

DEVELOPMENT AND REFORM AGENDA (DRA) 2016-2019



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**ENSURING
EMPOWERMENT,
DEMOCRATIZATION
AND GOOD
GOVERNANCE**



**REDUCING POVERTY
AND INEQUALITY**



BUILDING PEACE



**PROMOTING
SUSTAINABLE
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

WHAT IS THE DEVELOPMENT AND REFORM AGENDA?

In 2009, in the midst of a global economic crisis, mal-governance across all levels of the country and clockwork devastation brought about by extreme climate change, CODE-NGO and many other civil society organizations (CSOs) put forward a Development and Reform Agenda (DRA) identifying priority actions in the hope that these will guide the succeeding administration in steering the country towards democratization and development. This agenda was based on four pillars: (a) Ensuring Empowerment and Democratization, (b) Reducing Poverty and Inequality, (c) Building Peace and (d) Promoting a Sustainable Economy and Environment. Sectors have joined hands since and continue to cooperate in pushing for transparency in people's participation in governance, building and maintaining peace, improving access to social services and the fight against corruption.

Much has been done, but much remains to be accomplished still. Despite the Philippine economy growing since 2001 and currently being one the fastest growing in Asia, the effects of this growth have yet to be widely felt. A huge percentage of the Filipino population is still living in poverty. Income inequality and general class disparity in the country remain to be one of the worst in the world.

Guided by the Sustainable Development Goals for 2016 – 2030 adopted by the United Nations in 2015, a review of the status of actions on the previous DRA and nationwide consultations, this 2016 – 2019 Agenda is still grounded on the four pillars above. It is hinged primarily, however, on the very urgent need to empower ordinary citizens – from small farmers and fisherfolk to indigenous groups and others – and to decisively reduce poverty and inequality in all its forms

GOAL 1

ENSURING EMPOWERMENT, DEMOCRATIZATION, AND GOOD GOVERNANCE



Push for people empowerment and responsive, transparent and accountable governance

1 Merit-based Appointment and Civil Service Reform

Combat political dynasties and patronage-based appointments by pushing for the passage of the Anti-Political Dynasty Law and other measures

2 Transparency, Anti-Corruption and Government Accountability

Support full public disclosure and citizens' access to public information through the passage of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Bill and the institutionalization of the Full Disclosure Policy and Open Data Policy as well as regular semi-annual public reporting and consultations of government agencies and LGUs

3 People's Participation

Ensure opportunities for people empowerment and representation in processes such as government planning, budgeting and auditing, replicate the Naga City People's Council in all LGUs, and improve and institutionalize Bottom-Up Budgeting and Budget Partnership Agreements

4 Constitutional Reform and Federalism

Initiate the study of modes of regional autonomy and federalism through an executive order

GOAL 2 REDUCING POVERTY AND INEQUALITY



Directly reform the system that perpetuates inequalities and widespread poverty

Asset Reform



Fast-track the distribution of lands covered by the agrarian reform program and support the approval of the proposed law extending the period for the issuance of the Notices of Coverage of lands



Review and improve urban and rural development housing policies and steer these towards inclusive, transformative and sustainable communities, create and decisively implement a comprehensive shelter plan, with emphasis on on-site development and in-city relocation for the urban poor, and increase the budget for housing from 0.5% to 2% of the total budget



Push for the speedy delineation of municipal waters and their exclusive use by local/small fishers through stricter commercial fishing penalties, and promote community-based coastal resource management



Prioritize protection of indigenous people's rights by fast-tracking the titling of ancestral lands, and by providing capacity-building assistance for IP communities, including the documentation of IP systems and practices

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2

Social Services



Ensure the full implementation of the Universal Health Care System to uphold the right of all to quality health care, promote rational health care personnel distribution across regions and community-driven health care programs, and increase access of marginalized communities to health information, safe water supply and sanitary toilets



Increase government spending on education, the capacity building training of teachers for K to 12 and building disaster-resilient schools, integrate rights-based approach, peace and Mindanao history, human rights and Martial Law issues education into the primary curriculum

Social Safety Nets for the poorest of the poor

Ensure the proper implementation, strong link to asset reforms and the sustainability of the Pantawid Familyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) through the passage of the Pantawid Pamilya law

3

Effective coordination of anti-poverty programs

Ensure the President's active participation in the National Anti-Poverty Commission, the coordination and oversight of anti-poverty programs and genuine partnerships with civil society organizations and businesses, and promote the equitable distribution of the benefits of economic growth.

4

GOAL 3 BUILDING PEACE



Defend the human rights of all Filipinos and safeguard advancements in the road to peace, particularly the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro

Peace Processes

Strengthen local governance in upland and countryside communities, sustain the peace process with various armed groups, and ensure the passage and full implementation of the National Action Plan of Women, Peace and Security as well as the Bangsamoro Basic Law

1



Public Order and Safety

Strengthen local governance in upland and countryside communities, sustain the peace process with various armed groups, and ensure the passage and full implementation of the National Action Plan of Women, Peace and Security as well as the Bangsamoro Basic Law

2



Human Rights

Adopt the National Human Rights Action Plan and implement the Human Rights Victims Reparation and Recognition Act for all Martial Law victims

3

GOAL 4

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Pursue inclusive sustainable economic development while ensuring environmental protection

Environment

Ensure the implementation of all critical national environmental laws especially the Climate Change Act, Clean Air Act, Solid Waste Management Act, the Forestry Law, the People's Survival Fund Law and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Act and the honoring of all international commitments to the United Nations to combat climate change, support the speedy enactment of the proposed amendments to the DRRM Act, including strengthening the role and participation of people's organizations and other civil society organizations in the national and local DRRM Councils, and support the passage of the Alternative Minerals Management Bill

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Strengthen Local Economy

Improve the competitiveness of domestic firms, spur job generation and promote social enterprises.

2

3

Sustainable Agriculture and Fishery and Agri-Processing

Mainstream sustainable and organic agriculture, support small-scale farmers and fisherfolk, enhance coastal forest rehabilitation, support the institutionalization of the Partnership Against Hunger Poverty (PAHP) or the institutional food purchase scheme to promote national food security and the development of more farmers' markets, and support the enactment and passage of the Coconut Levy Trust Fund Law and a National Land Use Act.

4

Employment

Decisively act against labor contractual practices, support the enactment of the Security of Tenure Bill, and promote full employment through a national employment program and a rural employment guarantee program

5

Regulation of Public Utilities

Ensure effective and appropriate regulation (with multi-sectoral representation) of public utilities including power and water, support the creation of a transition plan to renewables and prioritize investments in alternative energy resources, and develop a sustainable mass transport system for the country

6

Fiscal and Tax Reform

Support the amendment of the tax code, reduce taxes on middle income and minimum wage earners through updated brackets, simplify income tax system to increase government revenues and minimize loopholes in tax collection, and ensure that company payments of business transaction and other taxes are made to the LGU where they operate and not to the LGU where they are headquartered.