

The Official Newsletter of the MIMAROPA Regional Development Council

# MIMAROPA LINKS

VOL. 5 NO. 3 DECEMBER 2022

A photograph of two men standing at a podium during a ceremony. The man on the left, wearing a dark blue suit and glasses, is raising his right hand while holding a microphone and a pink document. The man on the right, wearing a dark blue button-down shirt and glasses, is also raising his right hand and holding a microphone and a white document. In the background, other people are visible, some with their hands raised.

RDC MIMAROPA  
celebrates  
20th anniversary,  
administers oath of  
chair, co-chair, and SNVMs

STORY ON PAGE 9

## MIMAROPA RRDIC holds in-person meeting since start of pandemic



*NEDA MIMAROPA Regional Director Agustin C. Mendoza (seated, center) with members and representatives of the RRDIC member agencies*

**T** rue to its commitment as a special committee under the Regional Development Council (RDC), the MIMAROPA Regional Research, Development, and Innovation Committee (RRDIC) has been constantly on its feet in giving direction and in planning, integrating, promoting, and creating synergy in research, development, and innovation (RDI) efforts that respond to regional needs.

Thus, after two years of virtual meetings due to the pandemic, MIMAROPA RRDIC finally conducted a face-to-face gathering during its Fourth Quarter Regular Meeting at the City Garden Suites, Malate, Manila, last November 2, 2022.

On behalf of the RRDIC Chairperson, Dr. Ma. Josefina P. Abilay, Regional Director of DOST-MIMAROPA, who was on official business outside the country, Dir. Agustin C. Mendoza, RRDIC Vice Chairperson and Regional Director of NEDA, presided over the meeting.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the presentation of PAGTANAW 2050 by Academician Rhodora V. Azanza of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), which is the first inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary project on Philippine-focused Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Foresight with the main goal to chart a strategic plan by anticipating the factors that will influence the development of the Philippines'

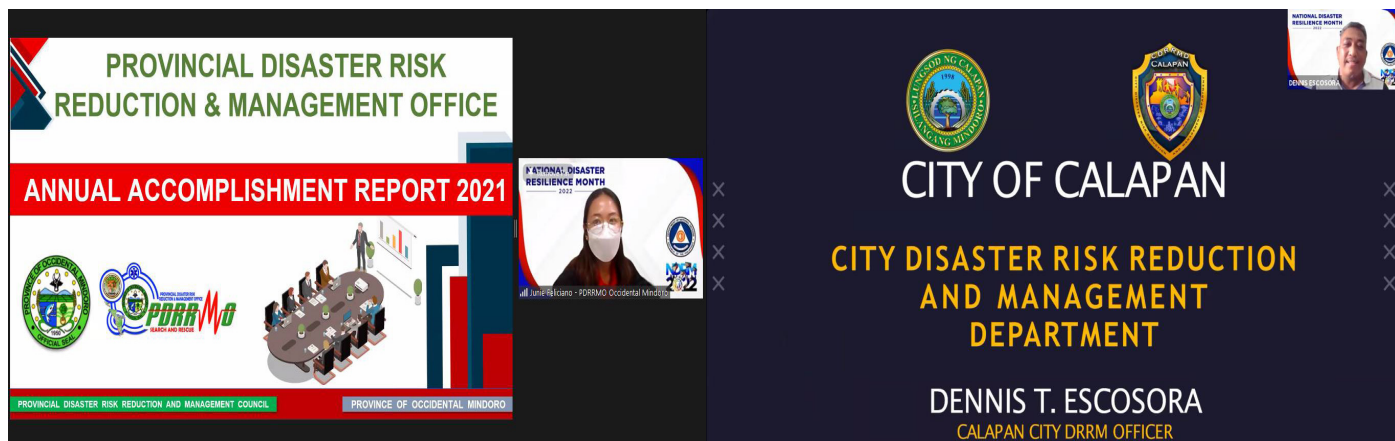
scientific capital in the years leading up to 2050. This will be a vital tool in crafting various strategic plans in the MIMAROPA Region.

Another agenda item was the presentation of the newly crafted MIMAROPA Research and Development Agenda (MRDA) 2023-2025, which was presented by the Research Division Chief of DA-MIMAROPA and Head of the RRDIC-Technical Working Group (TWG), Mr. Romnel Salazar. In coordination with the RRDIC member agencies and various agencies in the region, the MRDA was crafted in alignment with the Harmonized National R&D Agenda 2022-2028, which will serve as a guide for the prioritization of research programs and projects in the MIMAROPA Region.

Palawan International Business Incubator (PITBI) StartUps were also featured during the meeting. The first one was Nanny Care, an online application developed to help parents connect to reliable, trustworthy, and well-equipped nannies that are budget-friendly and can be accessed easily, and Gora Booking Services, a ride-sharing mobile application and website platform that allows commuters in Palawan to book, reserve, and rent shuttle vans in their immediate vicinity. This is a third-party platform that connects van operators and van commuters to provide cost-saving, time saving, and convenience for both parties. (*DOST MIMAROPA*)



## OCD MIMAROPA conducts LDRRMO virtual forum



*OCS staff reporting their respective topics*

The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) MIMAROPA, led by its regional director and RDRRMC MIMAROPA Chairperson MGen Ruben L. Carandang, PAF (Ret), conducted the MIMAROPA Local DRRM Officers' Virtual Forum via video teleconference using Zoom Application on July 26, 2022.

This online forum was the region's culminating activity as part of the celebration of the National Disaster Resilience Month (NDRM) 2022, with the theme "Sambayanang Pilipino, Nagkakaisa tungo sa Katatagan at Maunlad na Kinabukasan." This year's

theme emphasizes the importance of collaboration of all Filipinos to overcome the challenges of the pandemic and prepare for new emerging disasters towards building a safer, adaptive, and resilient future.

The said forum was participated in by the LDRRMOs from the five provinces of MIMAROPA. The activity focused on the sharing of accomplishments and best practices of the provincial and city DRRM offices/councils and other DRRM updates, announcements, and recognitions from OCD MIMAROPA. (OCD MIMAROPA)

## Addressing Mangyan Pregnant Woman's Need in Crisis Situations

For too long, childbirth was a lottery of life and death for many indigenous women in Occidental Mindoro. For Mangyans living in remote, mountainous and coastal areas in Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro, child delivery in a health care facility is a big challenge. Majority of pregnant women delivered their babies at home attended by their husbands and untrained birth attendants. This practice usually leads to pregnancy-related problems and complications.

of sick patients coming from their respective Mangyan communities. These volunteer health workers served as escorts of pregnant women in going to the provincial hospital for the necessary laboratory examinations such as ultrasound, urinalysis, and other necessary tests to ensure that they and the babies are well. Moreover, they help the midwives identify patients needing further medical attention such as babies who need nutritional rehabilitation and custodial care.



