Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL STATISTICS COMMITTEE
MIMAROPA Region

RSC Third Quarter Meeting
August 11, 2023   9:00 A.M.
Via Zoom Meeting

MINUTES OF MEETING

ATTENDANCE

Present		Represented by
RSC Officers		
1. RD Agustin C. Mendoza	NEDA MIMAROPA RSC Chairperson	
2. RD Leni R. Rioflorido	PSA MIMAROPA RSC Vice Chairperson	
Regional Line Agencies (RLAs)		
3. Atty. Tomas J. Cariño, Jr.	BSP South Luzon	Ms. Jose Roberto SA Almeda
4. RD Bernadette Preciosa G. Hornilla	CDA MIMAROPA	Mr. Melvin A. Cabanes
5. Atty. Joselito C. Alisuag	CHED MIMAROPA	Mr. Victor Conanan
6. Engr. Maria Christine C. Inting	DA MIMAROPA	Mr. Nex Basi
7. Atty. Marvin V. Bernal	DAR MIMAROPA	Ms. Ludivina L. Vinarao
8. RD Ricky L. Sanchez	DBM MIMAROPA	Mr. Christian G. Mendoza
9. RD Felix S. Mirasol, Jr.	DENR MIMAROPA	Mr. Branco Calayo
10. RD Nicolas T. Capulong	DepEd MIMAROPA	Ms. Marissa O. Bucao
11. RD Karl Caesar R. Rimando	DILG MIMAROPA	Mr. Bryan Evangelista
12. RD Mario S. Baquilod	DOH MIMAROPA	Ms. Alyssa R. Alair
13. RD Ma. Josefina P. Abilay	DOST MIMAROPA	Ms. Nicole R. Leal
14. RD Roberto P. Alabado III	DOT MIMAROPA	Mr. Alvin Acosta
15. RD Leonardo S. Reynoso	DSWD MIMAROPA	Ms. Caryl Bolasa
16. RD Rodolfo J. Mariposque	DTI MIMAROPA	Mr. Joel Guevara
17. Dr. Levy B. Arago, Jr.	MinSU	Ms. Mary Ann Hernandez
18. RD Luis T. Cueto	PIA MIMAROPA	Mr. Dennis Nebrejo
Provincial Planning and Development Offices (PPDOs)		
19. Engr. Anthony A. Dantis	PPDO Occ. Mindoro	Ms. Emelita Agpalo
20. EnP. Lydia Muñeca S. Melgar	PPDO Or. Mindoro	Ms. Maria Marsha F. De Castro
21. EnP. Sharlene D. Vilches	PPDO Palawan	Ms. Lorely B. Absalon
22. EnP. Willard B. Mortos	PPDO Romblon	Mr. Victorio Benedicto
Absent		
23. Atty. Marilou Q. Cañete	BLGF MIMAROPA	
24. RD Naomi Lyn C. Abellana	DOLE MIMAROPA	
25. RD Gerald A. Pacanan	DPWH MIMAROPA	
26. RD Marie Grace T. Pascua	NCIP MIMAROPA	
27. RD Angelina M. Carreon	TESDA MIMAROPA	
28. EnP. Marian M. Cunanan	PPDO Marinduque	
Guests		
29. ARD Apollo Edwin S. Pagano	NEDA MIMAROPA	
30. Mr. Emerson Kim J. Lineses	NEDA MIMAROPA	

56	31.	Ms. Judy Mae V. Masangkay	NEDA MIMAROPA
57	32.	Ms. Cariza Nicole R. Espiritu	NEDA MIMAROPA
58	33.	Ms. Angelus G. Genterola	NEDA MIMAROPA

RSC Secretariat
34. Ms. Ma. Leizl L. Magbojos
35. Mr. Raymond R. Lapus
36. Mr. Theodore John M. Del Mundo
37. Ms. Mary Grace T. Ferraro
38. Mr. John Rocel C. Garejo
39. Ms. Ana Patricia A. Ramos
40. Ms. Rhoda S. Sulit
41. Ms. Rea Mae C. Bagui

I.   PRELIMINARIES

The meeting started at 9:05 a.m. with an opening prayer and singing of the National Anthem and the MIMAROPA Hymn.

II.   BUSINESS PROPER

1.   Declaration of Quorum

Ms. Ma. Leizl L. Magbojos, RSC Secretary, called the roll. Of the 28 members, two were in attendance, and 20 were represented—constituting a quorum of 79 percent.

