

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM OFFICE: DOT MIMAROPA REGION

Meeting Report						
Subject/Title: MIMAROPA Regional Tourism Committee (MRTC) 4th Qtr. Meeting						
Date	September	Time	9:30 am	Time	12:00 pm	
	27, 2023	Started		Finished		
Location/ Venue	Virtual Meeting via the Zoom Application					

Attendees:

Members

- 1. DIR. ROBERTO P. ALABADO III DOT / MRTC CHAIRPERSON
- 2. DIR. AGUSTIN C. MENDOZA NEDA MIMAROPA
- 3. RED FELIX S, MIRASOL JR. DENR
- 4. DIR RICKLY L. SANCHEZ DBM
- 5. DIR. KARL CAESAR RIMANDO DILG
- 6. DIR. MA JOSEFINA P. ABILAY DOST MIMAROPA
- 7. DIR. RODOLFO J. MARIPOSQUE DTI
- 8. CHAIRMAN ARSENIO J. LIZANO NCCA
- 9. ENGR. ISMAEL FONTANILLA NCIP
- 10. PBGEN. SIDNEY S. HERNIA PNP
- 11. GM ATTY. JAY DANIEL R. SANTIAGO PPA
- 12. ENGR. RIZAL J, VICTORIA MARINA IV
- 13. MR. DELFIN NATAL PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE
- 14. MR. DON STEPHERSON V. CALDA ORIENTAL MINDORO
- 15. MS. LUCILLE B. HERNANDEZ OCCIDENTAL MINDORO
- 16. MS. SANDI G. RODENAS ROMBLON
- 17. MS. MARIBEL C. BUÑI PALAWAN
- 18. MR. DEMETRIO ALVIOR JR. PUERTO PRINCESA CITY
- 19. MR. CHRISTIAN E. GAUD CALAPAN CITY

Secretariat

- 1. MS. GLADYS A. QUESEA
- 2. MS. YOLANDA B. CABIGAO
- 3. MS. MAYBELINE M. HUGO

76% of MRTC member agencies were present during the meeting. (19 out of 25)

Summary of Points Discussed				
Opening Statement	Ms, Gladys Quesea, started the meeting with a rollcall and only 68% of the MRTC members participated the meeting, therefore there was a quorum. Director Roberto Alabado III, Regional Director of DOT MIMAROPA, acknowledged and greeted the attendees for the second quarter meeting. RD Alabado III discussed briefly the highlights of the 2 nd quarter meeting of MRTC last June 29, 2023.			
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Ms. Gladys briefly discussed the matters arising from the previous meeting. Ms. Jobelle Cruzado of NEDA shared the update on Enhancing the participation of the members of the MRTC during meetings. The following are the MRTC Meeting Agenda: 1. Tourism Enterprise Zone Designation and Requirements 2. Prescribed Standards for Liveaboard Dive Boats -**MARINA** 3. Seal of Good Local Governance (updated) - DILG 4. Guidelines on Tourism-related projects and activities in ancestral domain areas - NCIP 5. Status of the Cruise Port in Puerto Princesa City – DPWH 6. Status of 2023 and 2024 Proposed Tourism Road Infrastructure Project - DPWH Approval of the Highlights of the 3rd Quarter MRTC The Highlights of the 3rd Quarter MRTC Meeting were approved. Meeting Tourism Enterprise Zone Ms. Retz Mara Fernandez of the Evaluation and Registration Designation and Division of the TV Management Sector discussed the following: Requirements – TIEZA Background of TIEZA Travel Tax Tourism Infrastructure Tourism Enterprise Zones **Assets Management** Investment Promotion Agency of the Tourism Industry Register tourism enterprises Promote tourism investments Joint Venture Agreements Tourism Enterprise Zones Private Tourism Enterprise Zones The are TEZs that are being developed by the private sector. TEZs and their locators are eligible for fiscal and non-fiscal incentives. Flagship Tourism Enterprise Zone (FTEZs) Assets of TIEZA Ms. Fernandez presented the TIEZA Registration and Incentives for Tourism enterprises. Registrable Tourism Enterprises (Special Laws: Tourism Act of 2009) a) Tourist transport services whether for land, sea and air transport for tourist use;