*Members of IP communities receive medical kits.*

Ministries Without Borders has created an innovative approach to address the vicious cycle of home deliveries by training 16 Mangyan volunteer health workers on first aid, simple knowledge about child birth, and provision of medical kits. Likewise, they were trained to coordinate with other medical professionals in the referral

In addition to the above, the volunteer health worker's major role is to monitor the pregnant women and convince them to deliver their babies in the maternity clinic. The immediate family members, especially the husband and small children, are allowed to stay in a room where they can stay overnight while the baby and the mother stay in the recovery area. Food is provided to immediate relatives of the patients who also serve as caretakers.

This setup is available for patients from the mountainous and coastal areas. Because of good accommodation and respect for their culture and tradition, they share their experiences to the pregnant ladies in their communities, which, in turn, encourages others to avail themselves of maternal and child care services. Further, midwives go door to door to teach them about healthy practices related to family planning, pregnancy, and childbirth. (Ministries Without Borders, Inc.)

# USAPANG PALAWAN SUMMIT CY 2022

The new administration of the Provincial Government of Palawan, under the leadership of Gov. Victorino Dennis M. Socrates, held its highly anticipated Usapang Palawan Summit CY 2022 last August 17–19 at the Citystate Asturias Hotel Convention Hall in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

With the theme “Pagsusuri ng mga Isyu at Hamon sa Patuloy na Pag-unlad sa lalawigan ng Palawan,” the forum aims to bring all elected and appointed officials of the provincial government together with the provincial board, local government units, and different sectors to discuss the current situation of the whole province. During his speech, Gov. Socrates said that keeping the provincial government’s transactions, projects, and programs going is one of the most important parts of his good governance plan.



“Kung may masasabi akong personal na agenda sa pagtupad ng aking kasalukuyang katungkulan, ito ay ‘good government’ at ang ibig sabihin nito ay we want to make the system work. Dagdagan na lang natin at sabihing ang pinakamahalagang sangkap nito ay Transparency, Accountability, Rule of Law and Participation. Alam ko rin na ang paglikingkod sa pamahalaan ay tunay na serbisyo, ibig sabihin, kailangan ito ng sambayanan,” said the governor.

During the campaign, Gov. Socrates, the vice governor then, promised to hold the Usapang Palawan Summit as a platform for the people’s thoughts and voices to be heard if given a chance to lead the province. He thinks that the people of Palawan need to agree on his three-year plan for it to work.

According to the governor, he wanted to have a strong partnership with Palawenos in identifying issues and problems affecting each sector so that the provincial government could lay out plans, programs, and the best possible solutions that would fix and bring development to the province.

He also said that he is grateful to everyone who came



and showed their support, as well as to the hardworking team from the Provincial Planning and Development Office who put together the three-day conference with its demands to meet the Provincial Government of Palawan’s goal in making the book of knowledge and consensus.

“Umaasa tayo na ang prosesong dinisenyo ng PPDO ay magbibigay daan upang maging mabunga ang ating Usapang Palawan Summit, ang baragatan ng diwa nating lahat at makapagbuo tayo ng isang aklat na kapupulutan ng kaalaman at naglalaman ng ating consensus bilang sambayanan sa puntong ito ng kasaysayan,” the governor added.

More than 300 participants from across the province attended the summit. Most of the attendees were municipal government officials and department heads, representatives and stakeholders from different sectors, such as the academe, environment, health, business, armed forces, and religious sectors. Invited employees and constituents from each local government unit were also present. All participants were assigned to their respective sectors during the breakout session, where they discussed the issues, recommendations, solutions, and implementing agencies identified. Each sector laid out its framework along with the priority programs and projects recommended during plenary. Afterward, the government officials and representatives of each sector signed the sworn Pledge of Support and Commitment.

Meanwhile, on the last day of the summit, the Organizational Meeting and Annual Planning Conference of Provincial Development Council (PDC) was spearheaded by Gov. Socrates together with 3rd District Congressman Edward S. Hagedorn, Board Member Juan Antonio Alvarez, Liga ng mga Barangay-Palawan Chapter President and Ex-Officio Member Ferdinand Zaballa, Provincial Planning and Development Office Officer-in-Charge Sharlene D. Vilches, Mr. James Inawasan and Atty. Joshua Bolusa as representatives of the 1st and 2nd District Congressmen.

There were 40 members of the council, which was made up of mayors and representatives from different fields. A quorum was reached, and the proposed agenda was approved. (CPDO - PUERTO PRINCESA CITY)



## 170 IP leaders in southern Mindoro pledge support to the government's peace framework

With the ultimate goal of promoting the government's peace and development efforts towards progressive and peaceful IP communities, 170 leaders of the five Mangyan tribes in Mindoro island have pledged to support the government programs under the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) during the Southern Mindoro IP Leaders Peace Summit held in Sitio Banaba, Barangay Benli, Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro, on September 1-3, 2022.

Leaders from Bangon, Buhid, Gubatnon, Hanunuo, and Ratagnon Mangyan Tribes, together with the 2nd Provincial Mobile Force Company under Oriental Mindoro Police Provincial Office and other government agencies from the Provinces of Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro, gathered during the said three-day summit. The event carried the theme "Pamahalaan, Katutubo, at Kasundaluhan, Nagkaisa para sa Tunay na Kapayapaan" and was spearheaded by the 4th Infantry "Scorpion" Battalion, Philippine Army.

IP leaders underwent lectures on the following topics: The Indigenous People's Rights Act of 1997 (NCIP), Anti-Terrorism Act of 2022 (PNP), and Recruitment Scheme of CPP-NPA-NDF (4IB, PA).

Moreover, several presentations and open forum on basic services and programs of the different government agencies were conducted: Clarity and Efficiency of National Greening Program (DENR), Soil testing for Identification of Appropriate Plants in the Area (DA), Overlapping on Land Boundaries of Bulalacao (DAR), Low Farm Output Prices (DTI), Farm to Market Road (DPWH), Deployment of Mangyan Teachers in Communities (DepEd), Electrification (ORMECO), Registration of IP's Name in Database (PSA), Skill Training Opportunities (TESDA), Job Opportunities for IPs (DOLE), Health Care services for IPs in far-flung areas (DOH and German Doctors), Good Governance for IPs (DILG), and Social Welfare Services for IPs (DSWD), among others.