2.   Welcome Remarks and Message

In his opening message, Director Agustin C. Mendoza mentioned that several days ago, the PSA unveiled the celebrity endorser for the 2022 Census of Agriculture and Fisheries (2022 CAF), no less than actress Bea Alonzo. He added that there is a need for a familiar face to easily reach the target respondents and promote statistical endeavors.

Director Mendoza added that the monthly press conferences about the inflation report in the region allowed us to see trends in the movement of prices of various commodities. He shared that the NEDA MIMAROPA and DSWD MIMAROPA signed the data-sharing agreement for Listahanan 3. This agreement enables the user to utilize the data and discover valuable information about the poor in the region.

He mentioned that statistics is a tool in enhancing our understanding of how to provide necessary interventions through public policies, goods and services. He emphasized the importance of evidence-based and data-driven governance, with the RSC taking its role in championing this endeavor.

3.   Proposed Agenda

| 107 | On motion duly seconded, the proposed agenda was approved as |
| 108 | presented. |

4. Approval of the Minutes of RSC Second Quarter Meeting

On motion duly seconded, the minutes of the previous RSC meeting was approved.

5. Secretary's Report

Ms. Magbojos informed the members of the status of the agreements discussed during the previous meeting.

During the discussion about the conduct of 2023 Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) in Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro, and Paluan, Occidental Mindoro, it was emphasized that after consultation with the CBMS participating LGUs, it was determined that there are no longer issues regarding the allocation of development funds to support CBMS operations. The PSA MIMAROPA will present the updates on the progress of both the 2022 and 2023 CBMS initiatives.

To support the successful conduct of the 34th National Statistics Month (NSM), the Secretariat issued Memorandum No. 23RSSO17-8616 on 27 July 2023 to RSC member agencies, requesting them to submit their proposed activities for the 34th NSM.

Regarding the designation of RSC Permanent Focal Person for the Quarterly RSC Meetings and for the Formulation of 2023-2029 Regional Statistical Development Program (RSDP), it was noted that DPWH is yet to submit the name of their designated RSC Permanent Alternate Focal Person for the Quarterly Meetings and the formulation of 2023-2029 RSDP.

Dir. Mendoza requested the Secretariat to continue communicating with DPWH on the submission of their designated focal person, which should be signed by the RSC Chairperson.

6. Matters for review/action

a. Piloting of Palawan for the Provincial Tourism Satellite Accounts

Ms. Lorely B. Absalon of Provincial Planning and Development Office of the Provincial Government of Palawan (PGP) presented the Tourism Satellite Accounts for Palawan. She mentioned that the PGP needs additional specific data estimates about tourism, as it is a major economic contributor in Palawan. These additional estimates will be useful in developing appropriate policies and implementing effective research solutions to sustain economic productivity and stability amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and natural calamities like Typhoons Odette

155	and Egay. Hence, it was decided to propose the formulation of
156	Provincial Tourism Satellite Account for the Province of Palawan. As
157	defined, tourism is an economic phenomenon that helps to enhance
158	employment opportunities and generate income for the local population.
159	This, in turn, can contribute to improving the socio-economic conditions
160	of the community and improve their standard of living.

161	Ms. Absalon also mentioned that in tourism statistics as stated in the
162	International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008, the term
163	"activities" represent the actions and behaviors of people in preparation
164	for and during a trip in their capacity as consumers. She pointed out
165	that in 2020, the tourism industry has been significantly affected by the
166	pandemic. The implementation of travel restrictions and lockdowns have
167	affected the travelers' distribution and tourist arrivals worldwide,
168	including Palawan. Nevertheless, the tourism industry is experiencing a
169	gradual recovery and is once again becoming vibrant. According to Ms.
170	Absalon, Palawan has reclaimed its title as the "best island in the world"
171	in a survey conducted by renowned international travel magazine Travel
172	+ Leisure. This recognition is a significant achievement for Palawan, as
173	it had previously held the prestigious title in 2013, 2016, and 2017.
174	Moreover, Palawan is the only province in the Philippines with two
175	designated UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the Puerto Princesa
176	Subterranean River National Park and Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park.
177	Additionally, Palawan has ranked at the top one spot in Travel +
178	Leisure's "The World's Friendliest Islands"; and was recognized as the
179	Most Desirable Island by the 21st Wanderlust Travel Awards in 2022.

