

1 **Highlights of the 8th Philippine Development Forum**

2 **Manila Pavillon**

3 **19 April 2013; 2:00 p.m.**

4
5 **1.0 Call to Order**

6
7 The meeting was called to order by Director Monica P. Pagunsan, in
8 behalf of Assistant Secretary Geronimo Sy, at 2:00 p.m.

9
10 **2.0 Reading/Approval of the Highlights of the 11 January 2013**
11 **PDForum**

12
13 The Minutes of the 11 January 2013 Philippines Development Forum was
14 reviewed page by page by the panel. There being no
15 corrections/amendments raised, it was moved and seconded for approval
16 by Parole and Probation Administration (PPA) Deputy Administrator
17 Arturo Gabrieles and Land Registration Authority (LRA) Deputy Register
18 of Deeds, Atty. Ethel B. Regadio, respectively. Dir. Pagunsan declared the
19 approval.

20
21 Before going through the Action Items, the attendees were requested by
22 Dir. Pagunsan to make a brief introduction of themselves and their
23 institution (copy of attendance is hereto enclosed).

24
25 **3.0 Action Items** (from the 11 January 2013 PDF Meeting)

26
27 **3.1 Populate the PDF Coordination Matrix with relevant**
28 **information (arising from 5th meeting)**

29
30 Dir. Pagunsan informed the body that the DOJ Donor-Assisted Project
31 Monitoring Matrix has already been completed detailing the assistance
32 from all the development partners including the status of the projects, the
33 partnership involved and the implementation of the project. For updates,
34 Dir. Pagunsan said the same may be sent thru e-mail. She also said that
35 member agencies may share information on this and the secretariat will
36 consolidate them for the working group.

37

1 Atty. Maribeth Padios, Office of the Ombudsman, suggested to include as
2 part of the action plan the legislative advocacy on the Whistle Blowers
3 Act of 2008 which has been in Congress for quite a while. Director
4 Pagunsan informed the body that the Whistle Blowers Act is among the
5 action plans of Good Governance and Anti-Corruption Cluster.
6

7 ADB Justice Sector counterpart Ms. Evelyn Toledo Dumdum further
8 explained that there might be a need to revisit the work program of the
9 working group on Good Governance and Anti-Corruption Clusters that
10 emanated from the Philippine Development Forum held in February 2013
11 in Davao City as there might be some overlaps with the other working
12 groups or gaps that need to be particularly addressed. Director Pagunsan
13 agreed to this in order to tighten the action plans of the Rule of Law
14 working group.
15

16 **3.2 Presentation on the monitoring and evaluation of justice sector**
17 **programs (request of Asec Sy to USAID during the 5th**
18 **meeting)(Copy of the presentation attached)**
19

20 Ms. Cathy Hamlin of the USAID presented the general rules and
21 processes in monitoring and evaluating justice sector programs. The
22 M&E planning should follow the development objectives that fit within
23 the country's strategy. For the Philippines, the first development objective
24 is to promote inclusive growth. Among the binding constraints to growth
25 are related to weak governance and fiscal space. Within the governance
26 constraints is judicial inefficiency, which the USAID's JUSTICE project
27 is expected to address. Select indicators are available to monitor and
28 evaluate how the project is responding to the development objective.
29

30 **3.3 Update on the approval of the draft strategic plan of the JSCC**
31 **by High Level Executive Committee**
32

33 Asec Sy reported that to date, both Chief Justice Lourdes Sereno and
34 Secretary Mar Roxas have visibility of the justice system which will
35 address crosscutting issues and the technical working group has been
36 meeting regularly. A high level meeting of the JSCC is expected within
37 April. In principle, there is no major concern on the JSCC Strategic Plan,

1 the question now is the scheduling of the principals to formally approve
2 the plan. Asec Sy reminded everyone that CJ Corona and Secretary
3 Robredo were initially official convenors under the Aquino
4 Administration, but with changes in the leadership, there is a need to
5 convene the new members. With or without the principals' meeting, the
6 technical working group will continue with its regular meeting.

7 8 **3.4 Report on Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)**

9
10 To date, the following reports have been submitted:

- 11 1. Bureau of Corrections (BuCor)
- 12 2. Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC)
- 13 3. Bureau of Immigration (BI)

14
15 Asec Sy said that the report on PWDs should be submitted by 30 April
16 2013. Everyone is encouraged not to go beyond this timeline.

17
18 Feedback from stakeholders who have partners with PWD-oriented
19 institutions to determine whether DOJ is compliant with the
20 implementation of a special procedure for PWD will be conducted
21 on or before 12 September 2013.

