I. Regional Development Planning

As 2017 was a planning year, the RDC2 and its sectoral and support committees successfully completed two important planning documents that complement the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022. These are the Cagayan Valley Regional Development Plan (RDP) and the Regional Development Investment Program (RDIP) for the same period, which were adopted by the RDC2 on January 26, 2017 and December 8, 2017, respectively. In June 2018, the Results Matrix which contains the indicators and targets to be achieved by 2022 was also adopted.

To promote the RDP and build support for it among various stakeholders, the RDP Communication Plan was prepared and adopted on April 18, 2018. On the same date, the Regional Research and Development Agenda for 2017-2022 was also adopted, which presents the region’s priority research areas that are geared to address the development gaps and challenges in the region.

Moreover, the Council also approved the Cagayan Valley Roadmap for Water Supply and Sanitation, which will form part of the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan. This intends to increase the proportion of households with access to safe and affordable drinking water and basic sanitation in the region.

Regional plans initiated by development partners in the region were also supported by the RDC2 during the 1st semester of 2018. One of these is the Provincial/City Commodity Investment Plan by the Department of Agriculture (DA), which rationalizes the interventions for selected commodities that are significant to the province/city. This is a three-year rolling consensus plan between the DA and Provincial/City Local Government Units, which will serve as basis in selecting eligible sub-projects for funding under the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP).

Another DA initiative supported by the Council is the formulation of Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Plan, which the RDC2 has provided with technical assistance for the identification of specific strategies to realize the targets for the agriculture sector in the RDP. The same assistance was also extended to the Cagayan River Basin Management Council (CRBMC) for the formulation of sub-watershed/ river basin management plan for the Apayao-Abulug and Addalam River Basin and to the Climate Change Commission for the Project REBUILD which included two flood-prone municipalities in the region among the pilot areas of the project.

Socioeconomic reports such as the Quarterly and Annual Regional Economic Situationers and the Annual Regional Development Report for 2016 were likewise prepared and disseminated to stakeholders.
II. Policy Reviews and Recommendations

In 2017, through its technical secretariat, the RDC also shared its valuable inputs in various proposed policies, plans, and legislations, such as (1) the proposal for fuel subsidy for rice farmers using water pumps, (2) the issue on overloading in the region, (3) the proposal to amend Article X of the Constitution on the improvement of the LGUs’ taxation power, and (4) on the draft Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration Bill.

In the same year, it initiated the establishment of the Philippine Corn Research Institute in Region 2 through its Regional Research and Development Committee. This was presented to the region’s Congress Representatives during the Advisory Committee Meeting held on May 30, 2017, which resulted in commitment to sponsorship of a House Bill by Cong. Randolph Ting and Cong. Ana Cristina Go.

Policies concerning the Regional Government Center (RGC) were likewise passed on February 23, 2018, such as on the ejectment of all the ambulant vendors and vendors with makeshift and permanent stalls within the RGC and the prohibition of hauler trucks and buses to pass along the RGC roads.

III. Project Monitoring and Evaluation

In 2017, the RDC2 through the Regional Project Monitoring Committee conducted three field monitoring visits: (1) in three sections of the Flood Risk Management Project (FRIMP) in Tuguegarao City and Enrile towns of Cagayan; (2) at the Ilagan-Divilacan Road Rehabilitation and Improvement Project; (3) the Pasa Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (SRIP) in Ilagan City, Isabela; and (4) three project sites in the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela.

For the 1st semester of 2018, a field monitoring visit was carried out in the Island Province of Batanes for the following projects: (1) Retrofitting of Ivana Seawall; (2) Concreting of Basco-Songsong Provincial Road Phase II; (3) Rehabilitation of Level III Basco Water System; (4) Rehabilitation and Development of Water Sanitation Facilities Phase III; (5) Development of Basco Kaychanarianan Port Road; and (6) Construction of Health Facilities at Batanes General Hospital.

The RPMC also conducted five (5) problem-solving sessions (PSS) in 2017 to address issues on projects that were encountering delays in implementation. Another was conducted in January 2018 which focused primarily on resolving reported security issues affecting project implementation. This resulted in the deployment of security officers from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in project sites with confirmed security issues. Consequently, three (3) RDC2 Resolutions were passed for this concern:

1) Resolution No. 02-06-2018, “Enjoining Project Implementing Agencies and Contractors to Inform the Armed Forces of the Philippines of the Major Programs and Projects for Implementation and to Strengthen Collaboration with the LGU/Community in Project Implementation”;

2) Resolution No. 02-07-2018, “Requesting the Department of National Defense to Augment the Current Manpower Deployment and Logistic Support of the Philippine Army in Region 02 to Help Address Peace and Order Concerns in the Region”;

3) Resolution No. 02-08-2018, “Requesting the National Peace and Order Council (NPOC) to Cause Amendment on the Provision of Executive Order No. 773 Defining the Composition of the Barangay Peace and Order Committee to Include the Philippine Army.”
Regular monthly and quarterly table monitoring of 36 major programs and projects implemented in the region was also conducted year-round. From these reports, four quarterly Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System (RPMES) Report were produced and distributed to LGUs, to the Region 2 Congress Representatives, and other stakeholders.