180	Ms. Absalon presented a table that shows the comparative travelers'
181	distribution from 2017-2022. In 2020, the occurrence of the COVID-19
182	pandemic and the implementation of health protocols caused the
183	sudden downfall of tourism industry that also affected the tourist
184	arrivals in Palawan with a decrease of 84 percent.

185	Ms. Absalon also presented several challenges in Tourism Statistics
186	Generation at the local level. These challenges include the sustainable
187	and timely delivery of data that is accessible, coherent, comparable,
188	comprehensive, and relevant. Another challenge is to ensure the
189	coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency of the data collection
190	processes that is align with the established statistical framework.
191	Additionally, enhancing the statistical capacities of data producers and
192	provider is also a challenge that needs to be addressed. Furthermore,
193	there is also a need to know how to increase user understanding,
194	capacity, and trust in statistics for wider and rational use of statistics.

195	She said that the formulation and piloting of the Provincial Tourism
196	Satellite Account will resolve the data limitations in support of the TSA
197	at the regional level.

198	On motion duly seconded, the resolution requesting approval on the
199	adoption of the Provincial Tourism Satellite Account for the province of
200	Palawan was approved.

b. Creation of City Statistics Committee for Puerto Princesa City

Ms. Ma. Leizl L. Magbojos of PSA MIMAROPA presented the Creation of City Statistics Committee for Puerto Princesa City. She presented the legal basis which states that pursuant to Republic Act No. 7160 or the "Local Government Code of 1991," local government units (LGUs) shall endeavor to be self-reliant and shall continue exercising the powers and discharging the duties and functions currently vested upon them. They shall also discharge the functions and responsibilities of national agencies and offices devolved to them and shall likewise exercise such other powers and perform such other functions and responsibilities as necessary, appropriate, or incidental for efficient and effective provisions of basic services and facilities. In 1993, Executive Order No. 135, "Providing for the Establishment of a Well-Coordinated Local Level Statistical System" was issued to address the need to establish a well-coordinated statistical system at the local level that would be responsive to planning and monitoring requirements and capable of generating statistics which can be integrated and harmonized with statistics being produced at the national level. Furthermore, Republic Act No. 10625, "Philippine Statistical Act of 2013" mandates the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) to coordinate with government departments and LGUs on the promotion and adoption of statistical standards involving techniques, methodologies, concepts, definitions, and classifications and on the avoidance of duplication in the collection of statistical information.

Ms. Magbojos discussed the objectives in establishing City Statistics Committees (CiSCs). Cognizant of the need for the LGUs to exercise autonomy in discharging their functions and responsibilities, and in making decisions to address statistical issues at the city level, various Regional Statistics Committees (RSCs) have initiated the establishment of the CiSCs. The CiSC shall be established to serve as the policymaking body on statistical matters and as the venue for the discussion and resolution of statistical issues at the city/local level. The CiSCs shall report on a quarterly basis to the concerned RSC and ensure that policies issued by the CiSC, PSC, RSC, and PSA Board are adopted at the city level.

Also, she presented the composition of the CiSCs which shall be headed by City Planning and Development Coordinator of the City Planning and Development Office (CPDO) as the Chairperson while the Chief Statistical Specialist of PSA Provincial Statistical Office as the Vice Chairperson. Members of the committee are the heads of City Executive Offices with devolved functions from national agencies.

Ms. Magbojos also discussed the provisions for the CiSC membership and terms of reference of the CiSC. Additionally, it was mentioned that the CiSC meetings shall be convened a month prior to the RSC's quarterly meetings. This is to ensure that any unresolved issues within

CiSC that need to be elevated to the RSC can be addressed swiftly, if necessary.

She also emphasized that the CiSCs shall prioritize outputs, in the form of resolutions, that will address urgent statistical issues and concerns such as those required to monitor the progress of programs set forth in the strategic/development thrusts of the City Planning and Development Office (CPDO), Regional/Provincial Development Plan (R/PrDP), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and sectoral plans. The CiSCs function as the city or local counterpart to the RSCs. In cases where statistical issues or concerns cannot be resolved at the city level, the CiSC Secretariat shall consolidate these matters. The CiSC will then endorse these to the RSC, through the Regional Statistical Services Offices (RSSOs), for action.

The creation of City Statistics Committee for Puerto Princesa City was deferred because the concerned local government unit (LGU) was not present during the meeting. Additionally, the city government of Puerto Princesa is not currently a member of the RSC. RSC Chairperson Mendoza highlighted the importance of communicating first with the concerned LGUs and obtaining the approval of their Local Chief Executives (LCE) for their membership in the RSC before proceeding with the creation of the local statistical committee.