- b) Establishment and operation of:
 Accommodation establishments: hotel, resort,
 apartment hotel / serviced residences, guest
 accommodation, eco-lodge and homestay; Convention
 and exhibition facilities (MICE); Adventure and ecotourism facilities; Sports facilities and recreational
 centers; Theme parks; Health and wellness facilities
 such as but not limited to spas; Farm tourism; and
 Tourism training centers and institutes.
- c) Development of retirement villages; and
- d) Restoration / preservation and operation of historical shrines, landmarks and structures.

TIEZA emphasized that they register tourism enterprise zone under Domestic Industrial Zone (for Tourism Township Estate Projects). She added that they only need to meet the criteria. It has to be outside Metro Manila; it has a minimum twenty (20) hectares with at least five (5) locators; it is equipped with horizontal development such as paved roads, power system, water supply, drainage system, pollution control devices and communication facilities; must be completed within a maximum period of three (3) years form the date of registration. She also discussed who may apply for New Business Enterprise and Qualified Expansion Projects.

They shared the basic documentary requirements under the law and TIEZA's additional documents

Basic Documentary Requirements:

- General Information Sheet (GIS)
- SEC or DTI Certificate of Registration
- BIR Certificate of Registration
- Sworn declaration of authenticity and validity of submitted information
- Certificate of IPA Registration (if applicable)
- Projected production and sales schedule of products/services
- Google Map location
- Latest Audited Financial Statements
- Notarized Activity / Project Undertaking
- Comprehensive Sustainable Development Program (if applicable)

TIEZA Additional Documents:

Accommodation and Other Tourism Enterprises

- a. Sustainable Tourism Initiatives (pro-forma)
- b. Certificate of land ownership, lease contract, rights or agreement entered into for the development of the land
- c. Architectural Plans in A3 size

Tourist Transport Services

- a. Sustainable Tourism Initiatives (pro-forma)
- b. Certificate of land ownership, lease contract, rights or agreements
- c. Endorsement from the LTFRB/CAAP/MARINA

- d. Photos of the vehicles/technical description/brochures
- e. ORCR from LTO (for land transportation)

Tourism Enterprise Zone

- a. Development Plan
- An authority from the Head of Agency or Local Chief Executive authorizing the filling of the application and the designation of their authorized representative to TIEZA, in the case of an instrumentality of the national government unit
- c. Certificate of land ownership, lease contract, rights or agreement entered into for the development of the land
- d. Sanggunian Resolution from the host Local Government Unit approving the Development Plan and endorsing the application for TEZ designation to TIEZA
- e. Verified survey return and the consolidated narrative technical descriptions of the metes and bounds of the proposed TEZ
- f. Other supporting documents/papers/clearances as may be required by TIEZA

They also explained the Registration Process and the schedule of fees.

Ms. Karen Leander from DTI MIMAROPA, asked TIEZA if they can invite them as resource speaker to their Mentorship Program which focuses on the tourism sector. Ms. Fernandez of TIEZA replied by giving them the details where they can address their invitation.

Another question was raised by Ms. Maribel Buñi of Palawan, she asked TIEZA if it is possible to have an update on the registration of our San Vicente stakeholders. As to Ms. Fernandez, she'll get back to Ms. Buñi on her question since it's from another office. Ms. Buñi requested to have an update on her concern on the next MRTC meeting.

Director Alabado of DOT MIMAROPA, asked for clarification if TIEZA indeed provides incentives for vessels or transportations. TIEZA answered, yes only for tourist transportation and not for commercial use.

NEDA also asked the criteria for the identification of sites for flagship tourism enterprise zone. TIEZA said that they no longer designate flagship tourism enterprise zone, instead they focus on the implementation of masterplan of the flagship tourism enterprise zone.