The highlights of the summit were the pledge of commitment and oath signing which established the peaceful resolution in solving issues and concerns among IP leaders in southern Mindoro.

The summit aimed to strengthen partnership and collaboration between local and provincial government agencies to address the issues and concerns in their communities that are being exploited by the CPP-NPA-NDF.

In early May this year, project contractors and members of the business community in Mindoro Island vowed support to the government's NTF-ELCAC in putting an end to the extortion activities of the CPP-NPA-NDF through manifesto signing at the 203rd Brigade Headquarters, Bansud, Oriental Mindoro.

The said activity which highlighted the coordinating conference hosted and initiated by the 203rd Brigade of the Philippine Army, together with Police Regional Office MIMAROPA, and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency 4B, was intended to address the reports that members of the Communist Terrorist Group (CTG) are actively extorting money and goods from contractors and businessmen in Mindoro provinces.

In his message, Police Regional Office MIMAROPA Director Police Brigadier General Sidney Sultan Hernia underscored the role of the private contractors and businessmen in carrying out the government's flagship programs, and its campaign against terrorism and insurgency.

"Rejecting support to the CTGs may be the best decision you can make in your life, not just for your family but for the majority of Filipinos. We, in the PNP, would like to assure you that we will protect you at all times and at all costs," PBGen Hernia said. (RPIO MIMAROPA)



IPs during the seminar conducted by the PNP



## PRO MIMAROPA: UNDAS 2022 generally peaceful

**P**olice Regional Office (PRO) MIMAROPA, under the leadership of PBGen Sidney Sultan Hernia, considered the traditional observance of Undas in MIMAROPA generally peaceful.

The data from the Regional Operations Division (ROD) of Police Regional Office MIMAROPA revealed that no significant incidents were reported in the region except for a minor incident involving two individuals who allegedly committed alarms and scandals in a cemetery in Occidental Mindoro on Tuesday, November 1.

“Despite this, the observance of UNDAS this year in the region is generally peaceful and orderly,” PBGen Hernia said.

PBGen Hernia also reported that since Friday, October 28, at least 3,600 PNP personnel including augmentation from the Philippine Coast Guard, Bureau of Fire Protection, Armed Forces of the Philippines, and various advocacy groups have been deployed in various cemeteries/memorial parks, major thoroughfares, transportation hubs, vital installations, and other places of convergence in the region.

“We also established 196 Police Assistance Desks scattered in the different provinces to reinforce our



police visibility and response. Our troop deployment will continue until Friday, November 4,” PBGen Hernia explained.

Based on the monitoring of the Regional Community Affairs and Development Division, there were at least 169,114 individuals who visited the 229 cemeteries and columbaria in the region.

“The generally peaceful and orderly observance of Undas in the region is largely attributed to the commitment of all our personnel, counterparts in the uniformed service and other stakeholders. Walang imposible basta tulong-tulong tayo tungo sa kaayusan, kapayapaan at kaunlaran,” PBGen Hernia added. (RPIO MIMAROPA)

## PRO MIMAROPA reaffirms target to plant 1 million trees by the end of 2022

**P**olice Regional Office (PRO) MIMAROPA Director PBGen Sidney Sultan Hernia reaffirmed his target to plant at least 1 million trees in the region by the end of 2022.

The police eco-warriors’ chief further revealed that all police units of PRO MIMAROPA, comprised of five police provincial offices, one city police office, the Regional Mobile Force Battalion, and the regional headquarters, have already planted 726,718 trees as of August 31.

“We target to plant a total of 273,282 seedlings before the end of December or 45,558 seedlings per month within a period of 4 months in order to reach our goal,” PBGen Hernia said. “Aside from intensifying our tree-planting efforts, we will be more aggressive in our campaign against illegal logging activities and violations of the environmental laws.”

Records from the Regional Operations Division revealed that PRO MIMAROPA had accomplished

a total of 215 police operations which resulted in the arrest of 216 personalities and confiscation of 42,244.57 board feet of assorted lumbers worth P 1,654,747.14 from January 1 to August 31, 2022.

“Part of our efforts to protect our natural resources is the strict enforcement of the environmental laws. I urge all unit commanders and fellow eco-warriors to sustain our drive in the campaign against violations of environmental laws in active partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and various stakeholders in the region,” PBGen Hernia continued. (RPIO MIMAROPA)





## DILG MIMAROPA holds #DAGYAW 2022: Tarabidan sa Palawan!



Hundreds of LGUs attended and engaged in the #DAGYAW2022: Tarabidan sa Palawan! that explored on the topic "USAPING ENERHIYA: Brownout at ang Potensyal na Benepisyo ng Renewable Energy" last November 29, 2022, at the City Coliseum, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

Participants were welcomed by Puerto Princesa City SP Member, Hon. Patrick Alex Hagedorn, representing City Mayor Lucilo Bayron followed by the message of the Provincial Governor of Palawan, Hon. Victorino Dennis Socrates, which was read by the Provincial Legal Officer, Atty. Joshua Bolusa.

Atty. David Chaim Meregillano, President of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Atty. Maria Nenette Q. Encarnacion, President of the Soroptimist International Palawan, Puerto Princesa City, served as reactors and provided feedback on the presentations. Rev. Fr. Eugene Elivera moderated and synthesized the Talakayan/Open Forum.

DILG MIMAROPA Assistant Regional Director (ARD) Rey S. Maranan gave his message regarding the significance of facilitating such meeting and how the government and the Filipino people shall create a neutral, open, and safe space for a discussion.

"Ang pangunahing layunin ng DAGYAW o TARABIDAN Town Hall Meeting ay magsama-sama ang gobyerno at mamamayan upang mapalago ang tiwala nila sa isa't isa sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng bukas (open), neutral, at safe space para sa dayalogo patungkol sa mga isyu sa lokal na lebel o sa national na kinakaharap natin sa kasalukuyan," ARD Maranan said.

The town hall meeting ended with the message from the DBM MIMAROPA Regional Director, Ricky Sanchez.

DAGYAW 2022: TARABIDAN SA PALAWAN was a success and hopefully be used as a platform to discuss other important issues, not only in the province of Palawan but also for the whole MIMAROPA Region. (DILG MIMAROPA)



DBM MIMAROPA RD Sanchez (left) and DILG MIMAROPA ARD Maranan look on as the open forum is being conducted.