RSC Chairperson Mendoza also requested the legal basis on making the City Planning and Development Coordinator (CDPC) as the chair of the committee instead of their LCE.

He highlighted that since the CiSC is mandated to elevate to the RSC the statistical matters that cannot be resolved at the city level, the CiSC should be represented in the RSC. Hence, RD Leni recommended inviting the LCE of Puerto Princesa City to be a member of the RSC.

As action required, the RSC Secretariat to write a letter addressed to the LCE of Puerto Princesa City, as well as the LCE of Calapan City, inviting them to attend the Fourth Quarter RSC Meeting. The Secretariat will provide the RSC Chair with copies of PSC/CiSC guidelines as well as EOs of LGUs that create their respective PSCs. The Secretariat will also request the PSA Central Office regarding the legal basis on the chairmanship of the CiSC. NEDA MIMAROPA and the PSA MIMAROPA will conduct a technical secretariat meeting to discuss and review the bases for membership in the RSC, the subcommittee ecosystem of the RSC, and some reminders on the conduct of meetings.

c.   34th National Statistics Month Calendar of Activities

Ms. Rhoda S. Sulit of PSA MIMAROPA presented the proposed calendar of activities for the 34th National Statistics Month (NSM) celebration. She mentioned that the NSM is annually observed nationwide as

pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 647, "Declaring the Month of October of Every Year as the National Statistics Month." PSA Board Resolution No. 11, series of 2021, enjoins all departments, agencies and instrumentalities of the national government, local government units, government-owned and controlled corporations, the private sector, and the public to continuously support and actively participate in the NSM celebration.

She also discussed the objectives of the celebration, which include promoting, enhancing, and instilling awareness and appreciation of the importance and value of statistics to different sectors of the society. The celebration also aims to elicit the cooperation and support of the public in upgrading the quality and standards of statistics in the country.

For the 34th NSM celebration, the theme is "Accelerating Progress: Promoting Data and Statistics for Healthy Philippines" which will be hosted by the Department of Health and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Ms. Sulit presented the proposed activities of each RSC member agency.

On motion duly seconded, a resolution requesting approval of the 34th National Statistics Month (NSM) Calendar of Activities was approved with a provision that the PSA shall still accept submissions of proposed activities from other RSC member agencies until August 18, 2023.

42.   Support to the 3rd PSA Quiz Bee

Ms. Rhoda S. Sulit of PSA MIMAROPA introduced the 3rd PSA Quiz Bee as one of the activities that PSA will conduct in celebration of the 34th National Statistics Month (NSM).

Based on the guidelines presented by Ms. Sulit, the contestants for the Quiz Bee will be representatives from members of the RSC, excluding PSA employees and relatives within the fourth degree of affinity and consanguinity. Each region is required to conduct regional elimination and shall be represented by one official contestant from the RSC member during the National Finals. The RSC member must have joined or been admitted to the RSC as of 31 August 2023. The contestant must be a regular or contractual employee of the member-agency and must have joined the office not later than 31 August 2023.

She also enumerated the coverage of the quiz bee which include Official Statistics, Philippine Statistical Act of 2013 (RA 10625), Civil Registration, Philippine Identification System, Community-Based Monitoring System, Vital Statistics and Current Events. She also mentioned that there were two levels of competition, the regional elimination which will be conducted on September 11, 2023 and national finals on October 6, 2023.

RSC Chairperson Mendoza invited all the RSC member-agencies to participate in the said quiz bee. Support to the 3rd PSA Quiz Bee was approved. He instructed the Secretariat to prepare an invitation letter to all RSC member-agencies for their participation in the Regional Elimination of the 3rd PSA Quiz Bee.

On motion duly seconded, the resolution requesting approval to support the conduct of the 3rd PSA Quiz Bee was approved.

7. Matters for Information

a. Updates on Regional Tourism Satellite Accounts

Ms. Ana Patricia A. Ramos presented the updates on the compilation of Regional Tourism Satellite Accounts. She emphasized the important role of tourism in the economic performance of the Philippines. As presented, Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA) is a tool to measure the impact of travel and tourism to an economy in the context of the System of National Accounts (SNA). It provides the macroeconomic aggregates that describe the size and the economic contribution of tourism; detailed data on tourism consumption; detailed production accounts of the tourism industries; and the link between economic data and non-monetary information on tourism.