Prescribed Standards for Liveaboard Dive Boats - MARINA

Engr. Jose Nelson Sobrevega, Supervising MIDS of MARINA discussed the Prescribed Standards for Liveaboard Dive Boats.

Topic Outline:

- 1. Legal Bases
- 2. Coverage
- 3. Categories

- 4. Classes of Service Standards of Passenger Accommodation
 - a. Type of Accommodation
 - b. Toilet & Bath / Amenities
 - c. Supplies, furniture & fixtures
 - d. Ventilation
 - e. Public Spaces

Minimum service standards and other services on-board ships carrying passengers in the inter-island shipping trade based on the:

- a. MARINA Memorandum Circular No. 65-65-A
- b. MARINA Memorandum Circular No. 2018-18

This circular shall apply to all Philippine-registered ships authorized to engage in the carriage of passengers, except passenger ships below 20 GRT. This circular also applies to tourist boats/recreational boats 20 GRT and above.

CATEGORIES

- Category 1
 - Ships with more than 4 hours travel time
 - Required to have lying accommodation
- Category 2
 - Ships with 4 hours or less travel time
 - Required to have seating accommodation

Service Standards:

- A. Passenger Accommodation
 - 1. First Class
 - 2. Second Class
 - 3. Third Class

Engr. Sobrevega shared photos of cabin of Categoy 1 First Class Accommodation Standards.He also shared the photos of dormitory of Category 1 Second Class Accommodation Standards. Lastly, the photos of dormitory or open space accommodation of Category 1 Third Class.

He then discussed the conditions, as follow:

- Vessels shall have adequate provisions for affording light to the Passenger decks and to the compartments and spaces.
- Port holes. Sidelights or window in compartments shall not be less than 10" in diameter or its equivalent area.
- The vessel must be well lighted and well ventilated
- The vessels must have an adequate supply station of fresh water/portable drinking water suitably distributed for the use of passengers.
- These standards are the same with the standards required to passenger liner ships and recreational dive boats/bancas.
- BP 344 requirements are likewise required if applicable

A certificate of compliance (COC) will be issued upon compliance with the above applicable minimum standards after inspection on annual basis.

Ms. Quesea asked Engr. Sobrevega if the dive boats of El Nido can go to other places in Palawan. Engr. Sobrevega answered, if the boats are 20 GRT, they are allowed to go to partly protected crosswise waters.

Another question from Mr. Dan Fontanilla, he asked if MARINA inspect oil spill response kits, first aid kits and medical medicine contents, our safety devices and how often do you conduct inspection. Engr. Sobrevega, answered, yes and it's their mandate to conduct inspection for safety purposes. They issue certificate of compliance on service standards inspection. But when it comes to safety, they do an annual inspection wherein they also issue safety certificates on annual basis as well.

Seal of Good Local Governance (updated) -DILG

Ms. Faeroe Fontanilla of DOT discussed the updated Assessment Criteria for Tourism, Heritage Development, Culture and the Arts.

Technical Working Group:

- Department of Tourism (DOT)
- National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA)
- National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP)
- National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP)
- Union of the Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP)
- National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) or Basic Sector Representative

Overall Compliance for Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) *Under the area or Tourism Development:*

- Must have at least two (2) out of four (4) presented indicators

Under the area of Culture Heritage Promotion and Conservation:

- Must have at least three (3) of the four (4) of the presented indicators

Ms. Fontanilla discussed the indicators under Tourism Development:

- 1. Presence of a Local Tourism Officer or designated officer
- 2. Establishment of a Tourist information and Assistance Center of desk
- 3. Presence of Local Tourism Development Plan
- 4. Submission of Annual Supply Tourism Statistics Report

Ms. Fontanilla discussed the indicators under Culture Heritage Promotion and Conservation:

- 5. Presence of local council for the promotion of culture and the arts
- 6. Approval and implementation of a budget appropriated for the conservation and preservation of cultural property
- 7. Existence of an updated Cultural property inventory in the LGU
- 8. Published narrative of history and culture