The context of the town hall reports was set by the OIC of Renewable Energy Development Division, NEA, Engr. Isak Jonathan Villanueva, and the Vice President of SPUG-NAPOCOR, Engr. Larry Sabelina, and the Professional Electrical Engineer (PEE) of the Palawan Electric Cooperative, Engr. Rogelio G. Baylon.



## RDC MIMAROPA confirms new PSRs, selects chairperson and co-chairperson nominees



*Dir. Mendoza (center) delivers his message.*



*Oath taking of newly selected PSRs of RDC MIMAROPA*

The Regional Development Council (RDC) MIMAROPA conducted a special reorganization meeting on August 26 in Manila to confirm the new set of the Council's private sector representatives (PSRs) for the term 2022-2025.

The meeting, which was presided over by RDC Vice-Chairperson and NEDA MIMAROPA Regional Director Agustin C. Mendoza, was attended by Marinduque Governor Presbitero J. Velasco, Jr., Romblon Governor Jose R. Riano, and the directors and representatives of regional line agencies (RLAs) and local government units (LGUs). The newly elected PSRs were also present during the meeting.

In his opening remarks, Mendoza recognized the role of PSRs as key allies in the formulation of policy and development plans, review of investment programs, and monitoring and evaluation of projects in the region. He also commended the PSRs for their commitment towards ensuring inclusive, sustainable, and attainable development in MIMAROPA.

The confirmation of the new set of MIMAROPA RDC PSRs for CY 2022-2025 was one of the highlights of the meeting. Governor Velasco led the oath taking of the following PSRs:

### A. Geographic representatives

1. Mr. Delfin M. Natal, Jr. of Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement
2. Rev. Fr. Arvin Anthony J. Madla of Marinduque Council for Environmental Concerns, Inc.
3. Ms. Gemma M. Parcia of Ministries Without Borders Phils, Inc.
4. Mr. Aristotle G. Ramos of Council for the Restoration of Filipino Values
5. Ms. Ma. Nanette M. Geronimo of the Rotary Club of Downtown Calapan
6. Fr. Edwin A. Gariguez of Mangyan Mission, Inc.
7. Engr. Ana Margarita Lustre-Malijan of PCCI Puerto Princesa Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc.
8. Ms. Maria Milagros Quieng of Palawan Aid International – Kabatangan View Schools, Inc.
9. Atty. Homelo V. Estoque of Philippine Medical Aviation Services, Inc.
10. Mr. Raymundo D. Cometa of Roadbook Center, Inc.

### B. Basic sector representative

1. Ms. Juvelyn V. Gumal-in of Pampamayanang Mangyan Ugnayan, Inc.
- C. Labor sector representative

1. Mr. Darius M. Guerrero of Philippine Trade and General Workers Organization

Meanwhile, RDC MIMAROPA Secretary and NRO MIMAROPA Assistant Regional Director Apollo Edwin S. Pagano briefed the new members, particularly the newly appointed regional directors, newly elected local chief executives, and newly confirmed PSRs, highlighting the RDC structure, roles, and functions.

Social Development Committee Secretary and NRO MIMAROPA Chief Economic Development Specialist Emerson Kim J. Lineses presented the core functions of the RDC and its Secretariat, base of operations, and standard operating procedures. He also highlighted the special provisions and privileges of the PSRs as regular members of the RDC, appointed chairperson of the Council, and officers of sectoral committees as indicated in the RDC Manual of Operations.

Through secret balloting, the Council selected the following nominees for RDC chairperson and co-chairperson:

### A. Government sector

Gov. Jose R. Riano of Romblon  
Gov. Eduardo B. Gadiano of Occidental Mindoro

### B. Private sector

Rev. Fr. Arvin Anthony J. Madla of Marinduque Council for Environmental Concerns, Inc.  
Fr. Edwin A. Gariguez of Mangyan Mission, Inc.

Finally, plaques of recognition were awarded to outgoing RDC members. Governor Riano was recognized for his exemplary leadership as the Chairperson of MIMAROPA RDC for 2019-2022. Other recipients were labor sector representative and Development Administration Committee Chairperson Guerrero, Infrastructure Development Committee (IDC) Chairperson and Marinduque Governor Velasco, Regional Gender and Development Committee Co-Chairperson Gumal-in, and IDC Co-Chairperson Natal. (*NEDA MIMAROPA*)



## RDC MIMAROPA celebrates 20th anniversary, administers oath of chair, co-chair, and SNVMs



Governor Velasco (leftmost) administers the oath of office of RDC Chair Gov. Riano (center) and Co-Chair Fr. Madla.



Gov. Socrates of Palawan (second from left) delivers his message.

RDC MIMAROPA celebrated its 20th anniversary during the 80th Full Council Meeting held on December 2, 2022, at The Heritage Hotel Manila in Pasay City.

The anniversary looked back to June 24, 2002, when MIMAROPA was created through Executive Order No. 103. An exhibit showcased photos and profiles of all governors who served as RDC MIMAROPA chairperson over the last two decades. Copies of key development plans and other RDC publications were also displayed.



Wall display of past RDC MIMAROPA Chairpersons from 2002-2022

Marinduque Governor Presbitero J. Velasco, Jr., administered the oath of re-appointed RDC MIMAROPA Chairperson and Romblon Governor Jose R. Riano and newly appointed Co-Chairperson Fr. Arvin Anthony J. Madla.

In his acceptance message, Governor Riano expressed his gratitude and vowed to advance the development initiatives that will revive the region's economy. He congratulated everyone for the 20 years of development governance and

public service excellence amid recovery and rehabilitation from the recent multiple health and climate crises.

Also present during the meeting were RDC MIMAROPA Vice-Chairperson and NEDA MIMAROPA Regional Director Agustin C. Mendoza, Palawan Governor Victorino Dennis M. Socrates, Boac Mayor Armi DC. Carrion, Bongabong Mayor Elegio A. Malaluan, Rizal Mayor Ernesto C. Pablo, Jr., directors and representatives of regional line agencies, local government units, state universities and colleges, and private sector representatives.

To expand and strengthen cooperation between the public and private sectors in advancing regional development, Governor Riano administered the oath of RDC MIMAROPA special non-voting members (SNVMs), which included NCIP MIMAROPA, PA-2ID, MGB MIMAROPA, POPCOM MIMAROPA, NIA MIMAROPA, NNC MIMAROPA, NICA MIMAROPA, and NCCA.