Ms. Ramos also discussed ten tables in the compilation of TSA. Three tables are expected to be released in October 2023, such as tables on Inbound Tourism Expenditure, Domestic Tourism Expenditure, and Internal Tourism Expenditure. Status of available data as of 31 July 2023 was also presented.

She also mentioned that there will be a Consultative and Validation Forum of 2018 Benchmark Estimates on 29 August 2023 in Puerto Princesa City which will be attended by PSA CO-MAS-SAD, PSA RSSO MIMAROPA, PSOs, NEDA, DOT, PTOs and Tourism Association.

Dir. Leni R. Rioflorido of PSA MIMAROPA informed the body that PSA will send an official invitation to the target participants on the mentioned forum on 29 August 2023.

Ms. Lorely Absalon of PPDO Palawan asked if it is possible to include PPDO and Planning Office in Puerto Princesa City in the participants of the forum.

Dir. Rioflorido acknowledged and informed the inclusion of the PPDOs to the participants of the consultative and validation forum.

b. Highlights of the Results of the 2022 National Demographic and Health Survey

Ms. Mary Grace T. Ferraro of PSA MIMAROPA presented the highlights of the results of the 2022 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS).

Based on the results of the 2022 NDHS, the total fertility rate in the Philippines is 1.9 children per woman aged 15 to 49 years. Hence, Philippines is now below the replacement level of 2.1. Fertility varies by region, ranging from 1.2 children per woman in NCR to 3.1 children per woman in BARMM. For MIMAROPA region, the total fertility rate is 2.4 children per woman. Hence, the MIMAROPA exceeds the replacement level of 2.1. The total fertility rate in the Philippines declined from 3.5 children per woman in 2003 to 1.9 in 2022. In addition, the total fertility rate in MIMAROPA region also decreased from 5.0 children per woman in 2003 to 2.4 in 2022. The World Health Organization recommends at least 33-month interval between two consecutive live births. In the region, the median interval between births is 47.9 months, which was higher than the median birth interval in 2017.

She also discussed the results of family planning. As presented, the use of any family planning methods in MIMAROPA increased from 43 percent in 2003 to 60 percent in 2022. Similarly, the use of modern contraception among married women increased from 31 percent in 2003 to 45 percent in 2022. While the percentage of married women using a traditional method is substantial, from 11 percent in 2003 down to 7 percent in 2017, however, it increases to 15 percent in 2022.

In terms of child health, Ms. Ferraro presented that in MIMAROPA region, about 74 percent of children aged 12 to 23 months received all basic antigens. Basic antigen coverage increased from 70 percent in 2003 to 74 percent in 2022. On the other hand, children aged 12 to 23 months who did not receive any vaccination increased from 2 percent in 2003 to 8 percent in 2022.

The estimates of child mortality in the region for the 10-year period preceding the survey are the following: neonatal mortality, 15 deaths per 1,000 live births; post neonatal mortality, 4 deaths per 1,000 live births; infant mortality with 19 deaths per 1,000 live births; under-five mortality with 27 deaths per 1,000 live births; and child mortality with 8 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Ms. Ferraro also presented the results on Women's Empowerment and Domestic Violence. In terms of control over cash earnings in MIMAROPA, 69 percent of married women aged 15 to 49 years who received cash earnings from employment in the 12 months before the survey make joint decisions with their husband regarding the use of their earnings. On the other hand, about 28 percent of married women decide on their own earnings. When it comes to the decision-making regarding the husband's cash earnings, approximately 71 percent of the respondents stated that decisions regarding the husband's cash

earnings are made jointly with their wives and only 21 percent of the husbands mainly decide on their own earnings.

RSC Chairperson Mendoza instructed the Secretariat to send a copy of the presentations to all members of the RSC for their review and for possible creation of policies and programs.

c. Updates on Core Regional Indicators

Ms. Rea Mae C. Bagui of PSA MIMAROPA presented the updates on Core Regional Indicators (CoRe-Is). As presented, CoRe-Is enables both the national and local governments to make the right policies, decisions, and actions based on the needs of the local communities as well as to supplement the key development indicators. CoRe-Is is composed of 98 indicators divided into three major sectors: (1) Social Statistics with 59 indicators; (2) Economic Statistics with 20 indicators; and (3) Multi-Domain Statistics with 19 indicators.

Ms. Bagui also presented the status of CoRe-Is data collection. As mentioned, for the 98 indicators, 87 were available and with submissions; eight will be available and no submissions yet; and three indicators have no available data for the specified period. Almost 92 percent have submissions and eight percent without submission, excluding the indicators with no available data in 2022.

