

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM
OFFICE: DOT MIMAROPA REGION



Meeting Report					
Subject/Title: MIMAROPA Regional Tourism Committee (MRTC) and Regional Ecotourism Committee 3rd Qtr. Meeting					
Date	September 28, 2021	Time Started	1:00 pm	Time Finished	4:30 pm
Location/ Venue	Virtual Meeting via the Zoom Application				
Attendees:					
Members:					
1. RD Christopher V. Morales – DOT / MRTC Chairperson					
2. RED Maria Lourdes Ferrer– DENR / REC Chairperson					
3. ARD Bernardino Atienza Jr. – NEDA					
4. Ms. Monica Gibe – DA					
5. Ms. Gemma Rivera – DBM					
6. Mr. Michael Ras II – DILG					
7. Dr. Roberto Mercene – DOH					
8. Ms. Sonia De Leon – DSWD					
9. PLTCOL Romero L. Plaida Jr. PNP					
10. Ms. Karen Leander - DTI					
11. Engr. Olive Garcia - DPWH					
12. Mr. Reynaldo F. Tupas – NCIP					
13. Mr. Rodne Galicha – Private Sector Representative					
14. Ms. Ma. Isabel J. Castillo – Occidental Mindoro Province					
15. Ms. Kim Velasquez - Oriental Mindoro Province					
16. Mr. Gerardo M. Jamilla – Marinduque Province					
17. Ms. Rosalyn Velasco – Palawan Province					
18. Ms. Sandi G. Rodenas – Romblon					
19. Mr. Christian E. Gaud – Calapan City					
20. Mr. Demetrio Alvior – Puerto Princesa City					
Secretariat					
1. Ms. Gladys Quesea					
2. Ms. Faye Angeli Reyes					
3. Ms. Abigail Cruz					
4. Ms. Danica Nepomuceno					
70% of MRTC member agencies were present during the meeting. (20 out of 25)					
Summary of Points Discussed					
Opening Statement	Asec. Christopher Morales acknowledged the partners for the joint meeting with the Regional Ecotourism Committee headed by DENR Regional Director Ma. Lourdes Ferrer. He mentioned that there has been an open-close-open cycle for the past 18 months in reopening the tourism industry due to the challenges faced by the pandemic. Nevertheless, everyone must still need to keep in mind that the developments and innovative efforts made by the region must provide sustainable results.				

	<p>He also discussed about the topics tackled from the previous MIMAROPA Regional Tourism Committee (MRTC) and Regional Ecotourism Committee 2nd Qtr. Meeting, wherein he highlighted about the updates on the status of Covid-19 in the region which is alarming because of its surge, specially in Occidental Mindoro, Romblon, Marinduque and parts of Oriental Mindoro.</p> <p>And he informed the group of the meeting's agenda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Repurposing of Accommodation Establishments as TTMFs Sustainable Tourism Development Project (STDP) MIMAROPA Inter-island Connectivity in the New Normal Demographics of MIMAROPA Indigenous Peoples
Repurposing of Accommodation Establishments as TTMFs	<p>Ms. Faye Angeli Reyes, from DOT MIMAROPA discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Brief information about the past meetings with Accommodation Establishments and other concerned agencies last April 2021 for the orientation on how they can apply as TTMFs. More than 50 participants attended and 25 of them from AEs answered yes about the survey that signifies that they are interested in applying. However, as per DOH, there are still no record of those AEs who wants to apply. In that matter, coordination meetings with OCD, DOH, Philhealth, and DILG to iron out the issues in the policies and guidelines existing. ➤ As of September 26, 2021, a total of 23, 865 Covid-19 cases in MIMAROPA are active. The cases are relatively increasing except for the provinces of Romblon and Marinduque. And based on the breakdown of active cases per provinces, Islands of Mindoro and Palawan have the highest cases. And the provinces of Marinduque and Mindoro Islands are on the Alert Level 4 for the moderate to critical risk classification and their healthcare utility rate is above 70%. ➤ MIMAROPA have 2,542 TTMFs beds available and 31% is its utilization rate. As per DOH, once 70% is surpassed, it will be declared as critical level. ➤ In conclusion, each province must have their own TTMFs , at least 3,000 beds must be available, isolation and quarantine facilities must be prepared to prevent from reaching the 70% critical level, and DOH 4B ARD Vilma Diez suggested for OCD that there should be a respective isolation / quarantine facilities for the medical frontliners.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In relation, there are three options of managing expenses of AEs as TTMFs were identified to help for their operational costs: through LGU partnerships, DOT, DOH and Philhealth accreditation and certification, and Oplan Kalinga / OCD. ➤ Requirements for the accreditation were presented. And she emphasized that the Philhealth accreditation is for the reimbursement of the AEs. ➤ As of September 14, 2021, majority are from Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. For the isolation facilities, only Skylight Hotel Group Inc. and Marianne Hotel, both in PPC, are listed. And only one multiple-use is listed which is also from PPC, Hue Hotels and Resorts. ➤ Moving forward, encouragement of AEs to apply as isolation / quarantine facility and coordination with PTOs on the identification of AEs as isolation / quarantine facilities in needed to provide assistance with the increasing active cases in the region. <p>Dr. Roberto Mercene, from DOH MIMAROPA also stated for those interested accommodation establishments to be certified by DOH and accredited by Philhealth, they can contact the TTMF coordinators in the Provincial DOH Offices.</p>
Sustainable Tourism Development Project (STDP)	<p>Dir. Carlos Magnaye from DOT Central Office presented the Sustainable Tourism Development Project (STDP). The following were mentioned on his presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Brief background about on how the project came about was because of the closure of our most famous tourist destination in the Philippines last 2018, Boracay Island. Immediately, Sec. Bernadette Romulo-Puyat formulated the TouRIST Program to develop resilient, inclusive and sustainable tourism destinations. ➤ There are three components for the STDP of Coron and EL Nido: Urban Services Infrastructure, Ecosystem-Based Tourism Site Management, and Enterprise and Skills Development. ➤ The total cost of the project is \$102,600,000 including the contingencies and financial charges during the implementation. And for the base cost is only \$82,700,000. ➤ The STDP Implementation Arrangement features the National Project Management Unit which is the joint unit of TIEZA-DOT organization. It is established by through a special order issued by the Chief Operating Officer of TIEZA. And what remains to establish at this