Moreover, the Council approved/endorsed the following: a) MIMAROPA Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2023-2028 Overall Strategy Framework and MIMAROPA Regional Spatial Strategy; b) List of Major Capital Projects in the MIMAROPA Regional Development Investment Program 2023-2028; c) CY 2022 MIMAROPA Regional Development Report Preparation Guidelines; d) Expressway Development and Strong Republic Nautical Highway System Projects; e) Port City Development Strategy in MIMAROPA Region; f) MIMAROPA Power Interconnection Projects; g) Integrated Intermodal Transport Terminal with Point-to-Point Transport Services and Trading Center Components; h) Pagtanaw 2050: Science, Technology, and Innovation Foresight and Strategic Plan; i) MIMAROPA Research and Development Agenda 2022-2028; j) Guidelines and Certification of the Regional Pool of Gender and Development Resource Persons; and k) Schedule of CY 2023 RDC Meetings.

The members were also informed about the COVID-19 response and situationer in the region, implementation of face-to-face classes, the regional economic situationer, project monitoring reports, and status of RDC endorsed projects. (NEDA MIMAROPA)



## RDC MIMAROPA conducts RDP consultation, regional planning committees discuss priorities



**T**he Regional Development Council (RDC) MIMAROPA conducted a regional consultation on the formulation of the MIMAROPA Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2023-2028 on 03-04 November 2022 in Manila to generate stakeholder inputs and discuss other regional issues.

The consultation was participated in by various stakeholders from the private sector, academia, local government, and government agencies.

Mendoza presented the salient features of the MIMAROPA RDP 2023-2028 including headline indicators, hierarchy of settlements, interconnectivity framework, vulnerability reduction, and the proposed regional spatial strategy.

Director Mendoza passionately shared the regional headline targets and some strategic infrastructure projects that will drive the region's economy to its original growth track.

RDC MIMAROPA Secretary and NEDA MIMAROPA Assistant Regional Director Apollo Edwin S. Pagano facilitated the open forum during the second plenary session. The participants were given the opportunity to raise their questions, inputs, and concerns in relation to the RDP chapters and sub-chapters.

Newly appointed RDC MIMAROPA Co-Chairperson and Private Sector



In his opening remarks, RDC MIMAROPA Chairperson and Romblon Governor Jose R. Riano underscored the Plan's goal of creating new jobs and ending poverty while still addressing the adverse effects of COVID-19 pandemic. He highlighted the need to attain full recovery and go back to the region's original growth trajectory that was disrupted by the pandemic.

Governor Riano also expressed his gratitude to the President for his reappointment as RDC MIMAROPA Chairperson for the term 2023-2025. During the first plenary session, RDC MIMAROPA Vice Chairperson and NEDA MIMAROPA Regional Director Agustin C.



*Governor Riano, Dir. Mendoza and Rev. Fr. Madla deliver their respective messages.*

Meanwhile, EnP. Sheryll B. Sarabia and Mr. Angelo Paolo Aboboto of the Policy Formulation and Planning Division (PFPD) presented the consultation mechanics. The simultaneous breakout sessions consisted of brief presentation by the Secretariat, discussion of panelists, and workshop proper.

The participants proceeded to their assigned groups per regional planning committee or RDC Sectoral Committee – Development Administration Committee (DAC), Social Development Committee (SDC), Infrastructure Development Committee (IDC), and Economic Development Committee (EDC).



Representative Rev. Fr. Arvin Anthony J. Madla concluded the regional consultation by congratulating the participants for their active participation and commitment towards the completion of the MIMAROPA RDP 2023-2028. He emphasized the importance of a whole-of-society approach in facing the challenges that will lead the region to progress and development. He also expressed his high hopes of realizing a matatag, maginhawa, panatag na buhay for every MIMAROPAn. (NEDA MIMAROPA)



# MIMAROPA RDC formulates RDIP 2023-2028

The MIMAROPA Regional Development Council (RDC) conducted a two-day online consultation workshop on the formulation of the MIMAROPA Regional Development Investment Program (RDIP) 2023-2028 last November 10 and 11.

The workshop aimed to validate and review the list of programs activities, and projects (PAPs) proposed by the regional agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations, state universities and colleges, and local government units for inclusion in the MIMAROPA RDIP 2023-2028, Three Year Rolling Infrastructure Program (TRIP) 2024-2028, and Public Investment Program 2023-2028.

In his welcome message, RDC MIMAROPA Vice Chairperson and NEDA MIMAROPA Regional Director (RD) Agustin C. Mendoza stressed that the deliberation of the FY 2023 Budget in Congress has already started. Submission of the agency programs and projects is through the PIP Online (PIPOL), a web-based project database managed by NEDA. Thus, regional offices need to coordinate with the agency central offices on their priority PAPs System to ensure their inclusion in the National Expenditure Program (NEP). He reminded the participants to ensure that proposals are implementation ready, responsive to existing plans, and aligned to the goals and objectives of the current administration.

The first day consisted of plenary session which covered the presentation of the following: (1) objectives and methodology of the workshop by

Supervising Economic Development Specialist (SEDS) Ms. Jobelle M. Cruzado of the Project Development, Investment Programming, and Budget Division (PDIPBD); (2) TRIP and PIPOL system and its linkage to national, regional, and local development plans by PDIPBD Chief Economic Development Specialist (CEDS) Mr. Bernardino Atienza Jr.; (3) Region's Priority Thrusts and Assessment of the MIMAROPA RDIP 2017-2022 by RD Mendoza; and (4) local governments' high-impact priority programs and projects for the next six years by the representatives of the provincial and city government offices.

On the second day, four workshop groups were conducted through the RDC sectoral committees. The participants discussed the six-year investment programs of each member agency and identified the top five banner projects for each group.

The five banner projects for each group were presented during the plenary session followed by succeeding activities and schedule for the formulation of the RDIP.

RDC MIMAROPA Secretary and NEDA MIMAROPA Assistant Regional Director Apollo Edwin S. Pagano concluded the consultation workshop by thanking everyone for their active participation and assured everyone that the RDC MIMAROPA will remain a venue for the whole-of-nation approach to improve implementation of PAPs, delivery of public services, and the attainment of the region's developmental goals and objectives. (NEDA MIMAROPA)





## DICT MIMAROPA ramps up Free Wi-Fi and Tech4ED Programs



*Photo opportunity with the IP beneficiaries*

Personally spearheaded by Dir. Cheryl Ortega of DICT Regions CALABARZON and MIMAROPA, DICT MIMAROPA through its Free Wi-Fi for All Program initiated the activation and launching of Free Wi-Fi for All in six sites in Benli and Mangyan Settlement, Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro, in partnership with the 203rd Bantay Kapayapaan Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division of the Philippine Army, and Local Government Units on July 28-29, 2022.

