

National Economic and Development Authority

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NEXT MTPDP SHOULD STRENGTHEN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) hopes that the next Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) would sharpen its focus on addressing the concerns of the rural development (RD) sector.

“We must adopt strategies that would boost the RD sector, so that economic development would reach the rural areas,” NEDA Deputy Director-General Rolando G. Tungpalan said during the recent Workshop on Common RD Sector Outcome and Assessment on Managing for Development Results (MfDR) at Astoria Plaza.

The MfDR workshop-assessment aimed at harmonizing the frameworks of the Departments of Agriculture (DA), Agrarian Reform (DAR) and Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Tungpalan said that the outputs of the MfDR workshop-assessment will be useful in the preparation of the next MTPDP, which outlines the economic and development priorities of the administration for the next six years.

“Right now, NEDA is already gearing up for the MTPDP 2011-2017. The current MTPDP, which has 25 chapters, contains very broad and comprehensive strategies. We hope to sharpen the focus of each program, activity or project in the next MTPDP, particularly in the RD sector,” said Tungpalan, who is also co-chair of the Philippine Harmonization Committee.

The Philippine Harmonization Committee, chaired by the Department of Finance (DOF), is an inter-agency group that coordinates and monitors the government and donors’ commitments in the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. The said declaration is an international agreement for developing countries to exercise effective leadership over their development policies for more harmonized, transparent and effective actions.

Tungpalan added that a more manageable and focused set of RD sector outcomes is needed to link the MTPDP and the budget process. Tungpalan cited the forthcoming 2011 budget call as an opportunity to make such fit. “These outcomes will come from agency outputs which are tangible and measurable. The link to outcomes is a NEDA concern and we hope to develop a method that would assess how the agencies’ programs contribute to development outcomes,” the NEDA official said.

Other offices that attended the workshop-assessment were the DOF, Department of Budget and Management, National Statistics Office, National Statistical Coordination Board, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, Commission on Audit, Planning and Budgeting Offices of the Senate and Congress, and the civil society group Ibon Foundation, Inc.

The MfDR workshop-assessment was part of the ADB's "Technical Assistance on Harmonization and Development Effectiveness" provided for the Philippine government.

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