learning:
Changing Lives through Farmers
Class*

Province of ILOCOS NORTE
*Project: Ilocos Norte: The Northern
Digital Gateway*

Search for Cleanest, Safest and Greenest LGU

PROVINCIAL CATEGORY

CHAMPION and HALL OF FAME

Province of PANGASINAN

1st RUNNER UP

Province of ILOCOS NORTE

2nd RUNNER UP

Province of ILOCOS SUR

MUNICIPALITY A CATEGORY

(1st to 3rd Class)

CHAMPION and HALL OF FAME

Naguilian, LA UNION

1st RUNNER UP

San Nicolas, ILOCOS NORTE

2nd RUNNER UP

Sto. Domingo, ILOCOS SUR

CITY CATEGORY

CHAMPION and HALL OF FAME

Laoag City, ILOCOS NORTE

1st RUNNER UP

San Fernando City, LA UNION

2nd RUNNER UP

Alaminos City, PANGASINAN

MUNICIPALITY B CATEGORY

(4th to 5th Class)

CHAMPION

Pagudpud, ILOCOS NORTE

1st RUNNER UP

Santol, LA UNION

2nd RUNNER UP

Sta. Maria, PANGASINAN

INLAND BODY OF WATER CATEGORY

CHAMPION and HALL OF FAME

Paoay, ILOCOS NORTE (Paoay Lake)

1st RUNNER UP

Sto. Domingo, ILOCOS SUR
(Sukok River)

2nd RUNNER UP

Sta. Maria, PANGASINAN
Santa-Maria-Agno River

Be COMPETITIVE

**Build your
IMAGE**

**Gain your
CREDIBILITY!!!!**

**Search for Best MDG Project
Implementers**

LGU-PROVINCE

Province of LA UNION
(Construction of Hospital Complex,
Caba, La Union)

REGIONAL LINE AGENCY

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic
Resources (BFAR)
(Fisheries Livelihood Assistance
Project, San Fernando City, La Union)

**Search for Best LGU Poverty
Reduction Program Implementer**

PROVINCIAL CATEGORY

CHAMPION

Province of PANGASINAN

HONOR AWARD

Province of ILOCOS SUR

MUNICIPAL CATEGORY

CHAMPION

Sto. Tomas, LA UNION

**Search for the Most
Outstanding Project Monitors**

CATEGORY A (1-10 Projects)

Department of Labor and
Employment

CATEGORY B (11-30 Projects)

Province of PANGASINAN

CATEGORY B (11-30 Projects)

Province of LA UNION

**Search for Best Project
Implementers**

CHAMPION

Mariano Marcos State University
(Oyster Mushroom Production,
Batac City, ILOCOS NORTE)

1st RUNNER UP

Department of Agriculture
(Catuguing Small Water Impounding
Project, San Nicolas, ILOCOS NORTE)

2nd RUNNER UP

Department of Environment and
Natural Resources
(CY 2015 National Greening Program,
Alilem, ILOCOS SUR)

**Search for Best LGU-CRM
Implementers**

PROVINCIAL CATEGORY

CHAMPION

Province of ILOCOS SUR

1st RUNNER UP

Province of LA UNION

CITY CATEGORY

CHAMPION

Alaminos City, PANGASINAN

MUNICIPAL CATEGORY

CHAMPION

Dasol, PANGASINAN

1st RUNNER UP

Sto. Domingo, ILOCOS SUR

Congratulations