Not long after the successful launching of Free Wi-Fi for All Sites in the geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs) of Benli and Panaytayan, DICT augmented its digital support to the Mangyan communities of Oriental Mindoro by launching the Barangay Benli Tech4ED Center complete with computers, printers, productivity software, and basic ICT equipment.

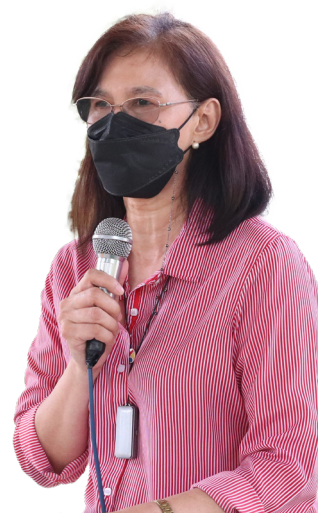
The Free Wi-Fi for All and Tech4ED breakthrough initiatives are part of DICT MIMAROPA's full support to the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) by providing much needed telecom services and equipment in areas where commercial internet service providers are still out of reach and digital divide is most observed. This milestone is projected to kick off the transformation of the settlements toward a productive and inclusive community of Mangyans toward attaining lasting peace and development.

Once insurgency-ridden areas and now cleared GIDA communities under the NTF-ELCAC, the ICT development initiatives in Benli and Panaytayan settlements are part of DICT MIMAROPA's continued support to the RTF-ELCAC development program through the provision of Free Wi-Fi for All

and establishment of Tech4ED Centers in GIDA priority areas. The launching is another milestone achieved in DICT's priority program of establishing free Wi-Fi sites in as many remote areas, particularly in the far-flung impoverished villages.

The DICT MIMAROPA is continuously ramping up our efforts in carrying out the Free Wi-Fi for All, Tech4ED Program and other ICT projects in different areas of the region until every Filipino feels the country's readiness in the emerging digital transformation.

As of November 16, 2022, there are 211 active Free Wi-Fi Sites in MIMAROPA, of which 28 are established in GIDA communities providing access to opportunities, education, and information to even the most isolated areas in the region. These efforts are supplemented with 234 operational Tech4ED Centers serving as community e-centers with free ICT services in areas with minimal to no internet access. (DICT MIMAROPA)





## PRO MIMAROPA lauds the surrender of 136 rebels

The Police Regional Office (PRO) MIMAROPA, headed by Regional Director Police Brigadier General Sidney Sultan Hernia, aspired that the region be free from the influence Communist Terrorist Group (CTG). That aspiration became closer as he commended the voluntary surrender of 136 members and supporters of the Communist Party of Philippines – New People's Army to the different police units in the region from January 1 to October 31, 2022.

"I laud the efforts of our men and our counterparts from the AFP, the LGUs, and other government agencies in the government's campaign against insurgency through the NTF-ELCAC," Hernia said.



*The 136 rebels who surrendered to MIMAROPA police*

The latest rebel who yielded to MIMAROPA police was "Ka Bobbie," 36, a Milisyang Bayan member under Kilusang Larangang Gerilya of Sub-Regional Military Area (SRMA-4E), a unit of the Southern Tagalog Regional Party Committee (STRPC).

"Ka Bobbie" voluntarily surrendered to PCPT Marvin L. Estigoy,

Officer-in-Charge, 401st B Maneuver Company under Regional Mobile Force Battalion 4B on Monday,

October 31, 2022, and is now being assisted by RMFB 4B for his enrollment in the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP). (RPIO MIMAROPA)

## RSU among GCED regional hubs in PH

Romblon State University (RSU) has been designated as Global Citizenship Education Development (GCED) Regional Hub for MIMAROPA of the Philippine GCED Network.

It will partner with the Philippine Normal University, Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU), and the GCED Cooperation Centre Philippines (GCC Philippines) in promoting and facilitating Global Citizenship Education programs in the region.

Global citizenship education aims to empower learners of all ages to assume active roles, both locally and globally, in building more peaceful, tolerant, inclusive and secure societies, UNESCO states.

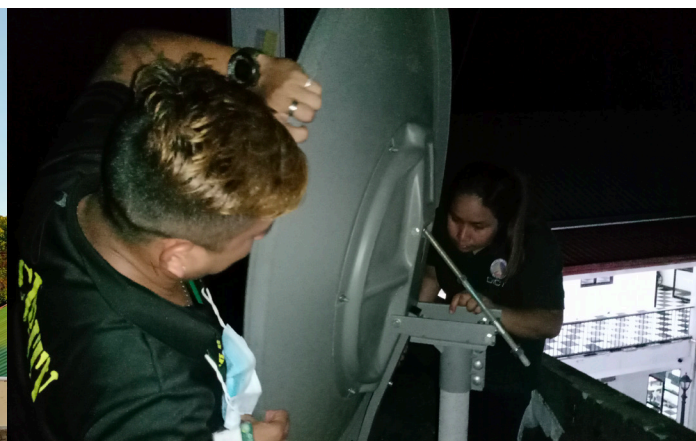
As the lead implementor housing the GCC Philippines, the Philippine Normal University is the torchbearer of the 17 SUC designates in advancing and mainstreaming the goals of GCED in academic designs, research, and services to the community.

The endeavor will also provide opportunities for faculty and students to travel in APCEIU-affiliated countries namely Korea, Cambodia, Thailand, and Malaysia, and other partner higher education institutions.

University President Merian Catajay-Mani and College of Education Dean Jun Dalisay received the certificate of recognition during the signing of MOU and launching of the Philippine GCED regional hubs, October 18, at the Swiss-Belhotel Blulane in Sta. Cruz, Manila. (Romblon State University)



## DICT MIMAROPA supports DOH's Telemedicine Outreach in the BusCoCuLin Island Group



*DICT MIMAROPA staff makes adjustments to satellite dishes.*

Palawan is an archipelago of 1,768 islands located between Mindoro in the northeast and Borneo in the southwest and between the South China Sea and Sulu Sea. It is the country's largest province in terms of the total area of jurisdiction comprising of 1 city, 23 municipalities, and 367 barangays, which excludes the 66 barangays of Puerto Princesa City.

The topography of the province remains a major challenge to the provision of health services for outlying rural areas. The limited number of health workers, coupled with the maldistribution of physicians, especially specialists, are in stark contrast to the 180 geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs) in the province alone.