As a way forward, she emphasized the completion of the 2022 CoRe-Is data and collection of first and second quarter 2023 CoRe-Is data.

d. Updates in 2022 and 2023 Community-Based Monitoring System

Mr. Theodore John M. Del Mundo of PSA MIMAROPA presented the updates in 2022 and 2023 Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS). He noted that there were 45 local government units (LGUs) participated in 2022 and two LGUs in 2023.

In terms of data collection, there were 44 LGUs in 2022 CBMS who have already completed their enumeration. Puerto Princesa has 58.3 percent data collection and expected to end and complete the data collection on October 30, 2023. Regarding the 2023 CBMS, Calapan City in Oriental Mindoro has already completed 47.86 percent of its data collection and is expected to be completed by August 31, 2023. On the other hand, Paluan in Occidental Mindoro has completed 89.5 percent of its data collection and has requested for an extension of data collection until August 15, 2023.

In Santa, Cruz, Marinduque, the data processing has been completed, with 100 percent already submitted for validation by CBSS. In the province of Occidental Mindoro, only the LGUs of Magsaysay and Rizal have completed the data processing phase. In Palawan, several LGUs have finished their data processing, including Balabac, Busuanga, Cagayancillo, Coron, Dumaranan, El Nido, Kalayaan, Linapacan and

481	Rizal. However, the LGUs of Culion and Quezon have not yet started
482	their data processing and are still waiting for the availability of desktops.
483	In Romblon, the LGUs of Alcantara, Banton, Calatrava, Concepcion,
484	Corcuera, Magdiwang, San Andres and Santa Maria have completed
485	their CBMS data processing. However, the LGUs of San Agustin and
486	Looc have not yet started the data processing due to delays in the
487	procurement of desktops.

488 Mr. Del Mundo also mentioned that he attended the Training on Module
489 II-B: Data Processing, Data Tabulation, and Analysis Using Descriptive
490 Statistics and 2022 CBMS Data Review on June 13-17, 2023, in Manila.
491 By attending this training, he gained valuable knowledge and skills
492 necessary for effectively processing and analyzing CBMS data.

493 He also presented the Community-Based Monitoring System Data
494 Turnover to LGUs of other regions. Data turnover for the municipalities
495 in MIMAROPA especially the PSA-funded LGUs are expected to have its
496 data turnover from September to October 2023. Exact dates will be
497 determined after the finalization of output from the data review. The
498 LGU-funded municipalities are expected to have their data turnover by
499 November to December 2023.

500 d. Updates in the Drafting of the MIMAROPA Regional Statistical
501   Development Program 2023-2029
502
503 Mr. Raymond R. Lapus presented updates in the drafting of the
504 MIMAROPA Regional Statistical Development Program (RSDP) 2023-
505 2029. The RSDP is the regional version of the Philippine Statistical
506 Development Program (PSDP). RSDP identifies priority statistical
507 development activities which will generate local level data and resolve
508 statistical issues at the local level. It also serves as a mechanism for
509 setting the directions, thrusts, and priorities of the regional statistical
510 system.
511
512 Mr. Lapus also presented the RSDP Strategic Framework, its vision,
513 goals and strategies. He discussed the 21 chapters of the RSDP 2023-
514 2029 as well its formulation process which are the following: (i) review
515 of the Philippine/Regional Development Plan, and local plans; (ii)
516 preparation of the situational analysis, identification of statistical
517 developments and milestones, and assessment of issues and challenges
518 at the regional and LGU levels; (iii) formulation of sectoral statistical
519 strategies and programs; (iv) conduct of consultation forum with
520 stakeholders at the regional and LGU levels; (v) preparation of the
521 MIMAROPA RSDP 2023-2029; (vi) presentation of the RSDP 2023-2029
522 to the Steering Committee for Review and Approval to the RSC
523 MIMAROPA ; (vii) presentation of the MIMAROPA RSDP 2023- 2029 to
524 the RDC MIMAROPA for adoption; and (viii) dissemination and advocacy
525 of the RSDP to various stakeholders at the regional and LGU levels.
526