IV. Investment Programming and Budgeting

In 2017, the Council re-evaluated and endorsed to the NEDA Board-Investment Coordination Committee two big-ticket projects, which consequently, were included in the flagship infrastructure project under the "Build, Build, Build" Program: the Chico River Pump Irrigation Project and the Tumauini River Multi-Purpose Project.

During the 1st semester of 2018, several project proposals were likewise approved and endorsed by the Council, namely:

- Bridge Acceleration Project for Socio-Economic Development, which includes 2 bridges in the region out of the proposed 35 nationwide. These 2 bridges are located in Bambang-Kasibu-Solano Road, Nueva Vizcaya and San Vicente, Buguey, Cagayan
- Conduct of a Feasibility Study for the Construction of an Alternate Access Road Leading to the Port of Aparri, including the Extension of its Jetty Port in Aparri, Cagayan
- Conversion of the Piat-Sto. Niño Road via Barangays Tammucco and Namuccayan from a Provincial to a National Road
- LGU Priority Programs and Projects for funding under the Health Facilities Enhancement Program of the DOH; Farm-to-Market Roads of the DA; Sagana at Ligtas na Tubig sa Lahat Program of the DILG; Communal Irrigation System of NIA; Level III Water Supply System of the LWUA; and Local Roads and Bridges Program of the DPWH
- 14 Road Projects under the DTI-DPWH Convergence Program known as Roads Leveraging Linkages for Industry and Trade (ROLL IT) FY 2019 funding
- 34 Road Projects under the DOT-DPWH Tourism Road Infrastructure Program

The Council also passed a Resolution requesting DPWH Central Office to expedite the implementation of the proposed Full-blown Feasibility Study of the Bypass Tunnel Component of the Dalton Pass East Alternate Route taking-off from the previous Pre-FS, and for DPWH Region 3 to prioritize funding allocation for the implementation of Segments 2 and 3 of the project located in Nueva Ecija.

Technical assistance was likewise extended to the municipality of Baggao, Cagayan, in collaboration with the Public-Private Partnership Center, for the implementation of the Baggao Water System Project through Public-Private Partnership scheme. To date, the Project's concession agreement is currently being finalized.

Moreover, in 2017, budget proposals for CY 2018 of 17 regional line agencies (RLAs) were approved and endorsed by the Council to Agency Central Offices on March 31, 2017. Similarly, budget proposals for CY 2019 of same agencies were approved and endorsed to ACOs on April 12, 2018. All budget proposals for both fiscal years pass through a panel evaluation during the Regional Budget Review and Consultation conducted on March 22-23, 2017 and April 4-5, 2018, respectively.
Concerning the development of the RGC, the RDC2 passed a resolution on February 23, 2018 requesting DPWH to include in the agency’s FY 2019 budget the proposed Construction of the Convention Center at the RGC.

V. Other Significant Accomplishments

The Council conducted advocacy activities to promote the AmBisyon Natin 2040 (AN2040) and the RDP. It conducted a regional roadshow through a motorcade on July 26, 2017, which was participated in by 31 agencies or a total of 265 individuals from the government, non-government organizations, academia, and the media. On April 18, 2018, the RDC2 likewise passed a resolution requesting all government agencies and instrumentalities, including local government units, government-owned and controlled corporations, public and private higher education and technical and vocational training institutions to adopt and use the AN 2040 logo and tagline in all their advocacy materials.

As part of its social marketing and advocacy efforts, the RDC2 produced and released quarterly issues of the RDC Linkage, the official newsletter of the Council. News and feature articles were also constantly uploaded to the RDC website.

On September 20-22, 2017, the RDC2 conducted the 5th Annual Planners Convention in Santiago City, Isabela, in celebration of its 45th Founding Anniversary. This was held in collaboration with the Climate Change Commission with the theme, “Accessing the People’s Survival Fund and Project ReBUILD.”

The Council likewise responded to the call for the strengthening and promotion of culture and values in the region, the RDC2 approved on February 23, 2018 the creation of the Sub-Committee on Culture under its Social Development Committee (SDC), which is composed of the Department of Education, Department of Tourism, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Trade and Industry, National Economic and Development Authority, Commission on Higher Education, Philippine Information Agency, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA), 5 provinces, 5 state universities and colleges, 5 private higher education institutions, and 2 civil society organizations. Also, it approved the membership of the NCCA to the Council as Special Non-Voting Member and to the SDC as regular member.