THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

A. BACKGROUND

Q. What is the Regional Development Council?

The Regional Development Council (RDC) is the highest policy-making body in the region and serves as the counterpart of the NEDA Board at the subnational level.

The RDC is the primary institution that coordinates and sets the direction of all economic and social development efforts in the region. It also serves as a forum where local efforts can be related and integrated with national development initiatives.

The NEDA Regional Offices serve as technical and administrative secretariat of the RDC.

Q. Why was the Regional Development Council Created?

The RDC was created in answer to the need for a single regional planning body whose main concern is the overall socioeconomic development of the region.

Q. Why is there a need for Regional Development Planning?

Regional Development Planning is necessary to address the uneven economic and social development in the country. This stems from the recognition that the economic and social gains achieved so far have been unevenly distributed such that much of the progress has been concentrated in a few regions.

Q. What are the bases for the creation and operation of the RDC?

The RDC was established by virtue of Letter of Implementation No. 22 issued on 31 December 1972 pursuant to the implementation of the Integrated Reorganization Plan of 1972. Its present constitutional foundation rests on Article X, Section 14 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution which states that:

"The President shall provide for regional development councils, or other similar bodies composed of local government officials, regional heads of departments and offices, and representatives from non-government organizations within the region for purposes of administrative decentralization to strengthen the autonomy of units therein and to accelerate the economic and social development of the units in the region."

To carry out this provision, President Corazon C. Aquino issued Executive Order 308 on 05 November 1987 which reorganized the RDC. Subsequent amendments include EOs 318 (s. 1988), 347 and 366 (s. 1989), 455 (s. 1991) and 505 (s. 1992). On 12 April 1996, the foregoing EOs were repealed with the issuance of Executive Order 325 signed by President Fidel V. Ramos. This latest issuance further strengthened the RDCs to make it more responsive to new developments in socio-political fields and to ensure sustainable and broad-based development process.

Q. Is there an equivalent of an RDC in NCR and ARMM?

Yes. In the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, Republic Act 6734 established the Regional Development Planning and Development Board.

In the National Capital Region, the Metro Manila Council was created under Republic Act 7924 to serve as the governing board and policy making body of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority By virtue of EO 113 s. 2002, the Metro Manila Council was constituted to serve as and perform the functions of the Regional Development Council for Metropolitan Manila.

B. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Q. What is the composition of the RDC?

The LGUs:

- all provincial governors and city mayors,
- mayors of municipalities designated as provincial capitals,
- presidents of the provincial leagues of mayors in the region
- mayors of municipalities designated as regional center

The Government Agencies:

Regional Directors of line agencies represented in the NEDA Board i.e. NEDA, HUDCC DOE, DA, DBM, DENR, DOF, DPWH, DOST, DOTC, DTI, DOT, DOLE, DAR, DILG, DOH and DOLE; and the Regional Directors of DECS, DSWD, DOT CHED and TESDA.

The Private Sector: Representatives of the private sector and NGOs based in the region who shall comprise one fourth (1/4) of the membership of the fully constituted Council. There shall be at least one private sector representative from the labor sector as prescribed under EO no. 384.

Special Members: The RDC, subject to the concurrence of majority of its regular members, may designate special non-voting members of the Council.

C. RDC OFFICIALS

Q. What is the tenure of the RDC Officials?

The terms of office of the Chairperson, Co-Chairperson and private sector representatives coincide with the regular term of local elective officials which is a fixed period of three years. This prescribed term of office is without prejudice to reappointment.

D. <u>FUNCTIONS OF THE RDC</u>

Q. What are the functions of the RDC?

The RDC has the following functions:

i. Coordinate the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of short and long-term regional development plans and investment programs, regional physical framework plan and special development plans, including the formulation of policy recommendations;

ii. Integrate approved development plans of provinces and cities, line agencies, state universities and colleges, government owned and controlled corporations and special development authorities in the region in to the regional development plan;

iii. Review, prioritize, and endorse to the national government the annual and multi-year sectoral investment programs of the region for funding and implementation;

iv. Review and endorse to the national government the annual budgets of agency regional offices, state colleges and universities and special development authorities;

v. Promote and direct the inflow and allocation of private investments in the region to support regional development objectives, polices and strategies;

vi. Review and endorse national plans, programs and projects proposed for implementation in the regions;

vii. As required by the Investment Coordination Committee, review and endorse projects of national government agencies that have impact on the region and projects of LGUs in the region.

viii. Initiate and coordinate the development, funding and implementation of regional and special development projects such as those involving several agencies of LGUs.

ix. Coordinate the monitoring and evaluation of development projects undertaken by government agencies, LGUs, state colleges and universities, government owned and/or controlled corporations and special development authorities in the region; and

x. Perform other related functions and activities as may be necessary to promote and sustain the socioeconomic development in the region.

E. COMMITTEES OF THE RDC

Q.   What are the Committees of the RDC?

The major committees are the Executive Committee (ExCom), the four Sectoral Committees, and an Advisory Committee.

The four sectoral committees are: Social Development; Economic Development, Infrastructure Development and Development Administration

Q.   What is the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee acts on matters that require immediate attention for and in behalf of the RDC when it is not in session. Membership to the Executive Committee is determined by the Council and includes only the regular RDC members.

Q.   What is the Advisory Committee (AdCom)?

The AdCom is created to further strengthen the coordinative and consultative mechanism in the regions. Composed of the Congressmen from the region and members of the RDC Executive Committee, it shall advise, assist and support the Council in discharging its functions. Membership of Congressmen is voluntary in the sense that they need to signify in writing their intention to become members of the RDC.

F.   RDC CHAIRPERSONS AND CO-CHAIRPERSONS

Q.   How are the RDC Chairpersons and Co-Chairpersons selected?

The RDC nominates at least two (2) local chief executives and two (2) private sector representatives from whom the President shall select and appoint the RDC Chairperson and Co-Chairperson, provided that if the Chairperson is from the government sector, the Co-Chairperson shall be from the private sector (and vice-versa).

Q.   Who are the RDC Chairpersons and Co-Chairperson for 2016-2019?

See attached matrix

No appointment for Chairpersons were issued yet for RDCs VII and Caraga. For RDCs without Chairpersons, the Co-Chairperson or the NEDA Regional Director, as Vice-Chairperson, acts as the RDC Chairperson.