22 23 **4.0 New Business**

24 25 **4.1 Working Group Output-PDF session, 4-5 Feb 2013, Davao City**

26
27 Asec Sy reported progress in the PDF in Davao in February 2013. He said
28 that it was an interesting session because some observers from certain
29 sectors gave strong opinions on some matters taken up while others saw it
30 for the first time. The ROL working group was forced to reduce the
31 output into three major constraints which is very difficult for the justice
32 system. The group just rearranged the programs because everything
33 cannot be changed in just one session. Asec Sy confirmed that the output
34 in Davao is not different from what was discussed in the ROL Working
35 Group for the past two years.

1 **4.2 Follow-up steps for the ROL-WG after the Davao PDF**
2 **meeting**

3
4 For the next steps, programs, activities and projects (PAPs) that will
5 address each challenge identified in the PDF Davao will be developed.
6 The development partners may decide thereafter in which areasthey can
7 help and provide expertise and resources.

8
9 Ms. Evelyn Dumdum of ADB made a qualifier on the recommendation,
10 that it should be responsive to the request of the executives and the
11 actionable items of the Administration for the next three years.

12
13 Ms. Sherisa Nuesa of Judicial Reform Initiative (JRI) raised that
14 economic justice was no longer included in the categories of issues
15 despite the fact that Philippines is ranked as one of the lowest in judicial
16 independence and judicial effectiveness. Asec Sy assured that even if it is
17 not listed, it is a priority.

18
19 **4.3 Agency Presentation of major/priority projects proposed for**
20 **support from development partners**

21
22 Mr. Thomas presented for the Department of Justice. *(Copy of slides*
23 *attached)*

24
25 Asec Sy added the following information in relation to the DOJ programs
26 reported:

27
28 1. DOJ connectivity has been successfully switched on for NCR
29 offices on April 30, 2013 and the remaining 200 offices nationwide
30 will be switched on before the end of 2013. Initial discussion with
31 PNP is ongoing on how to extend the DOJ connectivity to all
32 precincts.

33
34 2. Biometric solution for BuCor has been bidded and will be switched
35 on this coming December. BuCoR connectivity for the seven (7)
36 offices is also being built and the same database will be extended to
37 PPA and Board of Pardons and Parole.

1
2 3. An end-to-end biometric solution for the BI that focuses in NAIA
3 1, 2 and 3 will be installed.

4
5 4. The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) clearance system is
6 moving forward. He said that a study in the use of industrial grade
7 wireless internet instead of the local area network to connect NBI
8 offices will be done.

9
10 5. The e-titling of LRA is about 90% completed.

11
12 6. Bail reform is on going.

13
14 The following projects need support:

15
16 7. For Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) and OGCC, there are
17 two things that need support: i) integrated case management system;
18 and ii) the digitization of records.

19
20 8. The DOJ needs an expert on time and motion studies and ISO
21 certification.

22
23 In response to Asec Sy's query, Judge Geraldine Econg clarified that there
24 are completed prototype Halls of Justice in Angeles and Lapu-Lapu City.

25
26 Atty. Patricia Zuniga, in behalf of all law enforcement agencies involved
27 in border crossing control, said the Bureau seeks technical and financial
28 support on capacity building on the border control system.

29
30 For the Judiciary, Judge Econg proposed for an internal affairs office in
31 the Supreme Court to strengthen integrity and hopes that this will be
32 addressed although it is not part of the plan. The rest of proposals in the
33 program will just be emailed to Asec. Sy to be integrated in the next
34 report.

1 Asec Sy encouraged everyone to propose only those projects that require
2 science and technology, scaling up or replication of best practices,
3 benchmarking, promoting integrity issues and international networks.
4

5 The last two (2) presentations came from the Department of Interior and
6 Local Government (DILG). PSSupt Adelio Benjamine Castillo reported
7 for PNP and Mr. Roy Valenzuela for BJMP. *(Copy of slides attached)*
8

9 **4.4 Response from development partners**

10
11 Pamela Fahey of the European Union-Philippine Justice Support
12 Programme (EPJUST-II) shared to the body ongoing projects of the EU
13 with the different agencies.
14

15 Mr. Hans Farnhammer of the EU also expressed his appreciation of the
16 plan. He suggested to merge all the plans and indicate the priorities.
17 Asec Sy explained that the Philippines is already doing the same.
18

19 All member agencies who have not yet submitted their programs and
20 projects are encouraged to submit on or before May 15, 2013 for
21 inclusion in the PDF Work Plan. The secretariat will consolidate all
22 submissions from the member agencies and will forward to the
23 development partners.
24

25 **5.0 Other Matters**

26
27 The new Acting Director of the BuCor, Director Franklin Jesus Bucayo,
28 was introduced and he relayed the challenges and reforms being
29 undertaken in the BuCor.
30

31 **6.0 Adjournment**

32
33 The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.
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