Mr. Lapus also presented the SWOT Analysis of the RSDP. The following are the strengths: (i) strong inter-agency partnership and coordination mechanisms in implementing statistical activities / operations through the R/PSC, IACCRVS, Census and CBMS Coordinating Boards; (ii) periodic release of statistical publications such as the Regional Social Economic Trends (RSET), Women and Men in MIMAROPA, Core Regional Indicators Watch, Regional Sustainable Development Goals Watch, the Quarterly Regional Economic Situationer (QRES), the Provincial Socio-economic Profile, and the Countryside in Figures; and (iii) presence of Management Information System (MIS) of various RLAs and provincial LGUs made statistical data more accessible to end users. The weaknesses presented in the RSDP are the following: (i) non-availability of provincial and municipal data, particularly data on statistical indicators in the Provincial and Municipal Results Matrices and sex-disaggregated data to monitor GAD databases of LGUs; (ii) undermanned statistical units/divisions and absence of plantilla positions that led to quick turn-over of personnel; (iii) inadequate trainings and capacity development activities among personnel involved in the compilation of statistics from RLAs and LGUs; (iv) need to advocate best practices in statistics among RLAs and LGUs in the RSS; (v) non-availability or untimely release of quality statistical information and services from RLAs and LGUs; (vi) low appreciation of statistics and its utilization in evidenced-based planning and decision-making; (vii) lack of awareness of other agencies on the mandates of PSA, and on the release of data by PSA under Executive Order No. 352, s. 1996; (viii) need to upgrade business processes towards improving the timeliness and access to statistics; and (ix) need to create Technical Working Groups to monitor activities and address concerns from Social Sector, Economic Sector, Environmental and Multi-domain Sector, and Local Statistical Systems Concerns Sector.

Regarding the opportunities highlighted, he mentioned that technological advancements, such as faster Internet access and adoption of ICT devices, have facilitated the data collection, processing and dissemination of statistical information. Additionally, the availability of experts from organizations like the Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute (PSRTI) and PSA Regional Office can provide statistical trainings to capacitate personnel from partner RLAs and LGUs involved in generating and communicating statistics. On the other hand, he also mentioned threats which are the following: (i) concerns on security in the maintenance of statistical databases; (ii) weak to no political support in the implementation of statistical development programs (SDPs) of the different RLAs and LGUs; (iii) absence of law or policies for the mandatory creation of statistical units in LGUs and in field offices of NGAs and GOCCs; (iv) change in the priority thrust of Agency Heads and Local Chief Executives that affects the continuity of SDP implementation within RSS; (v) inadequate representations of other government agencies and nonrepresentation of private sectors to the RSC and PSC; (vi) overlapping mandates of regional line agencies

resulted to confusing data; (vii) statistical concepts and definitions from the classification systems recognized by PSA such as PSIC and PSOC exist but not followed by some agencies resulting to discrepancies in the generated data (e.g. adherence of municipal BPLOs to the classification stipulated in the LGU Code of 1991); and (viii) absence of a directive for all agencies to adhere to data standards for administrative data.

Mr. Lapus also discussed the major identified Statistical Development Programs (SDPs) for 2023-2029 which are the following: (i) production and generation of data; (ii) dissemination and utilization of statistics; (iii) management and coordination of RSS; (iv) statistical capacity development; and (v) partnerships and international cooperation.

Dir. Mendoza asked if the indicators presented were indexed from the Philippine Development Plan, and if possible, suggested that the planning division of NEDA MIMAROPA to coordinate with Mr. Lapus to index the indicators to the Regional Development Plan.

Mr. Lapus acknowledged and was informed regarding the coordination meeting with the planning staff of NEDA MIMAROPA.

e. Housing and Other Demographic Characteristics from the Results of the 2020 Census of Population and Housing

Mr. Raymond R. Lapus of PSA MIMAROPA presented the housing and other demographic characteristics from the results of the 2020 Census of Population and Housing (CPH) in MIMAROPA region. Based on the 2020 CPH, the total population in MIMAROPA is 3,228,558, which represents 2.96 percent of the total population of the country. About 3,212,287 constitutes the household population and 16,271 for institutional population. Out of the 890,357 housing units in the region, 781,435 of them were reported as occupied.

He also presented that Roman Catholic, with a population of 2,342,976, is the highest among the top ten religious' affiliations in the region. This is followed by Iglesia Ni Cristo and Islam with 124,048 and 113,804 population, respectively.

Among the population of 2,540,267 persons who are 10 years old and older, 21.4 percent are single males, while 20.6 percent are married males. Among the female population, only 17.3 percent are single while 20.1 percent are married.