Ms. Fontanilla shared the Proposed Additional Indicators for Tourism Development (2024-2025 SGLG)

- 1. Approved Local Tourism Development Plan
- 2. Submission of Annual Demand Tourism Statistics Report
- 3. Establishment of a Tourism Code
- 4. Presence of DOT-Accredited Tourism Establishment/ Front Liners
- 5. Creation of a Local Tourism Council

Guidelines on Tourismrelated projects and activities in ancestral domain areas – NCIP

Engr. Jose Ismael Fontanilla of NCIP presented the Ecotourism and the Indigenous Peoples. He briefly shared the mandate and vision of NCIP, and their organizational chart. He then explained the jkdsnffn of the Profile of Indigenous Cultural Communities / Indigenous People (ICCs/IP):

- CAR and Region I
- Region II
- Region III and rest of Luzon (RIVA & RV)
- Island Groups and rest of Visayas (RIVB, RIV & RVII)
- Northern and Western Mindanao (RIX & RX)
- Central Mindanao (RXIII)
- Southern & Eastern Mindanao (RXI & RXIIII)

Engr. Fontanilla briefly gave an overview of the IP population based on the latest census done on year 2007.

- Mindanao: 8,936,326 (63%)
- Luzon: 4,822,779 (34%)
- Visayas: 425,540 (3%)

With a total of 14,18,645 IP population or 16% of the total population of the Philippines.

Estimated 1,539 ancestral domains nationwide covering 13,333,384 hectares equivalent to 44.44% of 30M hectares Philippine land area.

He also discussed the following:

- Four Bundle of Rights of the Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs)/Indigenous People (IPs)
- 36 Rights of the Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs)
 / Indigenous People (IP)

- 11 Building Blocks of a Resilient, Responsive and Relevant Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) / Indigenous Peoples (IPs) Ancestral Domains
- Authentic ecotourism is founded on the 4 Bundles of rights of Indigenous Peoples (IPs)/ Indigenous Cultural Community (ICCs)
- The 21 ICCs/lps of MIMAROPA Region

Four Bundle of Rights of the Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs)/Indigenous People (IPs):

- Right to Ancestral Domains/Lands
- Right to Self-Governance and Empowerment
- Right to Social Justice and Human Rights
- Right to Cultural Integrity

36 Rights of the Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) / Indigenous People (IP):

Right to Ancestral Domains/Lands

- 1. Right of ownership
- 2. Right to develop lands and natural resources
- 3. Right to stay in territories
- 4. Right in case of displacement
- 5. Right to regulate entry of migrants
- 6. Right to safe and clean air and water
- 7. Right to claim parts of reservation
- 8. Right to resolve conflict
- 9. Right to transfer land/property
- 10. Right to redemption

Right to Self-governance and Empowerment

- 11. Authentication of Indigenous leadership Titles and Certificates of tribal membership
- 12. Recognition of Socio-Political Institutions and structures
- 13. Right to use their own commonly accepted justice systems, conflict resolution institutions, peace building processes or mechanisms and other customary laws and practices within their respective communities and as may be compatible with the national legal system and with internationally recognized human rights
- 14. Right to participate in decision-making (mandatory representation in policy-making bodies and other local legislative councils)
- 15. Right to determine and decide priorities for development
- 16. Tribal barangays
- 17. Right to Organize and Associate for collective actions

Right to Social Justice and Human Rights

- 18. Equal protection and non-discrimination of ICCs/lps
- 19. Rights during armed conflict
- 20. Freedom from Discrimination and Right to equal opportunity and treatment
- 21. Basic services
- 22. Equal rights for women

- 23. Rights of Children and Youth
- 24. Right to integrated system of education/right to education