By its definition, GIDAs are located in remote areas of the country that are difficult to reach and navigate, resulting in rampant underserved and unserved communities. And among municipalities in the province, healthcare workers in the island group of Busuanga, Coron, Culion, and Linapacan (BusCoCuLin) face grim challenges in delivering critical health services to the distributed island municipalities.

Dr. Neal Vincent Torre, Medical Specialist and Head of the Medical Division of the Culion Sanitarium and General Hospital, recounts that he and his staff struggled to attend to far away villages particularly with island municipalities. They faced difficulties in the transfer of patients for specialized health procedures. Whether they were small islands several miles off the coast of Culion where the biggest health care center is based among the BusCoCuLin island group or villages cradled deep within mountain ranges, these GIDAs have challenging terrain that make access to health services difficult, particularly tertiary health care. With the onslaught of the pandemic, the challenge of accessing quality health care has been more emphasized.

To help address this issue, the Palawan health office maximized information and communications technology (ICT) to deliver health services through telemedicine. However, due to the province's geographical features, and absence of major internet service providers (ISPs) in

the most isolated communities, establishing telemedicine services to reach many rural communities in the island group has been the primary obstacle for the Department of Health (DOH) to fully deploy their health outreach program. To address this, the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) MIMAROPA has deployed its Free Wi-Fi for All (FW4A) Program to connect DOH with far-flung communities still unsupported by commercial internet providers. Making isolated communities its top priority, DICT MIMAROPA, under the leadership of Regional Director Cheryl Ortega, is maintaining 211 active free Wi-Fi sites in MIMAROPA, as of November 16, 2022, and of which 98 free connective sites are in Palawan.

With DICT MIMAROPA's Free Wi-Fi for All, the telemedicine program now addresses the problem of access to timely and quality specialty health care in remote areas in the province and facilitates timely transfer of patients to higher level health facilities.

To date, the BusCoCuLin chain of health care centers comprising of Busuanga Rural Health Unit (BRHU), Culion Rural Health Unit (CRHU), Coron District Hospital (CDH), Coron Rural Health Unit (CRHU), Linapacan Rural Health Unit (LRHU), with Culion Sanitarium and General Hospital (CSGH) as the main healthcare hub, have delivered thousands of telemedicine services. And with the DICT FW4A Program, the six key healthcare facilities situated in GIDA communities are now in the process of being connected with reliable internet connectivity to continue delivering critical health services ranging from basic diagnostic e-health services and teleradiology to specialized services such as teledermatology and telepsychiatry.

With the free Wi-Fi partnership, the BuSCoCuLin Telemedicine Program demonstrates the World Health Organization's direction of maximizing ICT for the exchange of information and delivery of healthcare services for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease and injuries, research and evaluation, and for the continuing education of health care providers, all in the interests of advancing the health of individuals and isolated communities. (*DICT MIMAROPA*)





## DICT MIMAROPA launches first-ever Balsa Aralan floating Tech4ED Center in MIMAROPA

Bringing the digital connectivity to the far-flung area of the Municipality of Balabac, Palawan, is now possible with the launching of the first-ever floating Boosting Access Literacy Service through Alternative Learning System (BALSA Aralan) Tech4ED Center.

The DICT MIMAROPA Regional Office, with its DICT Palawan Provincial Office, launched this exciting new initiative last September 12, 2022.

members of the community, previously needing to arduously cross miles of land and sea in order to access the internet, join their online classes, or submit reports, can already do so within the community through DICT's Free WiFi for All program. This endeavor has made it possible for us to sustain our efforts in promoting the meaningful use of Technology for Education and the inclusive adoption of Information and Communications Technology as a platform for community development. With this partnership, we become instruments in changing lives for the better."

DICT MIMAROPA also partnered with the Department of Education (DepED) and the local government of Balabac, Palawan, to launch the Free Wi-Fi for the BALSA Aralan. The free internet aims to improve the access of beneficiaries to digital content and learning materials.

DICT MIMAROPA also turned over the School-in-a-Bag, a portable digital classroom designed to facilitate learning in basic education in remote areas without electricity. With the support of Huawei Philippines and PLDT Smart Foundation, the school-in-a-bag utilizes mobile technology, an innovative 21st-century teaching pedagogy, and K+12 content to enable digital learning.

The BALSA Aralan Tech4ED, Free Wi-Fi for All, and School-in-a-Bag Project is a breakthrough initiative that aims to deliver accessible ICT services to even the most communities. Through these projects, the DICT MIMAROPA aims to bring inclusive community development to countryside areas. (DICT MIMAROPA)



DICT Regional Director for CALABARZON and MIMAROPA Cheryl Ortega graced the event.

"Through our partnership and unifying commitment towards public service, we have brought critical services where it most matters to address the digital divide and education needs of the unserved and underserved areas, particularly for the community of Rabor, Palawan and adjacent areas," she said. "With this joint initiative, we have provided a much-needed platform for the isolated fisher and community folks of Palawan to realize their dream of education through the Alternative Learning System brought closer to their homes. Teachers and



*The Balsa Aralan in Balabac, Palawan*



# REGIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATIONER

3RD QUARTER 2022

## MACROECONOMY

### INFLATION



MIMAROPA's average inflation increased to **7.3 percent** in **July to September 2022** from previous year's 4.0 percent. This was also higher than the previous quarter's 5.1 percent. All MIMAROPA provinces registered higher inflation rates except for Romblon, which decreased from 8.9 percent in July to September 2021 to 2.6 percent this year. Palawan registered the highest inflation rate at 10.0 percent. This was followed by Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, and Occidental Mindoro with 6.9 percent, 5.9 percent, and 5.7 percent, respectively.

### PURCHASING POWER

The purchasing power of peso in the region decreased from last quarter's 0.87 to 0.85.



All commodity groups registered upward price movements compared to previous year's index levels, which contributed to the region's 7.3 percent average inflation rate in July to September 2022. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco recorded the highest CPI of 191.8. On the other hand, information and communication registered the lowest CPI of 103.9.



### PRICES



Food and Non-alcoholic beverages



Alcoholic beverages and tobacco



Transport

### LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT



The region's working age population increased by 1.34 percent from 2,088,000 in July 2021 to 2,116,000 in July 2022.

**Employment rate** increased by 1.9 percent from 92.9 percent in July 2021 to 94.8 percent in July 2022.



The region's **unemployment rate** decreased by 1.89 percentage points compared to July 2021's 7.1 percent.



**Underemployment rate** decreased by 9.21 percentage points from 31.21 percent in July 2021 to 22.0 percent in July 2022.



## AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

### CEREALS



Palay

3Q 2021: 132,816.56 MT  
3Q 2022: 139,229.76 MT



Corn

3Q 2021: 21,931.24 MT  
3Q 2022: 29,490.97 MT



**Livestock** production decreased by 2.63 percent, from 24,037.67 MT in the third quarter of 2021 to 23,405.98 MT during the same period of 2022.



**Poultry** production increased by 10.58 percent from 5,833.64 MT in July to September 2021 to 6,451.10 MT in the same period of 2022.



**Commercial fisheries** decreased by 34.83 percent, from 7,540.99 MT during the third quarter of 2021 to 4,914.69 MT in the same period this year.

**Municipal marine fisheries** decreased by 14.27 percent, from 30,703.40 MT in July to September 2021 to 26,322.83 MT during the same period of 2022.

**Aquaculture fisheries** increased by 4.81 percent, from 41,188.39 MT in July to September 2021 to 43,168.85 MT in July to September 2022.



## INVESTMENTS AND INDUSTRY

### INVESTMENTS



Business names registration in the region recorded a total of 2,858 during the third quarter of 2022. This was 63 percent higher compared to the 1,754 business names registered during the same quarter in 2021.

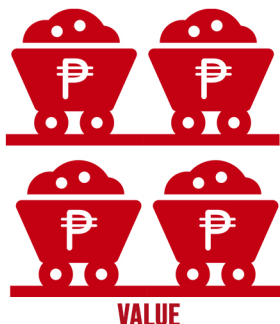
The province of Palawan has the highest number of business names registered with 1,480 or 51.82 percent of the region's total business name registration during the quarter.



The total number of MSMEs assisted in the region increased by 26 percent, from 1,773 MSMEs in the third quarter of 2021 to 2,231 MSMEs during the same quarter of 2022.

The total sales generated by MSMEs in the region grew by 79 percent, from P 85.66 million sales incurred in the third quarter of 2021 to P 153.37 million in the same quarter of 2022.

### MINING AND QUARRYING



**VALUE**  
Q3 2021: PHP 5,500,192,289.67  
Q3 2022: PHP 7,346,257,178.27

The value of metallic mineral outputs reached P 7.11 billion during the period. This was 35.43 percent higher than the recorded value during the third quarter of 2021.

On the other hand, the value of non-metallic minerals decreased by 6.23 percent, from P 246.81 million during the third quarter of 2021 to P 231.45 million during the same period in 2022.

## SERVICES

### TOURISM



Tourist arrivals in the region significantly increased from 38,179 tourists during the third quarter of 2021 to 255,488 tourists in the same period of 2022. A revenue of about P 2.68 billion from various tourism related services and products was generated in the region. The increase in visitor arrivals was attributed to the reopening of major tourist destinations in all island provinces of MIMAROPA region.





## RSU houses GSIS Romblon Service Desk

The GSIS Romblon Service Desk officially opened at Romblon State University (RSU) Main Campus on August 5, 2022. Transactions with GSIS are now more accessible and easier as they are now closer to Romblon community.

GSIS Batangas, RSU, and the Provincial Government Office of Romblon are united in bringing GSIS services to the Romblomanons.

RSU President Merian P. Catajay-Mani and GSIS Vice-President for South Luzon Office Rachel T. Edjan led the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the launching of the GSIS Service Desk to cater to the province of Romblon with 9,348 pensioners and members.

RSU, GSIS, and the Provincial Government of Romblon under Governor Jose R. Riano, represented by Atty. Lizette Mortel, inked their partnership and sealed their commitments in a memorandum of agreement (MOA) signing during the blessing and inauguration program witnessed by RSU and GSIS officials.

GSIS Romblon was also awarded the Top 5 out of 51 Best Performing Agencies in Romblon in terms of mediating collection efficiency in premiums and loans and for zero records of past due rates covering January to June of 2022. (*Romblon State University*)

# MIMAROPA LINKS

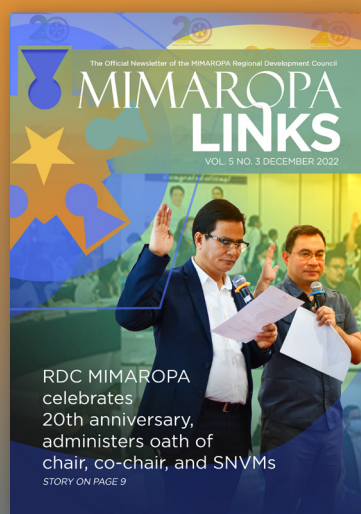
## Editorial Board

Executive Editors

Agustin C. Mendoza  
Apollo Edwin S. Pagano

Production Team

Emerson Kim J. Lineses  
Judy Mae V. Masangkay  
Marissa M. Morales  
Chara Lois T. Eje  
Jhunjun F. Fajutagana  
Vonn Orland C. Leynes  
Loreto H. Castillo, Jr.



Published quarterly by the  
**MIMAROPA**  
Regional Development Council



We welcome contributions.  
Please send your comments to  
**NEDA Regional Office MIMAROPA.**

2nd floor, Paras Building,  
J. P. Rizal Street, Calapan City  
(043) 288-6115  
(043) 288-6124

mimaropa@neda.gov.ph

@mimaroparc  
@mimaropaneda

mimaropa.neda.gov.ph



## COVID-19 REGIONAL CASE BULLETIN

CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT - MIMAROPA | 27 DECEMBER 2022



Total Active Cases

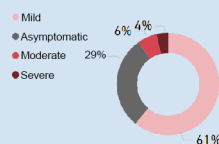
**82** (0.2%)

59 new active case(s) | 62 additional recoveries

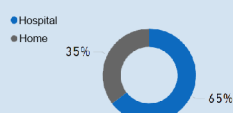
### Distribution by Province

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Oriental Mindoro          | 28        |
| Occidental Mindoro        | 2         |
| Romblon                   | 1         |
| Marinduque                | 20        |
| Palawan                   | 31        |
| <b>Total Active Cases</b> | <b>82</b> |

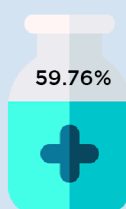
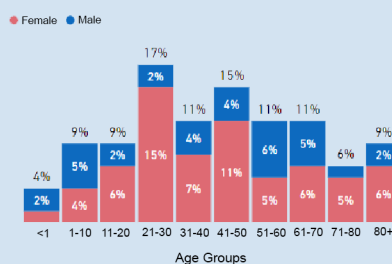
### Severity of Symptoms



### Isolation/Quarantine Status



### Age & Sex Groups



Unvaccinated



Fully Vaccinated