The literacy rate in MIMAROPA region based on the 2020 CPH is about 95.6 percent. In terms of the highest educational attainment for household population 5 years old and over, high school graduate had the highest population with 1,072,727 individuals. Furthermore, Tagalog is the first among the top ten languages spoken at home in the region. It is also the language with the highest population, representing

625	1,363,817 individuals based on ethnicity. Among the Indigenous Peoples
626	(IP) groups in MIMAROPA region, Cuyonen/Cuyonan has the highest
627	population with 309,235 individuals.
628	
629	f. Launching of Data Enclave Centers in PSA Regional Offices
630	
631	Mr. John Rocel C. Garejo of PSA MIMAROPA presented the highlights
632	during the launching of data enclave centers in PSA Regional Offices
633	last July 14, 2023, which was hosted by PSA MIMAROPA. Also, the
634	invited guest was NEDA MIMAROPA Assistant Regional Director Apollo
635	Edwin S. Pagano who gave expectations regarding the use of the Data
636	Enclave. Other participants in attendance included representatives from
637	RLAs, media, LGUs and academe.
638	
639	Mr. Garejo mentioned that the PSA, being the central statistical authority
640	of the Philippine government on primary data collection, is committed to
641	deliver excellent data sharing and dissemination to its clients and
642	stakeholders. These are under Sec. 6 of the Republic Act 10625 or the
643	Philippine Statistical Act of 2013. Therefore, the Data Enclave Center
644	was re-established in the PSA Library at the Central Office and was
645	institutionalized in all PSA Regional Offices within a secured
646	environment.
647	
648	He also mentioned that disseminating microdata files has several
649	benefits. These include supporting research efforts, enhancing the
650	credibility of official statistics, improving the reliability and relevance of
651	data, reducing the duplication in data collection, and increasing return
652	on investment in data-related activities.
653	
654	He also discussed the different softwares installed in the Data Enclave
655	such as Stata, R studio, and HeidiSQL for Statistical and Database
656	software; QGIS, and SAGA GIS for Geospatial Software; MS Office and
657	PDF Reader; and VeraCrypt, 7Zip and Keepass for Security and
658	Encryption. There are also available datasets on establishment-based
659	surveys and censuses in the data enclave. In addition to these datasets,
660	reference materials are also available such as Explanatory text,
661	Technical notes, PSGC, PSIC, survey questionnaires or forms in order
662	to assist researchers.
663	
664	Mr. Garejo also presented the procedures on how to request access to
665	the Data Enclave. A data user or researcher can request access to data
666	enclaves located at PSA Central Office or in Regional Statistical Service
667	Offices by sending a request letter in any of the following means: (i) by
668	accomplishing the Data Request Form from the PSA website at
669	https://psa.gov.ph/content/data-request-form; (ii) by sending requests
670	through the Information Center email address info@psa.gov.ph; (iii), by
671	logging in to the e-FOI portal at www.foi.gov.ph and the request be filed
672	through the portal by creating an account or; (iv) by sending requests to
673	Information Centers in RSSOs.

8. Other Matters

    a. Updates on the 2022 Census on Agriculture and Fisheries

    Mr. Oscar H. Gatpandan presented matters in the 2022 Census on Agriculture and Fisheries (CAF). He noted that all provinces have conducted convening of PCCB. However for C/MCCB, some municipalities did not hold convening since only two sample barangays in the municipality were included in the 2022 CAF. He also mentioned that there were series of trainings conducted in relation to the 2022 CAF. Officials and staff from the Regional Statistical Service Office (RSSO) and Provincial Statistical Office (PSO) attended the Task Force Training last July 17 – 24, 2023 at Crowne Plaza Hotel. They also conducted Second Level Training on Provincial Statistical Offices last July 31 – August 7, 2023 (PSA Staff and Hired CAS/ACAS) and will conduct Third Level Training for Hired Team Supervisors (TS) and Enumerators (EN) on August 14-21, 2023 (1st Batch) and August 23-30, 2023 (Second Batch). The hiring of personnel for the data collection of 2022 CAF was also completed. Mr. Gatpandan then presented the timetable of 2022 CAF operation.

III.   ADJOURNMENT

    With no further matters to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 a.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT: ATTESTED:

MA. LEIZL L. MAGBOJOS   **LENI R. RIOFLORIDO**
RSC Secretary   RSC Vice Chairperson
Chief Statistical Specialist   *Regional Director, PSA MIMAROPA*

APPROVED:

AGUSTIN C. MENDOZA
RSC Chairperson and Presiding Officer
Regional Director, NEDA MIMAROPA