Right to Cultural Integrity

- 25. Protection of Indigenous Culture, Traditions and Institutions
- 26. Right to establish and control their educational and learning systems
- 27. Recognition of cultural diversity
- 28. Recognition of customary laws and practices governing civil relations
- 29. Right to name, identity and history
- 30. Protection of Community Intellectual Rights
- 31. Rights to religious, cultural sites and ceremonies
- 32. Right to Indigenous Spiritual Beliefs and Traditions, and Protection of Sacred Places
- 33. Rights to IKSP
- 34. Protection of biological and genetic resources
- 35. Sustainable agro-technical development
- 36. Right to receive from the national gov't funds for archeological and historical sites
- 11 Building Blocks of a Resilient, Responsive and Relevant Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) / Indigenous Peoples (IPs) Ancestral Domains:
 - 1. Confirmation of Indigenous Political Structure (IPS)
 - 2. Registration & Accreditation of Indigenous Peoples Organization (IPO)
 - 3. Certificate of Ancestral Domain/ Certificate of Ancestral Land Title (CADT/CALT) Delineation Process
 - 4. Establishment of Ancestral Domain Management Office (ADMO)
 - 5. Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development And Protection Plan (ADSDPP) Formulation
 - 6. Indigenous People Wealth Management-Community Resource Management and Development Plan (CRMDP) Formulation;
 - Institutionalization of Certification Precondition (CP): Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) & Exercise of Priority Rights (EPR)
 - 8. Effective Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR) in the Local Legislative Bodies
 - Efficient & Enhanced Memorandum of Agreement/Understanding/Cooperation (MOA/MOU/MOC) Formulation
 - Socio-Economic Activities with Indigenous Peoples Cooperatives
 - 11. Ancestral Domain Defense System

Authentic ecotourism is founded on the 4 Bundles of rights of Indigenous Peoples (IPs)/ Indigenous Cultural Community (ICCs)

Recognize Existence of Indigenous Peoples

- (IPs)/Indigenous Cultural Community (ICCs)
- Respect their cultural integrity Indigenous Knowledge System and Practices (IKSP) and Customary Laws (CL)
- Protect habitat Ancestral Domain (AD) & Ancestral Land (AL)
- Promote responsible tourism

The 21 ICCs/lps of MIMAROPA Region

The (9) Nine Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs)/Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in the islands of Palawan:

- 1. Agutaynen
- 2. Batak
- 3. Cagayanen
- 4. Cuyonen
- 5. Molbog
- 6. Pala'wan
- 7. Tagbanua
- 8. Tagbanua Tandulanen
- 9. Tagbanua Calamianen

The (3) Three Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) /Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in the Province of Romblon:

- 1. Ati
- 2. Bantoanon
- 3. Sibuyan Mangyan Tagabukid

The (9) Nine Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) /Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in the Province of Mindoro:

- 1. Alangan
- 2. Bandon
- 3. Buhid
- 4. Gubatnon
- 5. Hanunuo
- 6. Iraya
- 7. Ratagnon
- 8. Tadyawan
- 9. Taobuid

Ms. Jobelle Cruzado of NEDA asked if we have created a Joint Regional Steering Committee per JAO No. 1 series of 2012 in the region and if the survey/profiling of IPs in the region is still on-going. Engr Fontanilla answered that the profiling is critical and he will get back to Ms. Cruzado's question after meeting with DSWD and DOH on how they will execute the IP profiling. Ms. Cruzado followed it up with another question, asking if there's a budget for the said plan and when is the expected time to finish the profiling. Engr. Fontanilla said that there is no budget for the profiling. Ms. Cruzado suggested that they include the profiling in their budget proposal for 2025. Engr. Fontanilla will consider Ms. Cruzado's suggestion.

Status of the Cruise Port in Puerto Princesa City – DPWH The Status of the Cruise Port in Puerto Princesa City and the Status of 2023 and 2024 Proposed Tourism Road Infrastructure Project were both presented by Engr. Carmina Dagatay of DPWH MIMAROPA.

Engr. Dagatay started with the Puerto Princesa Cruise Port and Facilities' project background and project impact. And for the project description, it will help the tourist for more convenient travel experience as Puerto Princesa Cruise Port and Facilities projects include 35,000 sq.m site development that consists 486 parking slots, terminal building and port to promote more tourism in the province. Terminal building will have a coffee shop, a massage parlor, restobars, souvenir shops, function rooms, al frescos, and a 5,000 pax capacity open activity area.