	<p>point is the Regional Advisory Committee.</p> <p>➤ In the STDP Timelines, the full approval by ICC-CabCom is dated on October 8, 2021. Early August, only conditional approval that subjects sub-conditions was given. And by December 17, 2021, they are aiming to have the Loan Signing so that by next year, the loan becomes effective and implementation will commence on the first quarter of 2022.</p> <p>Asec. Morales, requested the approval of the members of MRTC for the creation of STDP Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) as a subcommittee of the MRTC. ARD Bernardino Atienza Jr., from NEDA, asked if the LGUs are required to join the committee. Asec. Morales clarified that LGUs are part of the implementation of the project itself.</p> <p>Dir. Magnaye, presented the functions of the Regional Advisory Committee. Asec. Morales asked about the role of the province. He suggested that the Local Chief Executives (LCE) can oversee the implementation of the project. Dr. Ms. Maria Cherry Lyn Rodolfo, from Central Office stated that the Provincial Engineering Office, Palawan Tourism Office and PDO will support the implementation but the LCEs may be invited when crucial issues arises during the implementation.</p> <p>Mr. Michael Ras II, from DILG also asked if DILG can be included for the project since the LGUs are also involved. And Dr. Rodolfo answered that they are needed.</p> <p>RED Maria Lourdes Ferrer, from DENR asked if the Provincial Government is included written in. Asec. Morales stated that PG is also part of the infrastructure and enterprise development. And RED Ferrer is in favor to make RAC as a subcommittee of the MRTC.</p> <p>Asec. Morales suggested that the MRTC Resolution 2021-01-OSC to be distributed for comments and approval. He also stated that the members should inform the EDC and RDC for the information of developments during the project implementation.</p> <p>Ms. Gladys Quesea, from DOT MIMAROPA explained the reporting sequence of the project since it is already included in the regional project monitoring of NEDA. It will go through RAC will report to MRTC, then to EDC and lastly to RDC.</p> <p>Asec. Morales requested the motion for the request of creating the RAC for the STDP project under the MRTC committee with inclusion of DILG and edits on the progress reporting. RED Ferrer moved the approval and ARD Atienza Jr. second the motion.</p>
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<p>MIMAROPA Inter-island Connectivity in the New Normal</p>	<p>After the presentation of Dir. Magnaye, Chief Enrico Ferre, from DOTr reported the MIMAROPA Inter-island Connectivity in the New Normal to guide the DOT 4B in promoting the circuits available in the region. The following were mentioned on his presentation about Aviation and Airport Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Busuanga Airport Development Project, San Jose (Mindoro) Airport Development Project aim and Taytay Airport Development Project aim to continue the improvement / expansion of capacity of the existing airport facilities and to enhance the safety & efficiency of operations. ➤ In Cuyo Airport Development Project, Marinduque Airport Development Project, and Romblon Airport Development Project, DOTr continues improvement of the existing airside facilities of the airport to comply with CAAP MOSA. And also to enhance safe and efficient operations to support the growth of the provinces. ➤ In San Vicente Airport Development Project, improvement of existing airport facilities are ongoing to allow easy access to the country's Flagship Tourism Enterprise Zone and the Long Beach. <p>Dir. Ferre clarified that DOTr does not have infrastructure components for the transport tourist services since it is lodged with DPWH. However, he provided the number of tourist transport services franchise applications that DOTr have evaluated and endorsed to LTFRB. For the year of 2019, 10 applications were received; 4 applications on 2021 and none in 2021.</p> <p>Ms. Quesea also asked if there is a quota on the number of franchise for MIMAROPA. Mr. Reynaldo Gatchalian, from DOTr answered, that the agency does not have quota on the number of franchise for MIMAROPA. As long as DOTr received DOT endorsements, the will agency evaluates and endorse to LTFRB for franchise applications.</p> <p>The following were mentioned on his presentation about Marine Transport Infrastructure Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Polo Port Development Project in Sta. Cruz, Marinduque aims for the improvement of the existing port that will cater to the increased in sea traffic to the island. ➤ Busuanga Port Development Project scopes the construction and the existing widening of causeway. ➤ The Sta. Teresa Port Development Project in Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro have 15M budget allocation to improve the existing port, implemented through MOA with PPA.
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	<p>Ms. Quesea asked if how would domestic tourism be encourage from NCR even if community quarantine restrictions are continuously changing since MIMAROPA islands have been in MGCQ already. Dir. Ferre answered that it will still depend on the policies of travel restrictions given by the IATF. Ms. Quesea mentioned that Coron is now open and she remembered that from Occidental Mindoro there was a fast craft going to Coron. She asked if when the service will be available again to encourage domestic travel. Dir. Ferre suggested to get clarification from MARINA as to when the operation will start again.</p> <p>Ms. Gerry Jamilla, Provincial Tourism Officer of Marinduque, asked on the chat box about the vans travelling from Manila to Marinduque if they can't be given a franchise. Mr. Gatchalian and answered that the DOTr with LTFRB is currently conducting a Route Rationalization Program for all routes in NCR, including inter-regional routes in the country. The output of the program will serve as a reference/basis in the issuance of franchise from LTFRB. And he clarified that for Tourist Transport services, DOTr are continuously accepting franchise applications as long as it has DOT endorsements.</p>
<p>Demographics of MIMAROPA Indigenous Peoples</p>	<p>Mr. Reynaldo Tupas, from NCIP presented the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The nine (9) ICCs / IPs in the province of Palawan: Agutaynen, Batak, Cagayanen, Cuyonen, Molbog, Pala'wan, Tagbanua, Tagbanua Tandulanen and Tagbanua Calamianen. ➤ For the Mindoro Islands, the IP groups are overlapping that is why they are combined. These are the Alangan, Bangon, Buhid, Gubatnon, Hanuno, Iraya, Ratagnon, Tadyawan and Taobuid. ➤ In the province of Romblon, there are only three IP groups. These are the Ati, Bantoanon and Sibuyan Mangyan Tagabukid. <p>Ms. Quesea asked about the physical mapping of CADC/CALT from NCIP because some establishments are having issues before building their businesses even if there already investments provided. Mr. Tupas stated that NCIP have policies and guidelines and also requested help form partner agencies to coordinate with their programs for assistance for issuing appropriate validation orders to determine whether the area is outside or within the ancestral domain. And in resolution NCIP will issue a Certificate of Non-Overlap (CNO). Ms. Quesea asked if the LGUs are informed about where are the areas of the ancestral domains. Mr. Tupas answered that LGUs must know and NCIP have Field Offices in the provinces but not all have stratification wherein the offices are created to seek clarification whether that particular LGU is a part of ancestral domain.</p>

	<p>Mr. Demetrio Alvior, City Tourism Officer of Puerto Princesa City, asked if NCIP is about the status of CADC in the barangays of Simpocan, Bagong Bayan and Napsan. Mr. Tupas answered that it is still for submission to the Central Office. In addition, he will seek clarification first from the NCIP Provincial Office and refer Mr. Alvior about his concerns.</p> <p>Due to poor connection and unstable signal, Ms. Quesea requested if Mr. Tupas may record the report to be presented in the 4th quarter MRTC meeting. Mr. Tupas also provided the contact information on the chat box for further questions and clarifications of the participants.</p> <p>RED Ferrer suggested to invite NCIP again for the 4th qtr. MRTC and REC Meeting. The agency need to clarify the issues about the big establishments in El Nido wherein they have been issued with tenurial instruments but doesn't have FPIC. And also to further discuss which areas are CADC/CALT.</p> <p>Asec. Morales asked if there was no joint clearing house for DENR, DAR and NCIP. RED Ferrer answered that supposedly there was a joint memorandum circular for it however, NCIP pulled out for a while. And now with RD Pascua is present, NCIP will join for coordination with the partner agencies. ARD Atienza Jr. suggested that Regional Land Use Committee of NEDA can provide holistic approach since there are investments in CADC areas involved. Asec. Morales stated that it is right that we are protecting our IPs however, continuous and regular dialogues must happen to provide balance and create mechanism to harmonize the policies and guidelines.</p>
Next Steps/Remarks	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MRTC Resolution 2021-01-OSC to be distributed for comments and approval 2. Invitation for Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to attend on the 4th qtr. MRTC Meeting in order to clarify some questions about the franchising of tourist services infrastructures. 3. Invitation for National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to attend on the 4th qtr. MRTC Meeting in order to continue their presentation about the building blocks and clarify some questions about CADC status in the barangays of Puerto Princesa City. 	

Prepared by: MRTC Secretariat