For the project implementation, from funding year 2016 to 2020, the project concentrated to the construction of Trestle Wharf or also called port and access road from existing road to port. For the funding year, 2022 to 2023 the project focuses to the construction of terminal building and as of the today is still ongoing. For the future proposed projects, we have a proposal budget for back-up area and site development, and also for the completion of terminal buildings. And for the completion of the project, the total allocation is P 2,660,000. Engr. Dagatay also explained the Total Project Cost and the shared their completed plan with photos.

Status of 2023 and 2024 Proposed Tourism Road Infrastructure Project -DPWH DPWH presented the status of 2023 and 2024 Tourism Road Infrastructure Program (TRIP). For the funding year 2023 Annual Infrastructure Program based on General Appropriations Act (GAA). We have a total of 32 projects that is distributed to 6 different legislative districts:

- 1. Mindoro Occidental 3
- 2. Palawan 1st 15
- 3. Palawan 2nd 6
- 4. Palawan 3rd 1
- 5. Romblon 2
- 6. Southern Mindoro 5

With a total allocation of P 823,790M.

For Mindoro Occidental, all the 3 projects were completed with a total allocation of P30M and a total length of 1.943 km. For Palawan 1st, out of the 15 projects 12 projects were already completed while the remaining 3 projects are still on-going with a total allocation of P285M and a total length of 4.591 km. For Palawan 2nd, only 1 of the 6 projects was completed and the rest are still on-going with a total allocation of P237,495M. For Palawan 3rd, we completed the only project with an allocation of P131,295M and a length of 2.4 km. For Romblon, there are 2 projects and only one is completed with a total allocation of P115M. And for the Southern Mindoro, all of the 5 projects were completed with a total allocation of P25M and a total length of 1.072 km.

For the funding year 2024 Annual Infrastructure Program based on National Expenditure Program (NEP), we have a total of 41 projects that is distributed to 6 different legislative districts:

- 1. Marinduque 2
- 2. Mindoro Occidental 3
- 3. Palawan 1st 20

- 4. Palawan 2nd 6
- 5. Romblon 5
- 6. Southern Mindoro 5

With a total allocation of P 1,028,000B.

For Marinduque, there are 2 projects with an allocation of P80M and both projects are tier II under TRIP projects by 2024. For Mindoro Occidental, there are 3 projects with a total allocation of P45M and a total length of 1.250 km which is continuing of the previous funded projects. For Palawan 1st, there are 20 projects with a total allocation of P458M and 6 of the projects are tier II under TRIP projects. For Palawan 2nd, there are 6 projects and 4 of the projects are tier II with a total allocation or P230M. For Romblon, there are five tier II projects with a total allocation of P155M. And lastly, for Southern Mindoro with 5 projects and an allocation of P60M which is continuing projects of the previous funded year from 2018 up to this year.

NEDA raised a question on the Puerto Princesa Cruise Port and Facilities for 2024, they asked if the P250,000 investment program for terminal building was funded by NEP. DPWH replied that they submitted a proposal however it was not considered by the Central Office but they will check if it will appear in the GAA.

Mr. Demetrio "Toto" Alvior suggested to DPWH that there should also be a desalination project and not just infrastructure projects and asked if there would be a budget proposal for it. Engr. Dagatay said that she'll get back to Mr. Alvior's question once she coordinated with the designer because the only data that she has are for terminal buildings and back area.

Next Steps/Remarks

- 1. TIEZA-TEZ to submit the list of registered TREs within the San Vicente TEZ vs the actual number of operating TREs in the said Municipality.
- 2. MARINA to submit the list of liveaboard boats with contact details.
- 3. DOT-SEAIMD to raise in the SGLG TWG the revision of DILG MC 95-162 on the creation of the Local Tourism Council.

Prepared by: MRTC Secretariat